

Siyi Gong

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, California

PhD Candidate, Communication

September 2022 – Expected June 2027

- Dissertation Committee: Tao Gao (chair/advisor), Elisa Kreiss, Rick Dale, H. Clark Barrett
- Research Interests: Communicational intention; Cultural innovation; AI-assisted learning

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, California

Master of Science, Communication

September 2022 – June 2025

- Advisor: Tao Gao
- Research Interests: Social intelligence; Shared agency; Communicational intention

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, California

Bachelor of Science, Cognitive Science

September 2018 – June 2022

- Minor in Asian Languages (Japanese)
- Summa Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- [1] Li, Z., Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (in press). From Gestalt Boundary to Psychological Border: How Perceptual Structure Constrains Strategic Planning and Intention Inference. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*
- [2] **Gong, S.**, Jiang, K., Li, J., Karadanaian, M., Meng, Z., & Gao, T. (2025). Communicating through Acting: Affording Communicative Intention in Pantomimes. *Cognitive Science*, 49(10), e70120. DOI
- [3] Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhao, M., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2025). Joint Commitment in Human Cooperative Hunting through an “Imagined We”. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 292(2055), 20243070. DOI
- [4] Stacy, S.*, **Gong, S.*** (* joint first author), Parab, A., Zhao, M., Jiang, K., & Gao, T. (2024). A Bayesian Theory of Mind Approach to Modeling Cooperation and Communication. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Computational Statistics*, 16(1), e1631. DOI
- [5] Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2023). Generative Visual Common Sense: Testing Analysis-by-synthesis on Mondrian-style Image. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 152(10), 2713. DOI

Peer-Reviewed Proceedings & Conferences

- [1] **Gong, S.**, Jiang, K., Kreiss, E., & Gao, T. (2026). Slow But Motivated: Social Learning in Open-ended Intellectual Innovation. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 48).
- [2] **Gong, S.**, Jiang, K., Li, J., Karadanaian, M., Meng, Z., & Gao, T. (2025). Communicating through Acting: The Role of Contextual Affordance in Intuitive Pantomimetic Gestural Communication. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 47).
- [3] Li, Z., Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2025). Territorial Gestalt in the Strategy of Conflicts. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 47).
- [4] **Gong, S.**, Tang, N., Zhao, M., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2024). Joint Commitment in Human Cooperative Hunting through an “Imagined We”. *Journal of Vision*, 24(10), 1382–1382.
- [5] Li, Z., Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2024). Perceptual Gestalt at War. *Journal of Vision*, 24(10), 787–787.
- [6] Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhao, M., Gu, C., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2022). Exploring an imagined “we” in human collective hunting: Joint commitment within shared intentionality. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 44, No. 44).
- [7] Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Liao, Z., Xu, H., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2021). Jointly perceiving physics and mind: Motion, force and intention. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 43, No. 43).

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Oral Presentations (as presenter)

- [1] **Gong, S.**, Jiang, K., Dale, R., & Gao, T. (June 2026). Social Cognition in AI-assisted Learning [Invited talk]. *Santa Fe Institute*, Santa Fe, United States.
- [2] **Gong, S.**, Tang, N., Zhao, M., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (May 2024). Joint Commitment in Human Cooperative Hunting through an “Imagined We” [Talk]. *VSS 2024*, St. Pete Beach, United States.
- [3] Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhao, M., Gu, C., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (September 2022). Exploring an Imagined “We” in Collective Hunting: Joint Commitment within Shared Intentionality [Data Blitz Talk]. *CogForum*, University of California, Los Angeles, United States.

- [4] Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhao, M., Gu, C., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (June–July 2022). Exploring an Imagined “We” in Collective Hunting: Joint Commitment within Shared Intentionality [Spotlight Talk]. *RSS 2022: Social Intelligence in Humans and Robots*, New York City, United States.
- [5] Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhao, M., Gu, C., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (July 2022). Exploring an Imagined “We” in Human Collective Hunting: Joint Commitment within Shared Intentionality [Talk]. *CogSci 2022*, Toronto, Canada.

Oral Presentations (Presented by Others)

- [1] Li, Z., Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (July 2025). Territorial Gestalt in the Strategy of Conflicts [Talk]. *CogSci 2025*, San Francisco, United States.
- [2] Li, Z., Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (July 2022). Perceptual Grouping for War and Peace [Flash Talk]. *CogSci 2022*, Toronto, Canada.
- [3] Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Liao, Z., Xu, H., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (July 2021). Jointly Perceiving Physics and Mind: Motion, Force, and Intention [Talk]. *CogSci 2021*, Virtual.

