
Ph.D. candidate
 Center for Neural Science
 New York University
pz580@nyu.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Affect, motivation, social cognition, mental health, reinforcement learning, naturalistic behavior.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

New York University, New York
 Ph.D. in Neural Science
 Thesis: Dynamic Nature of Procrastination
 Advisor: Wei Ji Ma 2018-2023
 Rotation in computational neuroscience labs 2016-2018

Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin
 Research Assistant
 Lab: Adaptive Rationality 2015-2016

Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Psychology, Beijing
 Research Assistant 2013-2014
 Peking University, Beijing
 Master program in Theoretical Physics 2013-2014

Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing
 B.Sc. in Physics, minor in Psychology, Cum Laude 2009-2013

INVITED TALKS

Society for NeuroEconomics, Vancouver [pdf](#) 2023
 Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research, London 2023
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Atlanta 2023
 Concepts and Categories Seminar Series, New York University 2023
 Center for Neural Science Seminar Series, New York University 2022
 Center for Adaptive Rationality at Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin 2015

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Cognitive Computational Neuroscience, Oxford University [pdf](#) 2023
 Cognitive Science Society, Toronto 2022
 Science of Life Improvement Conference, virtual 2021
 Mental Effort Workshop, virtual 2021
 Cognitive Science Society, virtual 2021
 Cognitive Science Society, virtual 2020

Cognitive Science Society, Montreal	2019
Cognitive Computational Neuroscience, Technical University of Berlin pdf	2019
Annual Meeting of Vision Science Society, Florida	2015
International Symposium on Decision Making and Brain Research, Beijing	2014

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Neuromatch Academy: deep learning	2021
Computational and Cognitive Neuroscience	2016

AWARDS

Society for NeuroEconomics Travel Grant	2023
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PREPRINT

Zhang, P. & Ma, W. J. temporal discounting predicts procrastination in a real-world task. (2023)
doi:10.31234/osf.io/gwj7h [pdf](#)

IN PREP

Zhang, P., Lin, Y., Lieder, F., Ma, W. J. Dynamic Nature of Procrastination
Zhang, P., & Ma, W. A Normative Account of Procrastination: Causes and Solutions.

TEACHING

Teaching Introduction to Computational Cognitive Science, summer school of Liberal arts and sciences, Veritas China	2021
Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Brain and Behavior, New York University	2017
Teaching Assistant for Lab in perception, New York University	2017

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ad Hoc Reviewing

Cognitive Computational Neuroscience
Cognitive Science Society

Outreach:

HappySad Science Blog: How to apply cognitive science to our daily lives?	2017-2022
Workshops on stories behind our PhD journey (with special seminars during pandemic)	2021
Podcast: Stories behind my paths: from physics, to computational neuroscience, and finally to my beloved computational cognitive science.	2020
Talks for the general public,	
1) Why do people procrastinate? New York Bailu Psychology talks	2019
2) Why do we love music? New York Culture talks	2018

REFERENCES

Wei Ji Ma, Professor, New York University
Falk Lieder, Assistant Professor, UCLA