

08/2025

Zezhen Wu, Ph.D.

Behavioral Scientist | The Agency Fund

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Intervention, New York University <i>Specialty Area: Data Science for Social Impact</i> Advisor: Dr. J. Lawrence Aber (primary advisor) Dr. William Tsai & Dr. Alejandro Ganimian (dissertation committee members)	09/2019 - 05/2024
Mphil in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation, University of Oxford Advisors: Dr. Thees F. Spreckelson and Dr. Frances Gardner	10/2017 - 06/2019
Ed.M. in Arts in Education, Harvard University Advisor: Prof. Steven Seidel	09/2016 - 05/2017
B.Sc. in Psychology, Tsinghua University Advisors: Dr. Kaiping Peng, Dr. Fumin Fan, and Dr. Jing Qian	09/2012 - 06/2016
Exchange Student, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science, Catholic University of Leuven	09/2014 - 02/2015

RESEARCH INTERESTS

<i>AI evaluation for social impact</i>	<i>Social and emotional learning</i>
<i>Education in low-resource and emergency contexts</i>	<i>Evidence-based social psychological interventions</i>

PUBLICATION

- Wu, Z.**, Sabarwal, S., Basnet, D., Aber, J. L., & Cohen, G. L. (2025). Understanding the effects of values affirmation on deaf students in Nepal: Evidence from a randomized controlled trial. *Social Psychology of Education*, 28(1), 140. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11218-025-10097-7>
- Aber, J. L., Kim, H. Y., & **Wu, Z.** (2024). Patterns of self-regulation and emotional well-being among Syrian refugee children in Lebanon: An exploratory person-centered approach. *Development and Psychopathology*, 36(5), 2522-2541.
- Wu, Z.**, *Understanding the Effects of Values Affirmation on the Academic Performance and Psychological Well-Being of Deaf Students in Nepal: Evidence From a Randomized Controlled Trial* - ProQuest. (2024). Retrieved November 15, 2024, from <https://www.proquest.com/openview/c97aa05744dd912a4d33d44ea0737507/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>
- Wu, Z.**, Brown, L., Kim, H. Y., Yoshikawa, H., & Aber, J. L. (2023). Measuring the dosage of brief and skill-targeted social-emotional learning (SEL) activities in humanitarian settings. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 973184. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.973184>
- Kim, H. Y., **Wu, Z.** (2022). *Psychometric evidence on a measure of behavioral regulation among conflict-affected Nigerian refugee and Nigerian local children in Southern Niger: Self-Regulation Assessment-Assessor Report (SRA-AR)* [Technical working paper]. NYU Global TIES for Children. <https://inee.org/measurement-library/self-regulation-assessment-assessor-report-sra-ar-niger>
- Kim, H. Y., **Wu, Z.** (2022). *Psychometric evidence on a measure of school-related stress and stress reactivity among conflict-affected Nigerian refugee and Nigerian local children in southern Niger: Response to Stress Questionnaire (RSQ)* [Technical working paper]. NYU Global TIES for Children. https://inee.org/measurement-library/response-stress-questionnaire-rsq-niger?webform_id=toolkit_resources
- Wu, Z.**, Spreckelsen, T. F., & Cohen, G. L. (2021). A meta-analysis of the effect of values affirmation on academic achievement. *Journal of Social Issues*, 77(3), 702-750. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12415>
- Cerna-Turoff, I., Fang, Z., Meierkord, A., **Wu, Z.**, Yanguela, J., Bangirana, C. A., & Meinck, F. (2021). Factors associated with violence against children in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review and meta-regression of nationally

representative data. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838020985532>

