

WEN XU

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EDUCATION

Northeastern University
Ph.D. student in Computer Science
Advisor: Lace Padilla, Ph.D.

September 2024 - Present

Middlebury College
B.A. in Psychology with Minor in Computer Science
Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude*, Psychology departmental honors
Honors thesis: *Icons, Bars, or Numbers: Concreteness of Data Visualization Influences Perception of Wildfire Risks*
Advisor: Michelle McCauley, Ph.D.

September 2019 - February 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Khoury Data Visualization Lab, Northeastern University, MA
Graduate Researcher

September 2024 - Present

- Conduct research on cognition and decision-making with data visualizations.
- Principal Investigator:** Lace Padilla, Ph.D.

Conservation Psychology Lab, Middlebury College, VT
Undergraduate Researcher

January 2022 - February 2024

- Conducted an honors thesis on raising awareness of natural disaster risks with concrete data visualization designs. Reviewed literature, designed and ran an online experiment, analyzed data, and prepared a first-authored manuscript.

Principal Investigator: Michelle McCauley, Ph.D.

Visual Thinking Lab, Northwestern University, IL
Research Assistant

June 2023 - August 2023

- Developed prototypes for a web-based interactive designer's guide for creating effective dynamic data visualizations using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Figma.
- Created interactive visualizations with Tableau to support data analysis for a behavioral experiment on argument visualization and belief change.

Principal Investigator: Steven Franconeri, Ph.D.

Child and Baby Lab, Uppsala University, Sweden
Research Assistant

August 2022 - December 2022

- Ran in-person behavioral experiments to examine additive cognitive biases in problem-solving strategies in adults from Sweden and the U.S. Analyzed data and co-authored a manuscript.

Principal Investigator: Joshua C. Juvrud, Ph.D.

**Vermont Center for Behavioral Science Research on Climate and the Environment,
Middlebury College, VT**
Research Assistant

June 2022 - August 2022

- Conducted an independent study on how communicating proximal climate impacts affects climate support for individuals with different value orientations. Reviewed literature, designed and ran an online experiment, analyzed data, and prepared a first-authored manuscript.

Principal Investigators: Michelle McCauley, Ph.D., Julia Berazneva, Ph.D.

Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
Research Intern

July 2018 - September 2021

- Conducted complex network analysis on international plastic waste trade data and authored a manuscript.

- Modeled the demand and recycling potentials of metal materials for lithium ion batteries of electric vehicles in 90+ cities in China. Reviewed literature, collected data, developed models, and visualized results.

Principal Investigators: Wei-Qiang Chen, Ph.D., Peng Wang, Ph.D.

WORK EXPERIENCES

Jiezi SpeakGreen, China

August 2021 - Present

Co-founder and Content Writer

- Co-founded an environmental and science communication initiative that aims to increase connection with nature and encourage pro-environmental lifestyles among young people in Chinese cities.
- Wrote 15+ environmental and science communication articles for the initiative's public social media account, which has 600+ subscribers and received 4 million + views in total.

EcoDorms, Middlebury College, VT

January 2022 - May 2022

Student Organizer

- Organized weekly sustainability-themed activities in first-year dorms at Middlebury College with the goal of increasing environmental awareness and building community.
- Wrote weekly posts for an environmental education blog.

PUBLICATIONS

Xu, W., Chen, W. Q., Jiang, D., Zhang, C., Ma, Z., Ren, Y., & Shi, L. (2020). Evolution of the global polyethylene waste trade system. *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*, 6(1), 1756925.

Jian, X., Wang, P., Sun, N., **Xu, W.**, Liu, L., Ma, Y., & Chen, W. Q. (2022). Material flow analysis of China's five commodity plastics urges radical waste infrastructure improvement. *Environmental Research: Infrastructure and Sustainability*, 2(2), 025002.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Xu, W., McCauley, M. (2024, March). *Does Local Information Motivate Climate Support? Value and Political Identity as Moderators*. [Poster presentation]. Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting 2024, Philadelphia, PA.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Middlebury College Academic Travel Grant (\$800)	2023
Middlebury College Senior Research Project Supplement (\$800)	2023
Middlebury College Center for Career and Internships Summer Internship Funding Grant (\$2000)	2023

SKILLS

Analysis and modeling: RStudio, MATLAB, Python, SPSS

Front-end and prototyping: JavaScript (D3.js, p5.js, React), HTML, CSS, Figma

Graphic design: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop

Languages: Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Japanese (fluent)