

Yan Jiang

Curriculum Vitae

Stanford Center on Early Childhood
520 Galvez Mall, Stanford, CA 94305
yannj@stanford.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Education Studies, Specialization in Computational Social Science, University of California, San Diego, 2025
- M.A. English Language and Literature, Sichuan International Studies University, China, 2012
- B.A. English (Education), China West Normal University, China, 2009

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2025-Present Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford Center on Early Childhood, Stanford University
- 2020-2025 Graduate Student Researcher, University of California, San Diego

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

[†] Indicates shared first authorship

- Accepted Datnow, A. [†], **Jiang, Y.** [†], Diaz, J., & Park, V. (conditionally accepted). Tracing shifts in K–12 education research: A topic modeling analysis of publications from 1990–2023. *Educational Researcher*.
- In press Kim, S., Ko-Wong, L., & **Jiang, Y.** Critical race theory perspectives on bullying victimization of marginalized minorities. In M. Sapouna, R. A. Willems, & P. K. Smith (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Bias-Based Bullying*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2026 **Jiang, Y.** Navigating the “ideals”: A comparative case study of early educators’ sensemaking of quality in the United States and China. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 182, Article 105796. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2026.105796>
- 2026 **Jiang, Y.**, Kaplan, B., & Ko-Wong, L. Does teacher talk matter too? A meta-analysis of partial correlations between teachers’ language practices and children’s language development from preschool to third grade. *Review of Educational Research*, 96(4), 1136–1172. <https://doi.org/10.3102/00346543251339131>
- 2025 **Jiang, Y.**, Ko-Wong, L., & Valdovinos Gutierrez, I. The feasibility and comparability of using artificial intelligence for qualitative data analysis in equity-focused research. *Educational Researcher*, 54(3), 153–163. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X251314821>
- 2025 Hassani, A., Flores, M., Streuli, S., **Jiang, Y.**, Guerra, A. W., & Fielding-Miller, R. After mandates end: Complex decision making regarding COVID-19 masking in San Diego elementary schools through the social ecological model. *Journal of School Health*, 95(8), 597–603. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josh.70026>
- 2024 **Jiang, Y.**, Guerra, A. W., Cohen, S. R., Brown, T. T., Lin, N. T., Molgaard, M., & Iversen, J. Echoing parental scaffolding style in co-constructed narratives: Its impact

on executive function development in diverse early school-age children. *Early Education and Development*, 35(6), 1335–1352.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10409289.2024.2360872>

Preprints

2026 **Jiang, Y.**, Liu, S., & Fisher, P. A. A comparative evaluation of structural topic models and BERTopic for short, open-ended survey responses. *arXiv*.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2605.23093>

Under Review

Jiang, Y. (revise & resubmit). The geography of knowledge: Investigating the global imbalance in early care and education quality research. *Child Development*.

In Preparation

Jiang, Y. Toward an inclusive understanding of early care and education quality: A computational analysis of 53 years of research. (*Manuscript in preparation*)

Jiang, Y., Liu, S., & Fisher, P. A. Personal and professional challenges, well-being, and retention in a gendered and racially stratified early childhood workforce. (*Data analysis in progress*)

Jiang, Y., Liu, S., & Fisher, P. A. Changing challenges and sources of support among U.S. families raising young children: A six-year analysis. (*Data analysis in progress*)

Jiang, Y. Immigrant women educating refugee children: Relationships, tensions, and policy conditions in U.S. early childhood education. (*Data analysis in progress*)

GRANT ACTIVITY

2026 **Principal Investigator**, *Understanding and Supporting Families Raising Young Children with Physical or Developmental Disabilities*. Stanford Maternal and Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI) Postdoctoral Support. Amount requested: \$100,000. Primary Mentor: Philip Fisher; Co-Mentor: Jonathan Litt; Co-Investigator: Sihong Liu. Status: under review.

OTHER GRANT ACTIVITY

2026 **Co-Investigator**, *Centering Race in the Lived Experiences of a Racially Stratified Early Childhood Education Workforce: Personal and Professional Challenges, Turnover Intentions, and Pathways to Well-Being and Justice*. Spencer Racial Equity Research Grants. Principal Investigator: Philip Fisher; Co-Investigator: Sihong Liu. Status: Proposal developed; not submitted.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2026 Chancellor's Dissertation Medal, Honorable Mention, UC San Diego
2025 Yankelovich Graduate Research Grant, UC San Diego
2025 Summer Scholars Fellowship, Department of Education Studies, UC San Diego
2025, 2024 Diversity Fellowship, Department of Education Studies, UC San Diego
2024 Dissertation Research Funding Award, Society for Research in Child Development
2024 Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, Honorable Mention