- Kim, H. Y., **Wu, Z.**, Gjicali, K., & Tubbs Dolan, C. (2021). *Response to Stress Questionnaire (RSQ)–Academic Problems: Psychometric Evidence on a Measure of School-Related Stress and Stress Reactivity among Syrian Children in Lebanese Public Schools* [Technical working paper]. NYU Global TIES for Children. <https://inee.org/resources/response-stress-questionnaire-rsq>
- Kim, H. Y., Gjicali, K., **Wu, Z.**, & Tubbs Dolan, C. (2021). Teachers' Observations of Learners' Social and Emotional Learning (TOOLSEL): Psychometric evidence for use in program evaluation in education in emergencies. *Journal on Education in Emergencies*, 7(2): 57-103. <https://doi.org/10.33682/3nr1-3ksq>
- Wu, Z.**, Gjicali, K., Kim, H. Y., & Tubbs Dolan, C. (2020). *Self-Regulation Assessment-Assessor Report (SRA-AR): Psychometric evidence from Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon* [Technical working paper]. NYU Global TIES for Children. <https://inee.org/resources/self-regulation-assessment-assessor-report-sra-ar>
- Gjicali, K., **Wu, Z.**, Kim, H. Y., & Tubbs Dolan, C. (2020). *Psychometric evidence on the Child Friendly School Questionnaire for Syrian Children in Lebanon (CFSQ-SL): A measurement tool of student-perceived school climate* [Technical working paper]. NYU Global TIES for Children. <https://inee.org/resources/child-friendly-school-questionnaire-syrian-children-lebanon-cfsq-sl>
- Cui, L., Criss, M. M., Ratliff, E., **Wu, Z.**, Houlberg, B. J., Silk, J. S., & Morris, A. S. (2020). Longitudinal links between maternal and peer emotion socialization and adolescent girls' socioemotional adjustment. *Developmental Psychology*, 56(3), 595–607. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0000861>

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Li, A., **Wu, Z.**, Cohen, G. L., & Markus, H. R. (under review). More individualism, larger gender gaps in science. *Nature Human Behaviour*.
- Wu, Z.** (2021). *mrautomatr*: An R package for measurement report automation. R package version 0.0.0.9000. <https://bookdown.org/wuzezhen33/mrautomatr/>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Jones, S. M., Bailey, R., Ramirez-Varela, L., **Wu, Z.**, Johnston, S., Driscoll, A., Colagrossi, A., Guimas, A., Câmara, A., Trajano, E., Nelson, B., Rubin, C., Massaro, L., Stolz, E. R., & Broderick, H. (2025, March). *Leveraging technology for social and emotional learning at scale*. Paper presented at the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, United States.
- Wu, Z.**, Kim, H. Y., Aber, J. L. (2023). *Longitudinal links among behavioral regulation, executive function, and literacy skills for crisis- and conflict-affected children*. Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Wu, Z.**, Brown, L., Aber, J. L. (2021). *Understanding the relationship between the dosage of SEL kernel activities and students' attendance and classroom behavior in primary schools in Sierra Leone*. Society of Research on Educational Effectiveness, Arlington, VA.
- Wu, Z.**, Spreckelsen, T. F., Cohen, G. L. (2021). *A meta-analysis of the effect of values affirmation on academic achievement*. Society of Research on Educational Effectiveness, Arlington, VA.
- Wu, Z.** (2020, December). *Psychometric evidence on the Child Friendly School Questionnaire for Syrian Children in Lebanon (CFSQ-SL): A measurement tool of student-perceived school climate*. INEE Webinar, New York City, NY.
- Li, A., **Wu, Z.**, Cohen, G. L., & Markus, H. R. (2018, March). *The Freedom Trap: A Sociocultural Emphasis on Independence Explains the Gender Gap in Science Engagement in 66 Countries*. Data Blitz talk given at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Cui, L., & **Wu, Z.** (2018). *Parent and peer emotion coaching and adolescent girls' adjustment: The role of daily emotions*. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence, Minneapolis, MN

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Referee for peer-reviewed journals:

- American Educational Research Journal
- Developmental Psychology
- Social Development
- Translational Issues in Psychological Science
- Current Psychology
- International Journal of Educational Development
- Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
- Columbia Graduate Student Journal of Psychology
- British Journal of Educational Psychology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

