

Zicheng Zhu

I am interested in **AI for human mental well-being**, especially **social well-being**. Specifically, I am interested in the following questions: How does AI affect humans' mental well-being and their social connections with others? How can AI be designed and governed to better support human mental well-being and social engagement?

🏠 www.zicheng-zhu.com

🎓 Google Scholar

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🌐 LinkedIn

Employment

Starting 2026/11
Kyoto, Japan

Kyoto University
Assistant Professor
School of Informatics

2023/11 – 2026/09
Singapore

National University of Singapore
Research Fellow
School of Computing
Mentor: Yi-Chieh Lee

Education

2019 – 2024
Singapore

National University of Singapore
PhD in Communications and New Media
Advisors: Renwen Zhang, Alex Mitchell
Committee: Weiyu Zhang, Hichang Cho
Dissertation: Digital Wellbeing in Gaming: an Examination Through Technological and Contextual Lenses

2017 – 2019
Boston, USA

Boston University
MSc in Marketing Communication Research

2013 – 2017
Guangzhou, China

Sun Yat-sen University
BA in Internet and New Media

Publications

CSCW 2026

Shared Similarity Between Humans and Chatbots: Exploring Human Willingness to Seek Social Support From Chatbots

Zicheng Zhu, Tianqi Song, Jefferson Lim, Chi-Lan Yang, Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction

🔗 [Paper](#)

UIST 2026

ASIDE: From Conflict Participants to Co-Observers Through Dyadic Spectator Reflection

Xinyi Zhang, Jingting He, **Zicheng Zhu***, and Yuxin Su
Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology

🔗 [Preprint](#) * Corresponding author

- CSCW 2026 **Alleviating Linguistic and Interactional Anxiety of Non-Native Speakers in Multilingual Communication**
Peinuan Qin, Justin Peng, Zhengtao Xu, Jiting Cheng, **Zicheng Zhu**, Naomi Yamashita, Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction
[🔗 Paper](#)
- DIS 2026 **Designing with Tensions: Older Adults' Emotional Support-Seeking Under System-Level Constraints in Conversational AI**
Mengqi Shi, Tianqi Song, **Zicheng Zhu**, Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of Designing Interactive Systems
[🔗 Paper](#)
- CHI 2026 **ChatLearn: Leveraging Non-Native Speaker Communication Challenges as Language Learning Opportunities**
Peinuan Qin, Yugin Tan, Jingzhu Chen, Nattapat Boonprakong, **Zicheng Zhu**, Naomi Yamashita, Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[🔗 Paper](#)
- CHI 2026 **AI-exhibited Personality Traits Can Shape Human Self-concept through Conversations**
Jingshu Li, Tianqi Song, Nattapat Boonprakong, **Zicheng Zhu**, Yitian Yang, and Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[🔗 Paper](#) 🏆 Best Paper Honorable Mention
- CHI 2025 **The Benefits of Prosociality towards AI Agents: Examining the Effects of Helping AI Agents on Human Well-Being**
Zicheng Zhu, Yugin Tan, Naomi Yamashita, Yi-Chieh Lee, and Renwen Zhang
Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[🔗 Paper](#) 🏆 Best Paper
- CHI 2025 **Mining Evidence about Your Symptoms: Mitigating Availability Bias in Online Self-Diagnosis**
Junti Zhang, **Zicheng Zhu**, Jingshu Li, and Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[🔗 Paper](#)
- CSCW 2025 **Multi-Agents are Social Groups: Investigating Social Influence of Multiple Agents in Human-Agent Interactions**
Tianqi Song, Yugin Tan, **Zicheng Zhu**, Yibin Feng, and Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction
[🔗 Paper](#) 🏆 Methods Recognitions
- CSCW 2025 **Exploring the Effects of Chatbot Anthropomorphism and Human Empathy on Human Prosocial Behavior Toward Chatbots**
Jingshu Li, **Zicheng Zhu**, Renwen Zhang, and Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction
[🔗 Paper](#)
- CSCW 2025 **AI-Based Speaking Assistant: Supporting Non-Native Speakers' Speaking in Real-Time Multilingual Communication**
Peinuan Qin, **Zicheng Zhu**, Naomi Yamashita, Yitian Yang, Keita Suga, and Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction
[🔗 Paper](#)