2024	International Institute Research Fellowship, UC San Diego
2024	Summer Graduate Teaching Scholars Fellowship, UC San Diego
2023	Friends of the International Center Fellowship, UC San Diego
2020	Summer Research Fellowship, Department of Education Studies, UC San Diego

TEACHING & MENTORING

University of California, San Diego, Instructor of Record

Cognitive Development and Education (Summer 2025)

Early Learning Environments for Diverse Learners (Online, Summer 2024)

University of California, San Diego, Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Research Design and Quantitative Data Analysis (Winter 2022, doctoral course)

Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis (Spring 2022, doctoral course)

Early Childhood Policy: Contexts and Policies in Diverse Societies (Online, Fall & Winter 2021)

Early Learning Environments for Diverse Learners (Online, Spring & Fall 2021)

Cognitive Development and Education (Fall 2019, Winter & Spring 2020)

University of California, San Diego, Guest Lecturer

Early Childhood Teacher Language Practices (February 2025)

Systematic Review: Design and Implementation (January 2025)

Conducting Systematic Reviews: Methods and Best Practices (January 2024)

University of California Office of the President, Cross-Campus Online Course Initiative

Supported the development of a cross-campus online course, including building course infrastructure in Canvas and designing interactive video quizzes (2020-2022).

Research Mentoring

Stanford University, 2026–Present

Mentored 5 master's students and 1 undergraduate students through the RAPID Project, including one master's student completing a capstone project.

UC San Diego, 2021–2025

Mentored 6 undergraduate students from UC San Diego, Vanderbilt University, UC Berkeley, and San Diego Mesa College through various research projects.

INVITED TALKS & MEDIA

- 2026 Teacher Talk and Language Development: What Do You Think the Evidence Shows, Podcast ([Spotify](#), [YouTube](#)), The Literacy View.
- 2025 Approaching and Writing Your Dissertation, Online Seminar, Towards 2044: Horowitz Early Career Scholar Program, Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD).
- 2025 The Postdoc Pathway: Navigating Postdoctoral Positions and Life from PhD to Postdoc, Webinar, Education Major PhD Student Community.
- 2023 Teachers' language practices and young children's language development, Teacher Research Collaborative (TRC), Vista Unified School District, San Diego, CA.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Papers

- 2026 Shah, M., **Jiang, Y.**, Yang, F., Liu, S., & Fisher, P. A. From data to lived experience: Understanding child care workforce strain across settings. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. (accepted)
- 2026 **Jiang, Y.**, Liu, S., & Fisher, P. A. Centering lived experiences in education data science: A five-year analysis of early care and education providers' experiences with challenges. Stanford Education Data Science Conference, Stanford, CA.
- 2026 **Jiang, Y.** Toward an expanded conceptual model of early care and education quality: A computational analysis of 53 years of research. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2026 Datnow, A., **Jiang, Y.**, Diaz, J., & Park, V. Tracing shifts in K–12 education research: A topic modeling analysis of publications from 1990–2023. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2024 **Jiang, Y.**, Ko-Wong, L., & Valdovinos, I. Can AI perform qualitative coding like human researchers? Application of GPT-3 in thematic analysis of qualitative data. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2024 **Jiang, Y.**, Ko-Wong, L., & Kaplan, B. Does teacher talk matter too? A meta-analysis of partial correlations between teachers' language practices and children's language development from preschool to third grade. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2024 **Jiang, Y.**, Ko-Wong, L., & Kaplan, B. Reevaluating research paradigms for early-childhood teacher language practices in global contexts: Evidence from a meta-analysis and a call to the field. Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference, Miami, FL.
- 2024 Becerra Songolo, R., Wishard Guerra, A., Cohen S. R., Molgaard, M., **Jiang, Y.**, & Li, H. Parental cognitive stimulation during an exploratory task: Understanding guided play through a sociocultural lens. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 **Jiang, Y.**, Guerra, A. W., Cohen S. R., Molgaard, M., & Lin, N. Connecting home to school: Parents' use of evaluative devices and transitional-kindergarteners' social-emotional competence at school. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 **Jiang, Y.**, Guerra, A. W., Cohen S. R., Molgaard, M., Lin, N., Songolo, R., & Li, H. Does child vocabulary mediate the relationship between parental sensitivity and child executive function? A mixed picture. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2023 Molgaard, M., Wishard Guerra, A., Cohen S. R., **Jiang, Y.**, & Lin, N. Colorblind or color-conscious: Parent responses to young children's inquiries of racial injustice. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.