NYU Global TIES | New York University 09/2019 – 05/2024

Graduate research assistant | Advisor: Dr. J. Lawrence Aber, New York University

The Affect Dynamics in Relationships Lab | NYU Shanghai 06/2017 - 09/2017; 06/2018 - 10/2018

Graduate research assistant | Advisor: Dr. Lixian Cui, NYU Shanghai

Cultural Psychology Lab | Department of Psychology | Tsinghua University 11/2014 - 06/2016

Research assistant | Advisor: Dr. Kaiping Peng, Tsinghua University

Social Cognition Lab | Department of Psychology | Tsinghua University 02/2014 - 09/2015

Research assistant | Advisor: Dr. Pei Sun, Tsinghua University

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Agency Fund | Behavioral Scientist 06/2024 – present

ARCADIA for Suicide Prevention | New York University | Data Scientist 09/2023 – 05/2024

Inclusive Education Initiative | The World Bank | Short-term consultant 09/2021 – 05/2024

Teaching at the Right Level | Youth Impact | Data and Research Associate 05/2023 – 08/2023

Facebook for Business and Commerce | Meta | User experience research intern 05/2022 – 08/2022

Oxford Policy Management Limited | Data technician 03/2018 – 06/2018

New Oriental Education & Technology Group (Shanghai) | TOEFL Instructor 06/2017 – 08/2017; 06/2018 – 09/2018

Research Inputs and Development Action (RIDA) | Data technician 07/2016 - 09/2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

MethodHub at NYU Applied Psychology 2022-2023

Founder and organizer: Zezhen Wu

R workshop series at Youth Impact ([GitHub](#)) 2023

Instructor: Zezhen Wu

Course assistant for Bayesian Statistics (APSTA-GE 2123 - 2022) 2022

Instructor: Benjamin Goodrich

Course assistant for Research Methods I (APSY-UE 25 - 2021) 2021

Instructor: Alejandro Ganimian

NYU Global TIES R workshop series 2020-2021

Instructor: Patrick Anker, Zezhen Wu

Teaching assistant for Causal Inference (APSTA-GE 2012 - 2020) 2020

Instructor: Jennifer Hill

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

The Monroe Stein Memorial Fellowship (\$20,000)	2023
Steinhardt Dissertation Finishing Award (\$10,000)	2023
Linda & Arthur Carter Family Scholarship (\$ 3,500)	2022
NYU Steinhardt Doctoral Fellowship (\$ 100,000)	2019
Stanford Knight-Hennessy Scholars Finalist	2019
St Antony's College STAR Travel Grant (£ 300)	2018
China Oxford Thomas Wong Scholarship (£ 7,000)	2017
Harvard University Victor and William Fung Fellowship (\$ 30,000)	2016
Harvard Graduate School of Education Grant (\$ 16,000)	2016
Tsinghua University Academic Excellence Scholarship (¥ 1,000)	2014
Tsinghua University Arts Scholarship (¥ 800)	2014
China Scholarship Council	2014
Exchange Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduates (€ 10,000)	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Language skills: Chinese (Native), English (Fluent)
- Data Analysis: R, Python, SQL, Stata, Mplus, SPSS, Stan, Excel, MAXQDA, Nvivo
- Data Visualization: R (ggplot2, Plotly, Shiny), Python (Matplotlib, Seaborn), Tableau
- Survey Platform: SurveyCTO, ODK, Qualtrics, Amazon MTurk, SurveyMonkey, UserZoom
- Coursework: Data Mining | Bayesian Statistics | Missing Data | Causal Inference | Data Science for Social Impact | Statistical Computing & Simulation Based Analysis | Multilevel & Longitudinal Models | Machine Learning and Algorithms
- Music skills: cello, saxophone, guitar; vocal and beatboxing; 2015 Best Original Singer at Tsinghua University; principal cellist at the Du Bois Orchestra at Harvard; guest performer at HGSE graduation ceremony; cellist at Oxford University Orchestra; cellist at NYU Orchestra