

# Marianna Zhang

she/her

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## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D., Psychology**, *Stanford University* expected Jun 2024
- Dissertation: Promoting children’s structural reasoning about social categories.
  - Committee: Ellen M. Markman, Steven O. Roberts, Tobias Gerstenberg
- B.A., Psychology** with Honors & Minor in Philosophy, *The University of Chicago* 2018
- Honors thesis: Perspective-taking in mental imagery of the actions of others. ([thesis](#))
  - Advisers: Daniel Casasanto & Susan Goldin-Meadow
  - Tutorials in Metaphor and Philosophy of Cognitive Science, *St. Catherine’s College, Oxford* Autumn 2017

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

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- Graduate Researcher**, [Markman Lab](#) (PI: Dr. Ellen Markman), *Stanford University* 2018–present
- Studying children’s reasoning about social categories, including reasoning about social structure and the development of gender stereotypes.
- Participant**, [Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute \(DISI\)](#), *University of St Andrews* Jul 2019
- Selected to attend institute for collaboration across psychology, philosophy, sociology, and anthropology.
- Participant**, [Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application \(CARLA\) Summer School](#) Aug 2018  
*Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Osnabrück*
- Selected to attend summer school & conference across psychology, philosophy, and linguistics.
- Research Assistant**, [Experience and Cognition Lab](#) (PI: Dr. Daniel Casasanto), *University of Chicago* 2014–2018
- Found that mental imagery and language processing about others’ actions involves simulation of others’ bodily perspective in an embodied cognition fMRI study (Zhang, honors thesis, 2018).
  - Established that language processing about one’s own actions involves simulation of one’s own bodily experience in an embodied cognition tDCS study (Gijssels et al., 2019).
  - Examined whether loudness affects perception of temporal duration in a study testing a cross-domain mapping proposed by metaphor theory.
- Summer Intern**, [Laboratory for Developmental Studies](#) (PI: Dr. Susan Carey), *Harvard University* Summer 2016
- Investigated formal explanations and domain information as potential sources of information in how children and adults develop representations of natural kinds (Zhang et al., 2016, poster).
- Summer Intern**, [Cognition and Development Lab](#) (PI: Dr. Frank Keil), *Yale University* Summer 2015
- Found that a decision-making context reduces a causal reasoning bias, the latent scope bias (Johnson et al., 2016).
  - Studied whether adults compare explanations via iterative comparison.

## PUBLICATIONS

\*co-first author, †student advisee

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- Asaba, M., **Zhang, M. Y.** & Leonard, J. (in prep). Children’s representations of others’ gender biases.
- Zhang, M. Y.**, Liu, L.<sup>†</sup>, & Markman, E. M. (in prep). Let’s talk structure: the positive outcomes of structural thinking.
- Zhang, M. Y.\***, Sullivan, J. N.\*, Markman, E. M. & Roberts, S. O. (in press). Children’s structural thinking about social inequalities. *Child Development Perspectives*.
- Zhang, M. Y.**, Liu, L.<sup>†</sup>, & Markman, E. M. (2023). Let’s talk structure: the positive outcomes of structural thinking. In *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1564–1571). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. ([paper](#))
- Chestnut, E. K., **Zhang, M. Y.**, & Markman, E. M. (2021). “Just as good”: Learning gender stereotypes from attempts to counteract them. *Developmental Psychology*, 57(1), 114–125. ([paper](#), [data](#))

Johnson, S. G. B., **Zhang, M.**, & Keil, F. C. (2016). Decision-making and biases in causal-explanatory reasoning. In *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1967–1972). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. ([paper](#))

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- Zhang, M. Y.** & Markman, E. M. Limitations and future directions in studying structural thinking in young children.  
Talk at Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA. 2024
- Asaba, M., **Zhang, M. Y.** & Leonard, J. A. Children's representations of others' gender biases.  
Poster at Cognitive Science Society, virtual. ([abstract](#)) 2023  
Poster at Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT. 2023
- Zhang, M. Y.**, Popat, A. K., Santos, M., Mottl, P. R., Bian, L. & Markman, E. M. Language frequently used in best-selling storybooks can thwart their intent to inspire girls.  
Poster at Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Madison, WI. ([poster](#)) 2022
- Zhang, M. Y.** & Markman, E. M. Let's talk structure: the positive consequences of structural thinking.  
Invited talk at Conceptual Development & Social Cognition Lab, New York University. 2023  
Poster at Cognitive Science Society, virtual. ([poster](#), [paper](#)) 2023  
Talk at Society for Philosophy & Psychology (SPP), Pittsburgh, PA. 2023  
Invited talk at Developmental Psychology Colloquium, University of California-Santa Cruz. 2022  
Poster at the Society for Personality & Social Psychology (SPSP) conference, San Francisco, CA. ([poster](#)) 2022  
(received Graduate Poster Award, Runner-Up)
- Talk at Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD), virtual. 2022  
Talk at Harvard Women in Psychology Trends in Psychology conference, virtual. 2021  
Invited talk at Leonard Learning Lab, Yale University. 2021  
Poster at Cognitive Science Society, virtual. ([abstract](#), [poster](#)) 2021  
Talk at Developmental Psychology Area Brownbag, Stanford University. ([talk](#)) 2021  
Invited talk at Causality in Cognition lab meeting, Stanford University. 2020
- Zhang, M. Y.** & Markman, E. M. Essentially blocked: the role of structural factors in blocking essentialism.  
Poster at Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, KY. ([poster](#)) 2019  
Talk at Developmental Psychology Area Brownbag, Stanford University. 2019
- Gijssels, T., **Zhang, M. Y.**, Lucero, C., Berman, M. G., & Casasanto, D. Understanding language about other people's actions.  
Poster at Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, QC. ([abstract](#)) 2019
- Zhang, M. Y.**, Gijssels, T., & Casasanto, D. Perspective-taking in mental imagery of the actions of others.  
Poster at the University of Chicago Psychology Honors Day Symposium, Chicago, IL. ([poster](#)) 2018
- Zhang, M.**, Haward, P., & Carey, S. Sources of information in the acquisition of principled properties.  
Poster at Harvard University Laboratory for Developmental Studies Summer Internship Poster Day, Cambridge, MA. ([poster](#)) 2016