- 2022 Wishard Guerra, A., Cohen S. R., Molgaard, M., Lin, N., & **Jiang, Y.** Understanding classroom language practices over time among socioculturally diverse young children in transitional kindergarten. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Posters

- 2026 **Jiang, Y.** The geography of knowledge: Investigating the global imbalance in early childhood education quality research. International Conference on the Science of Science and Innovation (ICSSI), Boulder, CO.
- 2025 **Jiang, Y.,** Carrillo, M., Hofstetter, L., & Geraci, C. Mapping 53 years of research on early childhood education quality: A topic model analysis from 1970-2023. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2024 **Jiang, Y.,** Hogan, W., Diaz, J., Kennedy, B. C., & Hofstetter, L. A comparative NLP analysis of policymakers' and practitioners' perceptions of quality in California's universal prekindergarten initiative. 10th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC²S²), Philadelphia, PA.
- 2024 **Jiang, Y.,** Ko-Wong, L., & Kaplan, B. Does teachers' Instructional Support measured by CLASS associated with children's language development? Evidence from a meta-analysis. National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), Washington, D.C.
- 2024 **Jiang, Y.,** Hofstetter, L., Diaz, J., Kennedy, B. C., & Hogan, W. A comparative analysis of diverse stakeholders' perceptions of "quality" in California's universal prekindergarten initiative using text as data. National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), Washington, D.C.
- 2024 Becerra Songolo, R., Wishard Guerra, A., Cohen S. R., Molgaard, M., **Jiang, Y.,** & Li, H. Parent-child play interactions & their significance for educators' engagement with parents. International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement Conference (ICSEI), Dublin, Ireland.
- 2023 **Jiang, Y.,** Guerra, A. W., Cohen S. R., Molgaard, M., & Lin, N. Parent-child language quality in three play activities and its relation to children's language development. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2023 Li, H., Wishard Guerra, A., Cohen S. R., Molgaard, M., **Jiang, Y.,** & Songolo, R. The association of parent mental health and use of negative discipline strategies. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2022 **Jiang, Y.,** Guerra, A. W., Cohen S. R., Molgaard, M., & Park, Y. Parent-child language quantity and complexity during play and its relation to children's language development. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Featured Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- 2021 **Jiang, Y.,** Jackson, C., Wishard-Guerra, A. W., & Cohen S. R. Co-constructed narratives: Association between parent reminiscing style and children's self-regulation. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Conference (Virtual).

- 2021 Jackson, C., **Jiang, Y.**, Wishard Guerra, A., & Cohen S. R. Parent scaffolding and child contribution in a co-constructed narrative. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Conference (Virtual).

Invited Panels

- 2026 Navigating the PhD and unpacking the hidden curriculum, Graduate Student Council Division E Fireside Chat, American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2024 Strategies for sustaining motivation throughout your PhD journey, Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference, Miami, FL.

Organized Panels

- 2025 Navigating your PhD program: Strategies for success at every stage, with Yi-Yun Tsai, Graduate Student Council Division E Fireside Chat, American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2024 Navigating the job market: A guide for graduate students, with Allison Fears, Graduate Student Council Division E Fireside Chat, American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Chaired Sessions

- 2026 Toward a transnational educational research agenda, American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2026 Exploring the intersections of artificial intelligence and educational research, American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2025-Present **Postdoctoral Scholar**, Stanford Center on Early Childhood, PI: Philip Fisher
Conducting interdisciplinary research on young children, families, and early educators using large-scale longitudinal and administrative data. Current and proposed projects apply natural language processing, machine learning, and longitudinal quantitative methods to examine family well-being and material hardship, developmental disabilities and service access, child behavior and well-being, early care and education access, educator challenges and retention, and the social and policy conditions that shape children's opportunities and experiences.
- 2022-2025 **Graduate Student Researcher**, Center for Research on Educational Equity, Assessment & Teaching Excellence, UC San Diego, PI: Monica Sweet
Conducted mixed-methods program evaluation across multiple K–12 education initiatives, including multi-state professional development for the Computer Science Teachers Association and university-community STEM outreach programs. Analyzed quantitative and qualitative data and developed practitioner-oriented reports and presentations to assess implementation, participant experiences, and outcomes and inform continuous program improvement.
- 2024-2025 **Graduate Student Researcher**, International University-Community Partnership: Wellbeing Club for Refugee Youth in Uganda, UC San Diego, PI: Amy Bintliff

- Provided quantitative data analysis and consultation, analyzing and visualizing project data and participating in research meetings with collaborators in Uganda and the United States to support data interpretation and manuscript development.
- 2022-2023 **Graduate Student Researcher**, The Safer at School Early Alert Project, UC San Diego, PI: Rebecca Fielding-Miller
Analyzed qualitative interview data on parent and child beliefs about COVID-19 and mask-wearing. Contributed to coding, thematic analysis, and interpretation of findings.
- 2020-2022 **Graduate Student Researcher**, The New Vistas Project, UC San Diego, PI: Alison Wishard Guerra & Shana R. Cohen
Conducted research within a longitudinal research-practice partnership (RPP) examining children's development across home, school, and community contexts in a socioculturally diverse school district. Analyzed parent-child interaction and home-visit data, collaborated on research with educators and community partners, and translated findings into a peer-reviewed publication and conference presentations.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Leadership & Service to the Field

