

Zhihuai (Randy) Lin

Hussman School of Journalism and Media
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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EDUCATION

- 2028 **Ph.D. in Media and Communication** (*Expected*)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
◦ Advisor: Dr. Eva Zhao
- 2024 **M.Phil. in Communication**
Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
◦ Master's Thesis: Exploring the Role of Political Agenda: Triadic Network Agenda-Setting on Asylum Seekers and Refugees Issues in Hong Kong
◦ Committee: Dr. Rose Luqiu, Dr. Yin Zhang, Prof. Hsuan-ting Chen, Prof. Steve Guo (Chair)
- 2022 **M.A. in Global Communication**
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2021 **B.Comm. in Journalism, Data and Media Communication Concentration**
Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong (Graduation with First Class Honours)
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RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 2024–2026 **Graduate Research Assistant**
Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
◦ Supervisor: Dr. Eva Zhao
- 2025 **Graduate Research Assistant**
Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
◦ Supervisor: Prof. Shannon C. McGregor
◦ Graduate Affiliate Researcher to Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life (CITAP)
- 2025 **Graduate Research Assistant**
Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
◦ Supervisor: Prof. Spencer Barnes
- 2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**
Faculty of Humanities, The Education University of Hong Kong
◦ Supervisor: Prof. John Erni
- 2022–2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**
School of Communication, Hong Kong Baptist University
◦ Supervisor: Dr. Yin Zhang
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SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Note: * Corresponding Author; † Co-first Author.

Refereed Journal Articles

- [J9] Qin, E. & **Lin, Z.*** (In press). AI as the Mirror, Mate, and Mentor: Negotiating Romantic Relationships with ChatGPT as “Teacher G” on Xiaohongshu. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*.
- [J8] You, L., **Lin, Z.**, Zhao, X. & Wang, X. (In press). Organizational sociopolitical engagement in network ecology: Roles of organizational size, industry type, and political ideology. *Public Relations Review*.
- [J7] Zhao, Y., **Lin, Z.** & Luqiu, L.-R. (In press). How Soft Propaganda Operates Across the Strait: Analyzing the Interplay between Taiwanese YouTubers and Pro-Beijing News Media. *Asian Studies Review*.
- [J6] Ng, Y.-L.*† & **Lin, Z.†** (2026). Biophilia Gratification: Evidence from Nature-related Posts and Images on Social Media. *New Media & Society*. 28(3). 951–976. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241303776>
- [J5] **Lin, Z.** & Ng, Y.-L.* (2025). Unraveling Gratifications, Concerns, and Acceptance of Generative Artificial Intelligence. *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*. 41(17). 10725–10742. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10447318.2024.2436749>
- [J4] Zhang, Y.*, **Lin, Z.**, Tong, C., & Ho, S. (2025). Enhancing tokenization accuracy with dynamic patterns: cumulative logic for segmenting user-generated content in logographic languages. *Journal of Computational Social Science*. 8(3). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42001-025-00406-7>
- [J3] Wang, X., **Lin, Z.**, Shi, J.*, & Sun, Y. (2024). Opinion leadership and sharing positive and negative information about vaccines on social media: A mixed-methods approach. *Journal of Health Communication*, 29(11–12), 693–701. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10810730.2024.2426810>
- [J2] Ng, Y.-L.*† & **Lin, Z.†** (2024). Between Technological Utopia and Dystopia: Online Expression of Compulsory Use of Surveillance Technology. *Science and Engineering Ethics*, 30(19). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-024-00483-3>
- [J1] Ng, Y.-L.*† & **Lin, Z.†** (2022). Exploring Conversation Topics in Conversational Artificial Intelligence-based Social Mediated Communities of Practice. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 134, 107326. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2022.107326>

Refereed Conference Presentations

- [C17] **Lin, Z.** (2026). Unveiling Right-Wing Authoritarianism Discourse and Emotion on Reddit During the 2024 U.S. Presidential Cycle. Paper to be presented at the 76th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Cape Town, South Africa.
- [C16] **Lin, Z.** (2026). Perceiving Platform Harms: How Negative Affordances Shape Democratic Skepticism and Societal Concerns Through an O-S-O-R Framework. Paper to be presented at the 76th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Cape Town, South Africa.
- [C15] **Lin, Z.** & Zhao, X. (2026). Cultural Tailoring Paradox: Navigating Perceived Homophily and AI Bias in Generative AI-Mediated Communication Among Black Communities. Paper to be presented at the 76th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Cape Town, South Africa.
- [C14] Qin, E. & **Lin, Z.** (2025). Digital Mirror, Mate, and Mentor: Negotiating Romantic Relationships with ChatGPT as “Teacher G” on Xiaohongshu. Paper presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) 108th Annual Conference, San Francisco, California, USA.

