

Cai (“Cyra”) Dong

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EDUCATION

Yonsei University

Seoul, South Korea

B.A. in Applied Statistics & Philosophy; Minor in English Language and Literature, Expected June 2027

GPA: 3.89/4.3 (96.5/100). Relevant coursework: Probability and Mathematical Statistics, Linear Algebra, Calculus, Statistical Methodology, Programming, General Biology

Washington University in St. Louis

St. Louis, MO

Exchange Student in Arts & Sciences, Jan. 2025 – Jun. 2025

GPA: 3.75/4.0. Coursework in linguistics, statistics, cognitive science, and speech/hearing science.

MGH Institute of Health Professions

Boston, MA / Online

Online prerequisite coursework in Speech-Language Pathology, May 2025 – Aug. 2025

GPA: 4.0/4.0. Coursework: Anatomy & Physiology of Speech and Hearing Mechanisms; Introduction to Chemistry.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Jinri (진리) Merit-Based Tuition Scholarship, Yonsei University; awarded for two terms.
- National Second Prize, Peking University Chinese Literature Competition, 2018.
- Selected as a fully funded exchange student to Washington University in St. Louis, with tuition waived through Yonsei University exchange nomination.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Interoception, metacognition, consciousness, affective neuroscience, emotion dynamics, psychophysiology, naturalistic and multimodal cognition, computational psycholinguistics, biomedical AI and reproducible scientific workflows.

PUBLICATIONS

- Huo, R., Yang, S., Dong, C., & Chen, S. (2026). Underestimation of Others’ Attitudes Toward AI: Implications for AI Adoption. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*. Published. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jasp.70063>
- Huo, R., Yang, S., Dong, C., & Chen, S. (2026). Perceived economic inequality inhibits pro-environmental engagement. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 64(2), e12815. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12815>
- Dong, C. (2023). Hume’s aesthetic thoughts and modern art. *SHS Web of Conferences*, 174, 02022. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/202317402022>

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- Dong, C. Affective code-switching in Chinese and Korean diasporic narratives. Under review (anonymous submission).

CONFERENCE POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Dong, C., Dayan, C., Barcroft, J., & Sommers, M. (2026). Auditory and visual cue integration in L1 vocabulary learning. (TBD)
- Dong, C., Dayan, C., Barcroft, J., & Sommers, M. (2026). Auditory and visual cue integration in L1 vocabulary learning. (TBD)
- Dong, C., Dayan, C., Barcroft, J., & Sommers, M. (2026). Auditory and visual cue integration in L1 vocabulary learning. (TBD)
- Dong, C., Dayan, C., Barcroft, J., & Sommers, M. (2026). Auditory and visual cue integration in L1 vocabulary learning. (TBD)
- Dong, C., Dayan, C., Barcroft, J., & Sommers, M. (2026). Auditory and visual cue integration in L1 vocabulary learning. (TBD)
- Tao, L., Wiley, J., Zhu, Y., Dong, C., Tang, M., Taylor, D. J., Pruiksma, K. E., Feler, B., Kautz, M., Baker, J., Khazem, L., Bryan, C. J., & Brown, L. A. (2025). Predicting next-day suicidal urges, depression, and PTSD symptoms using ecological momentary assessments and passive sensing of sleep among military service members. Poster presented at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) Annual Convention.
- Dong, C., & Au, A. (2024). Effects of neural fatigue from speech perception in noise on social withdrawal: Evidence from fNIRS hyperscanning experiments. Poster presented at the Brain and Mind Institute, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant; PI: Juyoen Hur, Ph.D., May 2026 – Present

Yonsei University, Clinical & Affective Neuroscience Lab (CAD), Seoul, South Korea

- Assisting clinical and affective neuroscience research on anxiety, depression, and related vulnerability mechanisms; reviewing fMRI, statistical modeling, and machine-learning materials for clinical neuroscience research.
- Performing fMRI quality checks and contributing to literature review on experimental design in affective neuroscience research.

- Developing an independent research project at the intersection of affective neuroscience and code-switching, examining how emotional and linguistic processes interact in multilingual contexts.

Shanghai AI Laboratory

Shanghai, China / Remote

AI4BioSci / SciForge Research Assistant; PI: Zhangyang Gao, May 2026 – Present

Shanghai AI Laboratory, Shanghai, China / Remote

- Contributing to SciForge/AgentServer research on auditable AI-assisted scientific reasoning, with emphasis on reproducible workflows, evidence-to-claim calibration, execution traces, and human feedback.
- Reviewed literature and technical materials on AI Scientist systems, multi-agent debate, paper reproduction, code execution, workflow failures, and evidence verification.
- Drafted proposal and methodology notes for AI-assisted dialectical mechanistic calibration, using interoception, metacognition, and bodily self as a neuro-philosophical case study.
- Summarized design considerations for making complex research pipelines auditable through structured records, quality-control checkpoints, interpretable failure cases, and reviewable intermediate outputs.

Yonsei University, Clinical & Affective Neuroscience Lab (CAD)

Seoul, South Korea

Stanford University, Stanford Psychophysiology Lab

Stanford, CA / Remote

Research Assistant; PIs: James Gross, Ph.D.; mentored by Maia ten Brink, Ph.D., Oct. 2025 – Present

Stanford University, Stanford Psychophysiology Lab, Stanford, CA / Remote

- Developed reproducible R scripts to diagnose and correct >10,000 longitudinal EMA, sleep diary, and activity records, enabling downstream analyses of sleep, bruxism, and emotion dynamics.
- Designed auditable data-cleaning logic for non-standard timestamps, free-text responses, AM/PM conflicts, and temporally inconsistent records; documented decision rules in a technical methods note for future lab use.
- Generated standardized sleep and diary-derived variables, quality-control flags, and diagnostic visualizations using R and ggplot2.
- Synthesized literature on interoception, psychophysiology, emotion dynamics, and consciousness to support hypothesis generation and experimental design.
- Uploaded the reproducible data-cleaning pipeline to GitHub for version control and lab review.

