

Ke “Kay” Fang

PhD Student, Stanford University

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Research Interests

Topics: Computational approaches to understand how distributed individual minds support emergent collective-level behaviors and patterns such as *cooperation*, *norms*, and *polarization*.

Methods: Behavioral experiment, Computational cognitive modeling, Agent-based simulation.

Education

Stanford University

Stanford, CA

Ph.D. Student in Psychology (Cognitive Science)

Sep 2024 – Present

Advisor: Robert D. Hawkins

New York University

New York, NY

M.A. in Individualized & Interdisciplinary Study

Oct 2022 – Mar 2024

Concentration: Social Psychology & Computational Social Science

Committee: Madalina Vlasceanu (Primary) & Ashwini Ashokkumar

Thesis: Distorted norm perception: How extremist speech fuels polarization

Lanzhou University

Lanzhou, China

B.A. in Management

Sep 2018 – Jul 2022

Thesis: Who is to blame? Corporate social responsibility information buffers investors' blame and reaction towards negative earnings surprise

Exchange Study

Semester Exchange in Economics, Tohoku University (Japan)

2021 Fall

Summer Exchange in Psychology, UC Berkeley (US)

2021 Summer

Summer Schools & Workshops

Computational Summer School on Modeling Social and Collective Behavior (COSMOS)

RIKEN Center for Brain Science, Tokyo, Japan

Sep 2025

Santa Fe Institute Graduate Workshop in Computational Social Science

Jun 2025

Theme: Modeling Social Behavior through Complexity Science

Summer Institute of Computational Social Science (SICSS)

Jun 2023

Theme: Natural Language Processing & Large Language Models

Publications

- Fang, K.**, Guan, R., Wu, C. M., Franke, M., & Hawkins, R. D. (Accepted). Selective Truths: How Speakers Mislead and Listeners Miss It? *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 48.
- Fang, K.**, & Vlasceanu, M. (Accepted). Belief Propagation Across Society: Psychological Mechanisms. In Van Leeuwen, N., & Lombrozo, T. (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Cognitive Science of Belief*. Oxford University Press.
- Goldwert, D., Constantino, S. M., Patel, Y., (...), **Fang, K.**, (...), Vlasceanu, M. (2026). A megastudy of behavioral interventions to catalyze public, political, and financial climate advocacy. *PNAS Nexus*, 5(1), pgaf400. [\[DOI\]](#)

4. Doell, K. C., Todorova, B., Vlasceanu, M., (...), **Fang, K.**, (...), Van Bavel, J. J. (2024). The International Climate Psychology Collaboration: Climate change-related data collected from 63 countries. *Scientific Data*, 11(1), 1066. [DOI]
5. Vlasceanu, M., Doell, K. C., Bak-Coleman, J. B., (...), **Fang, K.**, (...), & Van Bavel, J. J. (2024). Addressing climate change with behavioral science: A global intervention tournament in 63 countries. *Science Advances*, 10(6), eadj5778. [DOI]
6. Ma, J., Zeng, Z., & **Fang, K.** (2022). Emotionally Savvy Employees Fail to Enact Emotional Intelligence when Ostracized. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 185. [DOI] [PDF]

Conference Presentations

1. **Fang, K.**, Guan, R., Wu, C. M., Franke, M., & Hawkins, R. D. (Accepted). Selective Truths: How Speakers Mislead and Listeners Miss It? *Talk at the 48th Cognitive Science Society Annual Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*
2. **Fang, K.**, Wu, C. M., Franke, M., & Hawkins, R. D. (2026). Selective Truth and Epistemic Vigilance in Social Networks. *Talk at Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention 2026, Chicago, IL, US.*
3. **Fang, K.**, & Hawkins, R. D. (2026). Modeling the Social Mind(s): Theory-Based Computational Models. *Symposium co-chaired at Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention 2026, Chicago, IL, US.*
4. **Fang, K.**, Hawkins, R. D., & Vlasceanu, M. (2025). Attitude-Expression Linkage and Norm Perception Shape Polarization in Social Networks. *Poster at Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention 2025, Denver, CO, US.*
5. **Fang, K.**, Bao, E., & Vlasceanu, M. (February 2024). Emotional Landscapes of Climate Beliefs and Actions: Insights from Textual Analysis of Letters to Future Generations. *Flash Talk at Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention 2024, CA, US.*
6. **Fang, K.**, & Wang, Y. (October 2022). The More You Think, the More Proactive You Are? The Reciprocal Effect Between Work-Related Rumination and Job Crafting. *Paper presented at Undergraduate Research Symposium of Lanzhou University, Gansu, China.*
7. **Fang, K.**, & Ma, J. (October 2020). How Does Multitasking Influence Employee's Performance and Well-Being: The Role of Cognitive Appraisals and Time Management. *Paper presented at Undergraduate Research Symposium of Lanzhou University, Gansu, China.*