- [C13] **Lin, Z.** (2025). When AI Opens Up: Understanding the Dynamics of Reciprocal Self-Disclosure in Human-AI Relationships. Paper presented at the 75th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Denver, Colorado, USA.
- [C12] **Lin, Z.** & Zhang, Y. (2025). Exploring the Role of Political Agenda: Triadic Network Agenda-Setting on Asylum Seekers and Refugees Issues in Hong Kong. Paper presented at the 75th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Denver, Colorado, USA.
- [C11] Su, K. & **Lin, Z.** (2025). Persuade Wisely, Keep Fit Effectively: A Computational Analysis of Opinion Leadership and Persuasion Tactics Using Elaboration Likelihood Model. Paper presented at the 75th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Denver, Colorado, USA.
- [C10] Zhao, X., **Lin, Z.** & Wong, C.-W. (2025). Examining the Roles of Modality and Cultural Tailoring in GenAI-Human Disaster Communication for Hispanic and Latino Communities. Paper presented at the 75th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Denver, Colorado, USA.
- [C9] You, L., **Lin, Z.**, Zhao, X. & Wang, X. (2025). Organizational sociopolitical engagement in network ecology: Roles of organizational size, industry type, and political ideology. Paper presented at the 75th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Denver, Colorado, USA.
- [C8] **Lin, Z.** & Ng, Y.-L. (2024). Why Are Users Drawn to ChatGPT? Unraveling the Motivations, Concerns, and Acceptance of Generative Artificial Intelligence. Paper presented at the 74th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Gold Coast, Australia.
- [C7] **Lin, Z.** (2024). Exploring the Impact of Media Use on Trust in Chinese Government: The Mediating Role of Authoritarian Personality. Paper presented at the 74th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Gold Coast, Australia.
- [C6] Ng, Y.-L. & **Lin, Z.** (2024). Biophilia Gratification: Evidence from Nature-related Posts and Images on Social Media. Paper presented at the 74th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Gold Coast, Australia.
- [C5] **Lin, Z.** (2024). Perceived Self-Efficacy, Governmental Paternalism, and Trust in Government: Navigating the Credibility of Government Debunking Efforts in China. Paper presented at the Emerging Media for Communicating SDGs Conference, Hsinchu, Taiwan.
- [C4] **Lin, Z.** (2023). The “Othered” Africa: African Narratives Construction by Chinese Self-Media. Paper presented at the 73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Toronto, Canada.
- [C3] Ng, Y.-L. & **Lin, Z.** (2023). Anonymous Online Expression of Society-wide, Compulsory Contact Tracing App Use: A Structural Topic Modeling Approach. Paper presented at the 73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Toronto, Canada.
- [C2] Zhang, Y., **Lin, Z.**, Tong, C. & Ho, S. (2023). How Dynamic Patterns Help? A Cumulative Logic for Improving Tokenization Data Pre-processing of Online User-generated Content. Paper presented at the 73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Toronto, Canada.
- [C1] Ng, Y.-L. & **Lin, Z.** (2022). Exploring Conversation Topics in Conversational Artificial Intelligence-Based Communities of Practice: A Latent Dirichlet Allocation Approach. Paper presented at the 72nd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Paris, France.

GRANTS

- 2026 Graduate Student Transportation Grant (US\$1,000), The Graduate School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2025 ABIDE Research Grant (US\$4,800), Hussman School of Journalism and Media's ABIDE (Access, Belonging, Inclusion, Dignity and Excellence) committee, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2023 Research Postgraduate Travel Grant (HK\$8,000), Hong Kong Baptist University
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AWARDS & HONORS

- 2025 First Place Student Paper Award, Communication Technology Division, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC)
- 2023 Reaching Out Award (ROA) (2022–2023), Hong Kong SAR Government
- 2021 Class Valedictorian of the 62nd Commencement, Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2021 Scholastic Award (2020–2021), Hong Kong Baptist University
◦ Awarded to students with First Class Honours in the top 2% of graduates
- 2021 Merit of Student Writing (English) Category, 25th Human Rights Press Awards
- 2020 Winner of Best in New-media Reporting, 2020 Campus News Awards, China Daily
- 2020 Winner of Best in English News Writing, 2020 Campus News Awards, China Daily
- 2020 Winner of Student Writing (English) Category, 24th Human Rights Press Awards
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FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2026 William Francis Clingman Jr. Ethics Award (US\$2,000), Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2024–2028 William G. Arey, Jr. Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
◦ Four years of tuition support, stipend, health insurance, and travel fund
- 2022–2024 Master of Philosophy Fellowship (HK\$192,000), Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2024 Commercial Radio 50th Anniversary Scholarship (HK\$20,000), Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2022 Academic Excellence Scholarship (HK\$15,000), The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 2021 Kan Hing Communication Scholarship (HK\$10,000), Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2021 School of Communication Scholarship (2020–2021) (HK\$10,000), Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2020 School of Communication Scholarship (2019–2020) (HK\$10,000), Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2019 SCE Scholarship (HK\$5,000), Hong Kong Baptist University
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TEACHING POSITIONS

- 2024 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
 Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 ◦ Teaching Assistant to Dr. Eva Zhao
 ◦ Course: Advertising and Public Relations Research (MEJO379)
- 2023–2024 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
 School of Communication, Hong Kong Baptist University
 ◦ Teaching Assistant to Dr. Yun'er Zhu
 ◦ Course: Big Data Analytics for Media and Communication (COMM7780)
- 2020–2021 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**
 Department of Journalism, Hong Kong Baptist University
 ◦ Teaching Assistant to Mr. Billy Ho
 ◦ Course: Multimedia Storytelling (COMM3400)
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Discipline Specific: Journal

- 2024–present *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking* (SSCI) × 16
- 2024 *New Media & Society* (SSCI) × 2
- 2024 *Social Science Computer Review* (SSCI) × 1

Discipline Specific: Conference

- 2025–present Reviewer, Information Systems Division, International Communication Association
- 2024–present Reviewer, Communication & Technology Division, International Communication Association
- 2021–present Reviewer, Computational Methods Division, International Communication Association

School Service: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- 2025 Panelist, Admitted Ph.D. Student Life Panel, Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

School Service: Hong Kong Baptist University

- 2021 Fact-Checker, HKBU Fact Check, Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2019–2021 Class Representative, Data and Media Communication Concentration, Department of Journalism, Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2019–2021 Portal Builder & Manager; Data Visualization Story Editor & Journalist, “Data Story” Portal (<https://datastory.hkbu.edu.hk>), The Young Reporter, Hong Kong Baptist University