

Xingyu (Shirley) LIU

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Fourth-year PhD at University of California San Diego (UCSD), studying Experimental Psychology with a specialization in decision making and social cognition. Experienced and passionate in experimental research design, quantitative and qualitative analysis, interdisciplinary research, and science communication.

SKILLS

Research Methods Experimental Design, Surveys, Interviews, Rigorous Hypothesis Testing, A/B Testing, Large Datasets Analysis, Mixed Methods, Multimodal Data

Data Analysis Proficient in R, Multivariate Analysis (T-test, Chi-square, ANOVA, Linear Regression, Logistic Regression, Factor Analysis, Mixed Effects); Familiar with SPSS, Python

Survey Tools Qualtrics, Amazon Turk

Languages Chinese (native), English (fluent), French (fluent, TCF: C2)

EDUCATION

PhD (Expected 2025) in Experimental Psychology, UCSD

- GPA: 3.98
- PhD advisor: Craig McKenzie

MSc by Research (2020) in Psychology, University of Edinburgh

- Distinction for outstanding thesis
- MSc advisors: René Möttus and Billy Lee

B.A.s (2019) in Psychology and in French, Pomona College

- Cum Laude; GPA: 3.89
- Distinction for outstanding theses

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, UCSD Decision Making Lab (Aug 2020-Present, San Diego, US)

- Finding pre-commitment strategies that can facilitate self-control in different types of self-control conflicts.
- Studied whether people think framing effects are mistakes; has potential implications for framing effects in medical and commercial settings.
- Proposed psychological mechanisms that underlie first- and second-order preferences and their implications for self-control.
- Tested the correlation between psychologists' perceived quality of their publications and the number of citations that these publications have.
- Collaborated with Alice Diaz (University of Edinburgh), using personality datasets to predict life outcomes such as well-being.
- Collaborating with Michael McCullough (UCSD) and Moshe Hoffman (Harvard University), seeking evolutionary reasons for why people proselytize.

Research Fellow, UCSD Institute of Practical Ethics (May-Sept, 2022, San Diego, CA)

Developed measures that use self-nudges to increase self-control; has potential implications for facilitating user-friendly and productive work environments.

Graduate Researcher, University of Edinburgh (Sept 2020- Aug 2021, Edinburgh, UK)

Designed measures of perceived control and well-being using personality data, and compared the relationship between perceived control and well-being across 42 countries.

Independent Researcher, Rosen Travel Grant, Pomona College (June-July 2018, Paris, France)

Interviewed French strikers and conducted quantitative and qualitative analyses on how culture, conformity, and group identity motivate French and American strikers differently.

Psychology Research Intern, Mend, Inc. (Jan-July 2017, Santa Monica, CA)

Contributed to content development. Collaborated with a group of entrepreneurs. Created compelling blog posts based on insights from psychological research that offered users behavioral advice to recover from relationship breakups. (<https://www.lets mend.com/about>)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed

Liu, X.S., (2021). What motivates us to go on strike? Social and moral norms and their impact on strike participation in individualist and collectivist situations in western cultures. *Journal of European Psychology Students*, 12(1), pp.1–15. <http://doi.org/10.5334/jeps.507>

Under review/revision

- Stewart, R. D., Diaz, A., Hou, X., **Liu, X.S.**, Vainik, U., Johnson, W., & Möttus, R. (under review). The Ways of the World? Cross-Sample Replicability of Personality Trait-Life Outcome Associations. *Journal of Research in Personality* <https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/6c592>
- **Liu, X.S.**, & Möttus, R. (under revision). Happy and in control: exploring cultural differences in the relationship across cultures using IPIP dataset. *Personality Science*. <https://psyarxiv.com/c7wsd/>

In preparation

- **Liu, X.S.**, McKenzie, C.R., McCullough, M.E., Winkielman, P. (in preparation). Second-order preferences: Origins and implications.
- **Liu, X.S.**, Leong, L., McKenzie, C. & Sher, S. (in preparation). Who accepts description invariance?
- **Liu, X.S.**, McKenzie, C.R.; Leong, L. (in preparation). Are self-nudges effective?

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Talk

Liu, X.S., Leong, L., McKenzie, C. & Sher, S. (Aug, 2023). *Who accepts description invariance?* Conference talk at Subjective Probability Utility and Decision Making (SPUDM). Vienna, Austria.

Posters

- **Liu, X.S.**, Leong, L., McKenzie, C. & Sher, S. (Nov, 2023). *Self-nudging self-control*. Conference poster at Society for Judgement and Decision-making (SJDm). San Francisco, US.
- **Liu, X.S.**, Leong, L., McKenzie, C. & Sher, S. (July, 2023). *Are self-nudges effective?* Conference poster at Cognitive Science. Sydney, Australia.
- **Liu, X.S.** & Möttus R. (July, 2022). *Happy and in control*. Conference poster at European Conference of Personality (ECP). Online.
- **Liu, X.S.**, Leong, L., McKenzie, C. & Sher, S. (Nov, 2021). *Who accepts description invariance?* Conference poster at Society for Judgement and Decision-making (SJDm). Online.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Distinctions

- Distinction for outstanding Master thesis, University of Edinburgh (2020)
- Distinction for exceptional BA thesis in Psychology, Pomona College (2019)

- Distinction for exceptional BA thesis in French, Pomona College (2019)

Fellowships and Grants

- Norman Anderson Travel and Research Award, UCSD (2022 & 2023)
- PhD Summer Funding Fellowship at the Institute of Practical Ethics, UCSD (2022)
- Katzin Fellowship for outstanding incoming PhD students, UCSD (2020-Expected2025)