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Graduate Dissertation Fellowship**, Clayman Institute for Gender Research, *Stanford University* 2023–2024
- Graduate Research Opportunity**, School of Humanities & Sciences, *Stanford University* (\$3000) 2022
- Summer Collaborative Research Fellowship**, Stanford Impact Labs, *Stanford University* (\$4000) 2022
- Research Data Grant**, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, *Stanford University* (\$1500) 2021
- Norman H. Anderson Research Award**, Department of Psychology, *Stanford University* (\$2000) 2019, 2023
- Regina Casper **Stanford Graduate Fellowship in Science & Engineering**, *Stanford University* 2018–2021
- Dean's Distinguished University Fellowship, *Ohio State University* (3 years, declined) 2018
- Norwegian Summer Institute on Language and Mind, *University of Oslo* (declined) 2018
- Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable Mention**, *National Science Foundation* 2018
- Earl R. Franklin Research Fellowship**, Department of Psychology, *The University of Chicago* (\$3000) 2017

University Merit Scholarship, *The University of Chicago*

2014–2018

**HONORS & AWARDS**


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| Diversity Travel Award, <i>Society for Philosophy &amp; Psychology (SPP)</i>                                 | 2023             |
| James W. Lyons Award for Service, Dean of Students Office, <i>Stanford University</i>                        | 2023             |
| Graduate Feminist Award, Vice Provost for Graduate Education/Women's Community Center, <i>Stanford Univ.</i> | 2022             |
| Graduate Poster Award Runner-Up, <i>Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)</i>                 | 2022             |
| Diversity Travel Award, <i>Cognitive Development Society (CDS)</i>   | 2019             |
| Phi Beta Kappa, <i>The University of Chicago</i>   | 2018             |
| Student Leadership Recognition and Access Award, Student Government, <i>The University of Chicago</i>        | 2016             |
| Dean's List, <i>The University of Chicago</i> (ineligible 2017)  | 2015, 2016, 2017 |

**TEACHING**

\*online

**Teaching Assistant** (7 courses), *Stanford University*

Gendered Innovations in Science, Medicine, Engineering, and Environment (HISTORY/FEMGEN 44Q) Spring 2024  
 Advanced Research / Honors Program (PSYCH 198) Autumn 2022

- Taught workshops on research and professional skills in a small seminar class.

Introduction to Developmental Psychology (PSYCH 60)

Spring 2021\*, Summer 2021\*

- Taught a guest lecture on language and thought in a large lecture class.
- Graded problem sets and major assignments, and met with students in office hours.

Introduction to Psychology (PSYCH 1)

Autumn 2019, Winter 2020, Spring 2020\*

- Taught 2 weekly sections of 12-20 students each quarter & graded assignments.
- Developed an online teaching guide for sections during an emergency pivot to online teaching.
- Invited back in a two-quarter teaching program for a third quarter of teaching.

**Internship Coordinator**, *Stanford University*

CSLI Summer Internship, Center for the Study of Language and Information

2020, 2022

Psych-Summer Research Program, Department of Psychology

2023

- Designed mentorship contracts, mentor training, orientation, weekly workshops, and other events for interns.