- 2026-2027 **Human Development Section Meeting Leader**, Division E: Counseling and Human Development, *American Educational Research Association*
 - Planning lead for a member-centered section meeting to gather Human Development members' perspectives and inform Division E initiatives
- 2025-2029 **Student & Early Career Council Representative** to the Development Committee, *Society for Research in Child Development*
 - Reviewer, SRCD SECC Dissertation Research Funding Awards
 - Reviewer, SRCD Biennial Meeting Travel Awards
- 2023-2025 **Graduate Student Representative**, Graduate Student Council, *American Educational Research Association*
 - Co-Chair, Graduate Student Professional Development Webinar: How to AERA-Denver (March 2025)
 - Chair, Graduate Student Professional Development Webinar: Grant Writing and Funding Opportunities (February 2025)
 - Co-Chair, Graduate Student Professional Development Webinar: Demystifying the Academic Job Market (January 2025)
- 2024-2025 **Graduate Student Representative**, Early Education & Child Development SIG, *American Educational Research Association*
- 2023-2024 **Finance Co-Chair**, New Scholars Committee, *Comparative and International Education Society*

Journal Peer Reviewer

Child Development, Teaching and Teacher Education, Review of Educational Research, Early Childhood Research Quarterly, Educational Studies, The Elementary School Journal, Journal of Transformative Education

Conference Peer Reviewer

American Educational Research Association (AERA), Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC²S²), National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Conference (mentee reviewer).

University Service

2023-2024 Mentor, Graduate Pals for Graduate Students, UC San Diego
2022-2023 Graduate Student Board Member, Academic Integrity Review, UC San Diego
2022-2023 Students with Dependents Committee, Graduate & Professional Student Association, UC San Diego

Selected Community Service

2020 Volunteer, Save the Children & Inno Community Development Organization, China
2018 Volunteer, Chengdu Children's Welfare Institute, Chengdu, China

EARLY CHILDHOOD FIELD EXPERIENCE

2024-2025 Classroom Assistant, Urban Village Early Learning Academy (Head Start), San Diego
Head Start program serving primarily refugee and multilingual families; provided weekly classroom support across multiple classrooms over one academic year.

Fall 2022 Classroom Assistant, Fay Elementary School, San Diego
Mixed kindergarten/first-grade classroom in a racially and linguistically diverse, under-resourced public school; provided weekly classroom support for one academic quarter.

Winter 2020 Classroom Assistant, Early Childhood Education Center, UC San Diego, San Diego
Reggio Emilia-inspired university laboratory school with resource-rich, child-centered learning environments; provided weekly classroom support for one academic quarter.

Jun-Aug 2019 Assistant Teacher, Benchu Bilingual Family Child Care, Chengdu, China
Montessori-inspired, home-based bilingual program emphasizing individualized activity, independence, and community-based learning; worked full time alongside the lead educator for three months.

Jul-Dec 2018 Assistant Teacher, Chengdu Thermal Power Plant Kindergarten, Chengdu, China
Center-based preschool serving mainly children from migrant worker families in a resource-constrained setting; worked full time alongside classroom teachers for six months.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2026 Third Way Civics Workshop
Featuring the Third Way Civics (3WC) approach to undergraduate civic learning
Stanford University, 2-day in-person workshop
Selected from a pool of applicants

2025 Write to Change the World Workshop
AERA Division E & The OpEd Project, 1-day online workshop
Selected from a pool of applicants

- 2024 Improving Evaluations of R&D in STEM Education
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 1-week in-person workshop
Selected from a pool of applicants
Instructors: Larry Hedges, Eric Hedberg
- 2024 Summer Graduate Teaching Scholars Program
Faculty-mentored teaching program combining pedagogy training, course
preparation, and independent summer course instruction
UC San Diego, summer teaching program
Selected from a pool of applicants
- 2022 Systematic Review & Meta-Analysis
University of Maryland, 3-day online workshop
Instructor: Joshua Polanin
- 2022 Structural Equation Modeling
University of Maryland, 3-day online workshop
Instructor: Gregory Hancock

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Educational Research Association, 2020-Present
Society for Research in Child Development, 2020-Present
Comparative and International Education Society, 2023-Present
Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Education, 2024-Present
International Society for Computational Social Science, 2024-Present
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society, 2026-Present
Stanford Maternal and Child Health Research Institute, 2026-Present
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), 2026-Present

SOFTWARE & PROGRAMMING

R, Python, SPSS, Stata, Dedoose, MAXQDA

LANGUAGES

English: Advanced reading, writing, speaking; Mandarin: Native