

Department of Communication, UC Santa Barbara (www.comm.ucsb.edu)
Current Graduate Student Research/Interests
Fall 2022

Yibei Chen

I am interested in how moral narratives elicit similar responses across individuals under a naturalistic setting. I am also a big fan of (both computational and statistical) method developments/innovations.

America Edwards

I am broadly interested in studying interpersonal communication, computer-mediated communication, and impression formation. I am currently engaged in projects with Joe Walther, Tammy Afifi, and Robin Nabi. Feel free to reach out if you have questions!

Chengyu Fang

My research focuses on how emergent technologies and industries shape existing work practices, organizations, and professions. Recently, I have been exploring this topic through two lines of research. One line focuses on the potential of AI at transforming long-standing professions such as the legal industry. The other line explores how eSports teams adapt in an emergent institutional environment.

Chloe Gonzales

I am interested in diverse family constructions such as families formed through adoption, racial/ethnic identity development and negotiation, and ambiguous loss. Growing curiosities include families touched by illness such as with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, communicated narrative sense-making, and anticipatory resilience/memorable messages.

Chantel Haughton

My research focuses on the intersection of racial and ethnic stigma, chronic stress, mental health, and communication. My work looks at the ways compounding stressors affect the well-being of families, the communicative tools they can use to either help or hurt their relationships and well-being, and how these processes differ across cultures.

Shawn Hill

My research interests are examining police culture and the relationship between police and the public from an intergroup communication perspective, and using research and evidence from intergroup communication to mitigate the "us versus them" mentality that exists between the police and the public and overcoming the barriers of translational criminology.

Qing Huang

I am interested in the intersection of computer-mediated communication and interpersonal communication, as well as their relational and health outcomes.

Grace Hwang

For now, I'm interested in research areas related to the topics of health communication as well as communication and evolution.

Kyungin Kim

My research interests include 1) structural barriers and stressors arising from migration and displacement and 2) promotive factors that cultivate resilience and positive psychosocial outcomes among immigrant youth and families. I draw from research in interpersonal, intercultural, and health communication.

Yeweon Kim

My research examines the benefits and risks of digital communication technologies for information behaviors, communicative interactions, and political engagements in public life. My current research focuses on the dark side of computer-mediated communication, particularly online incivility and hate in virtual public spheres.

Jesse King

Currently, I am working on projects on mental health messaging, selective exposure of messages, and undocumented students' well-being and married individuals' resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am also involved in projects regarding how low-income individuals' participation in online and offline groups influences their well-being and how framing of digital divide legislation influences whether it is passed and who it is sponsored by.

Steven Kubitz

My research interests are in the fields of political and mass communication, with a focus on media effects and political tolerance. I also focus on the intersection of professional sports and politics.

Hyojin “Jamie” Lee

My research interests lie in taboo health topics in interpersonal communication, especially between family members and other close relationships. With my background in health communication and my current focus on family communication, I hope to amend the intergenerational and cross-cultural gap among family members' understanding of taboo and stigmatized health topics.

Sovannie Len

I have studied multicultural identification, microaggressions, and cultural intelligence. My current work centers on stereotypes/representation in media, fostering intercultural communication, and developing cultural intelligence using media effects.

Xingyu Liu

My research focuses on media effects, specifically on credibility perceptions of news and other social information on social media, involving topics such as selective exposure and fake news. I'm also interested in interpersonal communication in CMC context, as well as metacognition and strategic media skills.

Musa Malik

I am passionate about the development of algorithmic tools that facilitate research in computational communication science. I'm also interested in leveraging advancements in natural

language processing and computer vision to study phenomena such as prejudice, xenophobia, and conflict on social media.

Allison Mazur

My focus area is interpersonal and family communication, with research interests in trauma and gender-based violence. I am specifically interested in how interpersonal relations can play a role in preventing sexual violence and supporting those who have experienced it.

Lindsay Miller

My research centers around understanding the barriers and facilitators of pro-environmental and other pro-social behaviors in order to inform communication campaigns that foster sustainability.

Nitzan Navick

I primarily study technology in the context of organizational communication. I am particularly interested in conducting empirical research which gives voice to the experiences of marginalized and underserved workers and students (e.g. women, subordinate employees, ethnic minorities, underrepresented students). Some research areas I am currently working in are remote work, workplace cybersexual harassment, and the technological affordances of enterprise social media and other types of technology used for organizing.

Christopher Otmar

My research focuses on how interpersonal communication episodes influence nonverbal synchrony and subsequent post-event processing (e.g., rumination, worry)—especially as it relates to social interaction anxiety (SIA). I am currently working on a longitudinal study to understand the connection between satisfying interpersonal experiences and health behaviors for individuals with SIA.

Jade Salmon

I'm interested in researching relational maintenance processes and "dark side" features of close friendships. I also intend to examine the role of identity -- especially sex and gender -- in such relationships.

Jacova Snyder

I am broadly interested in organizational communication with specific interest in newcomer socialization, generations in the workplace, leadership communication, and effective teams.

Laurent Wang

I am broadly interested in the social and cognitive uses of digital technology and their implications for larger societal issues, such as digital inequality. Topics that I investigate include information credibility, privacy, and algorithmic bias.

Minghui Wang

I am interested in how emerging technologies trigger emotional responses and bring about health-related behavioral changes.

Brittany Wheeler

My research interests are in social media research with a specific interest in online harassment, video game and social media addiction, and deception within online spaces.

Veronica Wilson

I study the psychosocial determinants of well-being and how these factors influence life outcomes for vulnerable populations. More specifically, my research focuses on mental health and indicators of wellness such as stress appraisal, emotion regulation, social support, resilience and thriving.