Washington University in St. Louis, Speech & Hearing Lab

St. Louis, MO / Remote

Research Assistant; PIs: Mitchell Sommers, Ph.D.; Joe Barcroft, Ph.D., Jan. 2025 – Jun. 2026

Washington University in St. Louis, Speech & Hearing Lab, St. Louis, MO / Remote

- Created an IPA-based coding scheme to quantify lexical difficulty by defining 30% phonemic overlap across English words, supporting a gradient model of bilingual phonological permeability.
- Recorded, curated, and denoised experimental audio stimuli for bilingual speech-perception and vocabulary-learning studies.
- Contributed to L1 vocabulary-learning experiment design examining auditory and visual cue integration in word learning.
- Assisted with participant testing, scoring procedures, data verification, and R-based statistical validation for manuscript and poster preparation.

Zhejiang University of Science and Technology, Social Psychology Lab

Hangzhou, China / Remote

Long-Term Research Assistant; PI: Sijing Chen, Ph.D., Jul. 2023 – Jun. 2026

Zhejiang University of Science and Technology, Social Psychology Lab, Hangzhou, China / Remote

- Supported multi-method social psychology studies on perceived economic inequality, pro-environmental engagement, AI credibility, and decision reliance.
- Contributed to survey development, literature review, theoretical analysis, and retrieval/analysis of large-scale Chinese national longitudinal data.
- Assisted with R/Python analysis workflows including t-tests, ANOVA, regression, mediation analysis, effect-size estimation, and experimental programming in PsychoPy.
- Designed early-stage behavioral and EEG research ideas on East Asian cultural trauma, identity, code-switching, and prosocial behavior; independently developed a culturally responsive body-scan mindfulness intervention concept to test whether embodied attention modulates prosocial intentions toward ethnic outgroups.

Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA / Remote

Research Assistant, mentored by Lin Tao, Ph.D., Nov. 2025 – Apr. 2026

Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA / Remote

- Assisted with developing computational workflows for assessing counselors' facilitative interpersonal skills, with emphasis on scalable and reproducible measurement.
- Prototyped a Python pipeline designed for high-throughput extraction of facial, acoustic, and behavioral features from 3,000+ psychotherapy video/audio samples.
- Reviewed mental-health AI and multimodal clinical assessment literature to connect model outputs with therapeutic effectiveness and interaction quality.

- Conducted meta-analytic screening and evidence synthesis using Covidence across 20+ clinical studies on facilitative interpersonal skills and treatment outcomes.

Chinese University of Hong Kong, Brain and Mind Institute

Hong Kong, China

Research Assistant; PI: Xin Zhou, Ph.D., Jun. 2024 – Aug. 2024

Chinese University of Hong Kong, Brain and Mind Institute, Hong Kong, China

- Assisted fNIRS hyperscanning experiments on dyadic communication among participants with speech-perception difficulties.
- Preprocessed and cleaned fNIRS hyperscanning data and learned methods for inter-brain coherence analysis.
- Presented a poster on neural fatigue from speech perception in noise and social withdrawal; participated in weekly neuroimaging workshops and journal clubs.

Sanhua Holding Group, Digital AI Department

Hangzhou, China

AI-Assisted Dialectical Mechanistic Calibration

From Private Traces to Social Worlds

Trauma Narrative Analysis with Transformer-Based NLP

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, Washington University

St. Louis, MO

School of Medicine

CLINICAL, TEACHING, AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Clinical Observation, Jul. 2025 – Aug. 2025

- Observed psychotherapy sessions, intake evaluations, and ADOS/testing procedures in a clinical research setting.

Central Institute for the Deaf, Washington University School of Medicine

St. Louis, MO

Clinical Shadowing; Teacher Aide and Recreation Aide, May 2025 – Jun. 2025

- Shadowed family sessions and toddler language-intervention classes; supported speech-language pathologists, educators, and audiologists in multilingual auditory-oral learning contexts.

Artists First

St. Louis, MO

Volunteer Art Therapy Supporter, Jun. 2025 – Jul. 2025

- Supported therapeutic art sessions promoting self-expression, social interaction, and emotional regulation.

Beijing Normal University, Department of Psychology

Beijing, China

Volunteer Editor, Clinical Psychology Content, Jun. 2024 – Sep. 2024

- Compiled 80+ clinical psychology entries for Baidu Encyclopedia to improve Mandarin-language professional resources.

Educational Mentorship & Sponsorship Initiative

China / Korea

Founder and Mentor, 2021 – 2025

- Led a long-term educational support project for a student from a rural, low-income background, providing financial sponsorship, admissions mentoring, and psychosocial support through admission to Hanyang University.

SKILLS

Programming & data analysis: R, Python, MATLAB.

Methods: EMA/longitudinal data, GLMM/HLM, NLP, transformer models, meta-analysis, fNIRS.

Tools: PsychoPy, MediaPipe, Covidence, Audacity, NIRSite, Tableau, Git/GitHub.

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese: native. English: IELTS 8.0, working proficiency. Korean: TOPIK Level 6, working proficiency.

Japanese: JLPT N2, daily communication.

CERTIFICATES

- Autism and Neurodiversity in the Childcare Setting, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration in Autism (CIRCA), University of British Columbia.

HOBBIES

- I enjoy literature, creative writing, watercolor painting, perfume, and fashion.