**Mid-Quarter Teaching Consultant**, Introduction to Psychology, *Stanford University*

2021–present

**Graduate Teaching Consultant**, Center for Teaching & Learning, *Stanford University*

2020–2023

**Graduate Teaching Consultant Coordinator**, Center for Teaching & Learning, *Stanford University*

2021–2023

- Provide individualized teaching feedback to graduate students across the university.
- Train and manage a team of more than a dozen graduate teaching consultants.
- Evaluate graduate student needs using focus groups and surveys, co-wrote a funding proposal for a graduate teaching certificate program, launched a university-wide teaching helpline for teaching-related questions, developed a grant fund for graduate students to develop teaching-related events and resources.
- Design & lead workshops, on e.g., student engagement, group work, leading discussions, inclusive pedagogy:

Modell, A. & **Zhang, M. Y.** TA Orientation Any Time: A Self-Paced, Asynchronous Canvas Course.Poster (IdeaLab) at Academic Technology Expo (ATXpo), *Saint Mary's College*.

2023

**Zhang, M. Y.** & various co-facilitators. Leading discussions in the humanities & social sciences.Invited workshop for TA Orientation, *Stanford University*.

Winter 2021\*, Autumn 2021\*, Autumn 2022

Asynchronous course module for TA Orientation Anytime, *Stanford University*.

2023

**Zhang, M. Y.** Engaging students in the classroom.Invited workshop for Psychology TA Orientation, Psychology, *Stanford University*.

2022, 2023

**Zhang, M. Y.** & Guzman, K. Making groups work in class.Invited workshop for Teach the Teachers, School of Earth, *Stanford University* (cancelled).

2022

**Zhang, M. Y.** & Williams, L. Student engagement online.Invited workshop for TA Seminar, Civil and Environmental Engineering, *Stanford University*.

2020\*

**MENTORING & OUTREACH****Research Mentor** (12 students)

- Train and mentor undergraduate research assistants in developmental research and career development.
- Mentor honors thesis students<sup>†</sup> in applying for funding and conducting independent research.
- Lead weekly workshops on skills and professional development.

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| Emily Rinehart (BA, Stanford)  | 2023–present |
| Sachin Allums (BA, Stanford)   | 2022–present |
| Linda Liu (BA, Stanford)   | 2022–present |
| Kamilah Cole (BA, UC Berkeley)   | 2022         |
| Amy Miyahara <sup>†</sup> (BA, Stanford → lab manager in Psychology, Notre Dame) | 2021–2023    |
| Natalie Sarmiento (BA, Stanford → lab manager in Psychology, UW-Madison)         | 2021–2022    |
| Alex Riklin (BA, Stanford)   | 2021–2022    |
| Mercedes Muñoz (BA, Boston University → PhD student in Psychology, Duke)         | 2020–2021    |
| Melissa Santos <sup>†</sup> (BA, Stanford → lab manager in Psychology, Yale)     | 2019–2021    |
| Aarhi Popat <sup>†</sup> (BA, Stanford → lab manager in Psychology, UCSD)        | 2019–2021    |
| Alanna Sun (BA, Stanford)  | 2019–2020    |
| Kristine Cho (BA, Pomona → PhD student in Marketing, UC Berkeley)                | 2019–2020    |

#### Mentor for psychology PhD applicants

[Project SHORT](#) (2021–present), [Application Statement Feedback Program \(ASFP\)](#) (2021–present), Stanford Psychology [Paths to PhD](#) (2019–present), Stanford Women’s Community Center [Women in STEM Mentoring](#) (2018–2020)

#### Science outreach and education for middle schoolers from underprivileged/underrepresented backgrounds

[Stanford Science Penpals](#) (2018–2020), [The Think Tank](#) educator & events manager (2015–2017; [media coverage](#))

#### Science communication

**Zhang, M. Y.** (in press). Gender stereotypes contribute to misperceptions of gender norms across the world. *Gender News*. Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University.

**Zhang, M. Y.** (in press). The fundamental moral dilemma of public experts. *Gender News*. Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University.

### ACADEMIC SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

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#### To the discipline

**Ad hoc reviewer**, *Psychological Science* (co-reviewer), Cognitive Science Society (CogSci) conference, Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD)

#### To Stanford University

**Diversity Committee**, Department of Psychology 2019–2020

- Conducted the first systematic documentation of graduate admission practices across areas of the department, as part of a committee initiative assessing diversity in graduate admissions.
- Twice co-organized an annual public event, [Paths to PhD](#), to communicate information about psychology graduate school and the application process to those from underrepresented backgrounds.
- Co-designed a department climate survey and transparency document for accountability to stakeholders.
- Created & maintain professional development resources, e.g., alumni & funding databases, for graduate students.

**Cognitive/Developmental Faculty Search Committee**, Department of Psychology 2021–2022

**Developmental Area Graduate Admissions**, Department of Psychology 2019–2020, 2021–2022

**Developmental Area Graduate Interview Weekend**, Department of Psychology 2022, 2023

**Developmental Brownbag Seminar & Journal club**, Department of Psychology 2019–2020

#### To the University of Chicago

**Student Advisory Board**, Cognitive Science Program 2017–2018

- Organized a group of undergraduates from psychology, philosophy, and linguistics to work with a faculty member on creating a cognitive science undergraduate major, which launched during the 2022-23 school year.

**Faculty Liaison & Peer Mentor**, Psi Chi (UC Psych) 2016–2018