Poster Presentations

- [1] **Gong, S.**, Jiang, K., Kreiss E., & Gao, T. (July 2026). Slow But Motivated: Social Learning in Open-ended Intellectual Innovation. Poster presented at *CogSci 2026*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- [2] **Gong, S.**, Dale, R., & Gao, T. (May 2026). Cognition in the Loop: Socio-Cognitive Skills Predict AI-Assisted Learning in Human-AI Interaction. Poster presented at *Comm Horizons @ UCD 2026: Communication in the Age of AI and Algorithms*, Davis, United States.
- [3] **Gong, S.**, Kreiss, E., & Gao, T. (May 2025). Conceptual Innovation through the Lens of Stories. Poster presented at *California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science*, Santa Barbara, United States.
- [4] **Gong, S.**, Jiang, K., Li, J., Karadanaian, M., Meng, Z., & Gao, T. (July 2025). Communicating through Acting: The Role of Contextual Affordance in Intuitive Pantomimetic Gestural Communication. Poster presented at *CogSci 2025*, San Francisco, United States.
- [5] Tang, N., Xu, E., **Gong, S.**, Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (May 2024). Perceiving Animacy through Schematic Intuitive Physics: Shared Conceptual Structure of Animacy between Vision and Language. Poster presented at *VSS 2024*, St. Pete Beach, United States.
- [6] Li, Z., Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (May 2024). Perceptual Gestalt at War. Poster presented at *VSS 2024*, St. Pete Beach, United States.
- [7] Tang, N., **Gong, S.**, Zhao, M., Gu, C., Zhou, J., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (June–July 2022). Exploring an Imagined “We” in Collective Hunting: Joint Commitment within Shared Intentionality. Poster and talk presented at *RSS 2022: Social Intelligence in Humans and Robots*, New York City, United States.

AWARDS

• Dissertation Year Award, UCLA	2026–2027
• Charles F. Scott Fellowship, UCLA	2026–2027
• Travel Award in Honor of Andrea L. Rich, UCLA	2026
• Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program Scholarship, UCLA	2025
• Summer Institutes of Computational Social Science–Beijing Scholarship, SICSS	2024
• Summer Mentored Research Fellowship, UCLA	2023
• Communication Department Travel Grant, UCLA	2022–2027
• Doctoral Student Travel Grant for Conferences, Professional Development, and Off-Campus Research, UCLA	2022–2027
• Departmental Fellowship, UCLA	2022–2023

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

Courses

• COMM 159 - Artificial Intelligence and Society, Instructor, UCLA	2026 Summer
• COMM 10 - Introduction to Communication, TA, UCLA	2026 Spring
• COMM 188A - Variable Topics: How to Lie with Statistics, TA, UCLA	2026 Winter
• COMM 158 - Python for Social Sciences, TA, UCLA	2025 Fall
• JAPAN 2 - Elementary Modern Japanese 2, TA, UCLA	2025 Winter
• JAPAN 1 - Elementary Modern Japanese 1, TA, UCLA	2024 Fall
• COMM 114 - Understanding Relationships, TA, UCLA	2024 Summer
• COMM 100 - Communication Science, TA, UCLA	2024 Winter
• COMM 159 - Artificial Intelligence and Society, TA, UCLA	2023 Fall; 2024 Spring; 2025 Spring

Supervision of Undergraduate Students

Student Name: Jessica G. Li, Mireille Karadanaian, Ziyi Meng

Completion: June 2024

SERVICES & AFFILIATIONS

Professional Service

- Cognitive Science Society, member 2021–present
- Cognitive Science Society, reviewer 2025-present
- Visual Sciences Society, member 2024

University & Departmental Service

- Communication Graduate Student Association Representative 2025–2026
- Computation and Language for Society lab, UCLA 2024-present
- Co-Mind lab, UCLA 2022-present
- Visual Intelligence Lab, UCLA 2020-present
- Center for Brain and Cognitive Science, Peking University 2020–2021

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Engagement Workshop: “Course Design Fundamentals” 2026
- Summer Institutes of Computational Social Science-Beijing 2024

SKILLS

Programming: Python (Pandas, NumPy, PyTorch, Pygame, NLTK, spaCy), R, JavaScript, C++, LaTeX

Research Infrastructure: jsPsych, Node.js, RxJS, Express.js, Socket.IO, Prolific, Git/GitHub, UMAP

ML & NLP: LLMs, VLMs, BERT, Fine-Tuning, Topic Modeling, TF-IDF, BLEU, XGB, SVM, GP

Modeling: Mixed-Effects Modeling, Regression, Bayesian Modeling, Rational Speech Act, Monte Carlo

Languages: English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (native), Japanese (conversational), Korean (intermediate)