Honors & Awards

Research Awards & Grants

NYU Gallatin Graduate Thesis Fund (USD \$1500)	2023 – 2024
NYU Gallatin Dean's Award for Summer Research (USD \$2500)	2023 Summer
NYU Horn Family Fund for Environmental Research (USD \$1500)	2022 – 2023
Lanzhou University Excellent Bachelor Thesis (Honor)	2022
China National College Student Innovation Training Grant (CNY \$5000)	2021 – 2022
Lanzhou University Undergraduate Research Fund (CNY \$1500)	2020 – 2021
Lanzhou University Undergraduate Research Fund (CNY \$1000)	2018 – 2019

Merit-based Honors & Scholarships

Santa Fe Institute Registration Scholarship (USD \$300 Registration Waiver)	2023
NYU Gallatin Master Entrance Scholarship (USD \$10500 Tuition Waiver)	2022 – 2024
Lanzhou University Academic Excellence Scholarship (Top 8% in Academic)	2021 – 2022

	Lanzhou University Model Student (Top 10% in Overall Performance)	2020 – 2021
	Service Awards	
	Lanzhou University Student Service Award (Top 4.5% in Service)	2020 – 2021
	Lanzhou University Student Service Award (Top 4.5% in Service)	2018 – 2019
Research Experience	Social Interaction Lab	2024 – Present
	Ph.D. Student, Stanford University (PI: Robert Hawkins)	
	Causality in Cognition Lab	2025 – Present
	Lab Affiliate, Stanford University (PI: Tobias Gerstenberg)	
	Climate Cognition Lab	2024 – Present
	Lab Affiliate, Stanford University (PI: Madalina Vlasceanu)	
	Collective Cognition Lab	2022 – 2024
	Master's Student, New York University (PI: Madalina Vlasceanu)	
	WE-search (Ashokkumar) Lab	2023 – 2024
	Master's Student, New York University (PI: Ashwini Ashokkumar)	
	Workplace Mental Health Lab	2020 – 2022
	Research Assistant, Lanzhou University (PI: Yanxia Wang)	
	Occupational Health Psychology Lab	2019 – 2022
	Research Assistant, Jinan University (PI: Jie Ma)	
Teaching	PSYCH 30 – Introduction to Perception	Fall 2025
	Teaching Assistant, Stanford University Primary Instructor: Kalanit Grill-Spector	
	PSYCH 50 – Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience	Winter 2025
	Teaching Assistant, Stanford University Primary Instructor: Justin Gardner	
Service	Colloquium Committee	2026 – 2027
	Department of Psychology, Stanford University	
	Admission Planning Committee	2025 – 2026
	Department of Psychology, Stanford University	
	Paths to PhD Mentor	2024 – 2026
Department of Psychology, Stanford University		
	Graduate Program Committee	2024 – 2025
	Department of Psychology, Stanford University	
	Application Statement Feedback Program (ASFP) Mentor	2024 – 2025
	Online	

Academic References

Robert Hawkins, Ph.D. rdhawkins@stanford.edu

Assistant Professor of Linguistics and (by courtesy) Psychology;
Director of Social Interaction Lab, Stanford University

Madalina Vlasceanu, Ph.D. mov@stanford.edu

Assistant Professor of Environmental Behavioral Sciences;
Director of Climate Cognition Lab, Stanford University

Jay Van Bavel, Ph.D. jay.vanbavel@nyu.edu

Professor of Psychology and Neural Science;
Director of Center for Conflict and Cooperation, New York University