- Telemat. Inform.
2025 **Contextual Influences and Agency to Transform Context in Excessive Gaming: A Social-Ecological Perspective**
Zicheng Zhu, Renwen Zhang, and Alex Mitchell
Telematics and Informatics
[Paper](#)
- Cyberpsychol Behav
Soc Netw 2025 **Understanding Problematic Gaming Through Self-Determined vs. Non Self-Determined Motivation: Two Mediating Pathways of Harmonious and Obsessive Passion**
Wenjing Pan, Jikai Sun, **Zicheng Zhu**, Renwen Zhang, and Xiaoning Han
Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking
[Paper](#)
- JMIR 2023 **Examining the Persuasive Effects of Health Communication in Short Videos: Systematic Review**
Zicheng Zhu, Shiyu Liu, and Renwen Zhang
Journal of Medical Internet Research
[Paper](#)
- JCMC 2022 **Toxicity and Prosocial Behaviors in Massively Multiplayer Online Games: The Role of Mutual Dependence, Power, and Passion**
Zicheng Zhu, Renwen Zhang, and Yuren Qin
Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication
[Paper](#)
- DIS 2022 **Developing Intentional Relationships With Technologies: An Exploratory Study of Players' Experiences With Built-in Interventions in Games**
Zicheng Zhu, Alex Mitchell, and Renwen Zhang
Proceedings of Designing Interactive Systems
[Paper](#)

Extended Abstracts

- CHI 2026 **When Humans Don't Feel Like an Option: Contextual Factors That Shape When Older Adults Turn to Conversational AI for Emotional Support**
Mengqi Shi, Tianqi Song, **Zicheng Zhu**, and Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[Paper](#)
- CHI 2026 **InterPilot: Exploring the Design Space of AI-assisted Job Interview Support for HR Professionals**
Zhengtao Xu, Zimo Xia, **Zicheng Zhu**, Nattapat Boonprakong, Yu-An Chen, Rabih Zbib, Mr. Casimiro Pio Carrino, Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[Paper](#)
- CHI 2026 **ConvScale: Conversational Interviews for Scale-Aligned Measurement**
Peinuan Qin, Jingzhu Chen, Yitian Yang, Han Meng, **Zicheng Zhu**, Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[Paper](#)
- CHI 2026 **"Clumsiness is Love Itself": How Long-Distance Couples Experience, Envision, and Resist AI in Intimate Relationships**
Xinyi Zhang, **Zicheng Zhu***, Yuxin Su
Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[Paper](#) * Corresponding author

- CHI 2025 **Greater than the Sum of its Parts: Exploring Social Influence of Multi-Agents**
Tianqi Song, Yugin Tan, **Zicheng Zhu**, Yibin Feng, and Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[🔗 Paper](#)
- CHI 2025 **AI Literacy Education for Older Adults: Motivations, Challenges and Preferences**
Eugene Tang KangJie, Tianqi Song, **Zicheng Zhu**, Jingshu Li, and Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[🔗 Paper](#)
- CHI 2025 **Humans Help Conversational AI: Exploring the Impact of Perceived AI Deservingness on People's Decisions to Help and Their Perceptions on AI Seeking Help**
Yu-An Chen, **Zicheng Zhu**, and Yi-Chieh Lee
Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[🔗 Paper](#)
- CHI 2022 **Developing Intentional Relationships with Technologies: Exploring Players' Tension between Play and Non-play and Designing Built-in Interventions to Contribute to Digital Well-Being**
Zicheng Zhu
Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems
[🔗 Paper](#)

Conference Presentations (Non-archival)

- AAAI 2026 **Multi-Agents are Social Groups: Investigating Social Influence of Multiple Agents in Human-Agent Interactions**
Tianqi Song, Yugin Tan, **Zicheng Zhu**, Yibin Feng, and Yi-Chieh Lee
The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Workshop
🏆 Oral 🏆 Best Paper Award
- ICLR 2025 **The More, The Stronger? Investigating How Multi-Agent AI Shapes Human Opinions**
Tianqi Song, Yugin Tan, **Zicheng Zhu**, Maojia Song, Feng Yibin, and Yi-Chieh Lee
International Conference on Learning Representations Workshop
🏆 Spotlight
- ICA 2025 **Multi-Agents are Social Groups: Investigating Social Influence of Multiple Agents in Human-Agent Interactions**
Tianqi Song, Yugin Tan, **Zicheng Zhu**, Yibin Feng, and Yi-Chieh Lee
International Communication Association Conference
🏆 Top Paper Award
- ICA 2025 **Exploring the Effects of Chatbot Anthropomorphism and Human Empathy on Human Prosocial Behavior Toward Chatbots**
Jingshu Li, **Zicheng Zhu**, Renwen Zhang, and Yi-Chieh Lee
International Communication Association Conference
- ICA 2023 **When Will I Stop My In-Progress Game? Understanding the Role of Game Accomplishment, Multiple-Goal Pursuits, and Strain in Gameplay Disengagement**
Zicheng Zhu, Renwen Zhang, Mitchell Alex, and Zhuo Chen
International Communication Association Pre-Conference
- ICA 2023 **Persuasive Effects of Health Messages in Short Videos: A Systematic Review of Literature**
Zicheng Zhu, Shiyu Liu, and Renwen Zhang
International Communication Association Conference

