

Xiling Zhang

Master's Student in Psychology (Academic Track)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Metacognition · Self-beliefs and belief updating · Confidence judgments · Uncertainty

EDUCATION

Jiangsu Normal University

2024–2027 (expected)

Master's Program in Psychology (academic track)

School of Education Science; master's thesis on latent profiles of adolescent future expectations and associated factors.

Nanjing Normal University

2021–2024

B.A. in English

Completed through the Self-taught Higher Education Examinations.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Self-Belief Updating and Metacognition in Older Adults With Mild Cognitive Impairment

Primary research project · submitted manuscript

- Conceptualized and implemented a behavioral study comparing task-referenced and socially referenced self-belief updating in 62 older adults with mild cognitive impairment and 62 healthy controls.
- Integrated trial-level confidence judgments with calibration, confidence–accuracy discrimination, AUROC2, and HMeta-d M-ratio measures, and used linear mixed-effects models to examine updating patterns.
- Carried out the end-to-end research workflow, including methodology, investigation, data curation, formal analysis, visualization, manuscript writing, project administration, and submission coordination.

Adolescent Future Expectations: Latent Profiles and Associated Factors

Master's thesis · ongoing

- Uses a person-centered approach to identify latent profiles of adolescent future expectations in the context of China's New Gaokao reform.
- Examines how career decision-making self-efficacy and family factors are associated with profile membership using latent profile analysis and structural equation modeling.
- Responsible for the full thesis workflow from conceptualization and study design through investigation, data curation, analysis, visualization, writing, and project coordination.

Generative AI Use and Higher-Order Thinking

Collaborative project · submitted manuscript

- Analyzed questionnaire data from 751 university students using person-centered and variable-centered approaches to characterize generative AI use profiles and their associations with higher-order thinking.
- Applied latent profile analysis and structural equation modeling and contributed to interpretation and manuscript writing.
- Contribution boundary: formal analysis and writing.

Adolescent Internalizing and Externalizing Problems: A Network Analysis

Collaborative project · published article

- Contributed to investigation and data curation for a network analysis of 738 middle-school students examining core symptoms and family–psychological correlates.

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Published Articles

1. Zhanyu Yu, **Xiling Zhang**, Ke Zhang, Lijuan Wang (2026). *Core Symptoms and Family–Psychological Correlates in Adolescent Internalizing and Externalizing Problems: A Network Analysis*. *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*. [10.1155/cad/5366280](#)
2. Zhanyu Yu, Ting Zhu, Jian Cao, **Xiling Zhang**, Yue Ma (2026). *The Situational Differences in Intertemporal Choice Between Hearing-Impaired and Normal Children*. *Cognitive Processing*. [10.1007/s10339-026-01333-9](#)

Submitted Manuscripts

1. **Xiling Zhang**, Shuqi Liu, Zhanyu Yu. *Self-Belief Updating Frames and Their Association With Metacognitive Ability in Older Adults With Mild Cognitive Impairment*. Submitted manuscript.
2. **Xiling Zhang**, Haohua Chen, Zhanyu Yu. *The Associations Between Generative AI Use and Higher-Order Thinking: Evidence From Person-Centered and Variable-Centered Analyses*. Submitted manuscript.

RESEARCH METHODS

- Behavioral experimental design and trial-level confidence judgments
- Signal-detection-theoretic modeling of metacognition
- Linear mixed-effects models
- Latent profile analysis (LPA)
- Structural equation modeling (SEM)
- Psychological network analysis

SELECTED HONOR

First-Class Graduate Academic Scholarship

2024

Jiangsu Normal University