- ICA 2023 **Combating Contextual Problematic Gaming Through Context Transformation**
Zicheng Zhu, Renwen Zhang, and Alex Mitchell
International Communication Association Conference
- ICA 2022 **Prosocial and Toxic Behaviors in Massively Multiplayer Online Games: The Role of Perceived Interdependence and Passion**
Zicheng Zhu, Renwen Zhang, and Yuren Qin
International Communication Association Conference

Honors and Awards

- 2026 Best Paper Honorable Mention Award (ACM CHI, top 5%)
- 2026 Oral (AAAI Workshop)
- 2025 Best Paper Award (ACM CHI, top 1%)
- 2025 Methods Recognitions (CSCW)
- 2025 Spotlight (ICLR HAIC Workshop)
- 2025 Top Paper Award (ICA)
- 2021 Graduate Students' Teaching Award (Honour Roll)
- 2021 Graduate Students' Teaching Award
- 2020 Graduate Students' Teaching Award

Grants and Fellowships

- 2023 International Association of Cultural and Creative Industry Research Funding (\$10,000)
- 2022 Graduate Research Support Scheme (S\$3,000)
- 2022 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (S\$2,000)
- 2019 Graduate Teaching Fellowship
- 2017 Boston University Scholarship (\$15,000)
- 2017 School of Communication and Design Elite Development Scholarship
- 2015 School of Communication and Design Scholarship
- 2015 University of Technology Sydney Cheung Kong Scholarship (A\$5,000)

Teaching Assistant

- 2022 Fall - **NM2103: Quantitative Research Methods**
2023 Spring Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore
- 2020 Spring - **NM3217: Principles of Communication Design**
2021 Fall Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore
- 2019 Fall **NM3234: Leadership, Organisations and New Media**
Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore

Professional Service

Conference Chair

International Conference on Human-Engaged Computing (ICHEC)

NUS-Google Workshop: Future of CS Education and Curriculum in the AI Era

Conference Committee

2027 The ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)

2026 The ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS)

2024 The ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)

Conference Reviewer

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)

The ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST)

The ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)

ACM SIGCHI Annual Symposium on Computer-Human Interaction in Play (CHI PLAY)

International Communication Association Conference

Journal Reviewer

New Media & Society

ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI)

Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking

International Journal of Health Communication

Mobile Media & Communication

University Service

2023 **Summer Institute in Computational Social Science in Singapore**

Organizer

2021 - 2022 **Graduate Student Representative**

Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore

2021 **Global Forum of Computational Social Science**

Organizer

2021 **Books Week of Department of Communications and New Media**

Organizer

2021 **Communications and New Media Graduate Student Conference**

Organizer

Work Experience

2022 **Centre for Trusted Internet and Community, National University of Singapore**
Singapore Research Assistant

Project: Digital Well-being Indicator Framework

PI: Dr. Audrey Yue

2018 **NetEase Games**
Guangzhou, China Management Trainee

2018 **Pulitzer Center**
Remote Translator

2016	Hunan Broadcasting System
Hunan, China	Director
2014	Shenzhen Evening News
Shenzhen, China	Journalist

Mentees (Non-advisees)

2025	Zimo Xia Centre for Data Science and Machine Learning, National University of Singapore The Influence of AI Clone on Its Owner Paper submitted to CHI 2026
2024	Ann Chen Yale-NUS College The Influence of Humans Providing Help to AI Paper submitted to International Journal of Human-Computer Studies
2024	Yuanxin Ma School of Computing, National University of Singapore The Influence of AI Representative on the Social Perception of Its Owner Mentored undergraduate thesis
2024	Jefferson Lim School of Computing, National University of Singapore The Influence of Similarity on Help Seeking from Chatbots Paper accepted to CSCW 2026
2024	Charles Loy Yale-NUS College The Influence of AI Gender on Decision Making Mentored undergraduate thesis

Skills

Languages: JavaScript, C#, Python, R

References

Dr. Yi-Chieh Lee, Assistant Professor

Department of Computer Science
National University of Singapore
ycllee@nus.edu.sg
ycllee.net

Dr. Renwen Zhang, Assistant Professor

Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information
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Dr. Alex Mitchell, Associate Professor

Department of Communications and New Media
National University of Singapore
alexm@nus.edu.sg
narrativeandplay.org/~alex/

Dr. Naomi Yamashita, Professor

Graduate School of Informatics
Kyoto University
naomiy@acm.org

Dr. Chi-Lan Yang, Associate Professor

Institute of Library, Information and Media Science
University of Tsukuba
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