

# YUTING PENG

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*HCI for health; human-AI interaction*

## Education

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| <b>Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)</b>                     | Hong Kong, China |
| <i>M.A. in Global Communication (Research Track)</i>              | 09/2024–07/2025  |
| <b>Sichuan University (SCU)</b>                                   | Chengdu, China   |
| <i>B.A. in Network and New Media (Data and Technology Stream)</i> | 09/2020–06/2024  |

## Work Experience

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| <b>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chapel Hill, NC, USA |
| <i>Research Assistant, School of Data and Information Sciences</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 09/2026–Present      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Explore the design and development of interactive systems to address communication, coordination, and support needs within healthcare and everyday communities.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      |
| <b>Georgia Institute of Technology</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Atlanta, GA, USA     |
| <i>Predoctoral Researcher, School of Interactive Computing</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 09/2025–08/2026      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conducted HCI research on community-based care, peer support, accessibility, and inclusive virtual environments.</li><li>Contributed to qualitative and quantitative analysis, ethnographic research, and participatory design across projects.</li></ul>                                                                                                   |                      |
| <b>Meituan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Chengdu, China       |
| <i>Advertising and Product Management Intern</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 06/2023–01/2024      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Co-led the development and launch of the “Taste Tester” mini program, coordinating merchant and consumer workflows from initial product design through deployment and iteration.</li><li>Designed and evaluated growth initiatives using A/B testing, performance dashboards, user-behavior data, and collaborations with multi-channel networks.</li></ul> |                      |

## Selected Design & Research Experience

### From Symptom Appraisal to Treatment Preparation: Expressed Needs and Peer Support in an Online Breast Health Community

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| <i>Guided by Prof. Franklin Li   UNC–Chapel Hill</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 06/2026–Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analyzed 15,037 public Reddit threads using latent Dirichlet allocation to identify 10 discussion contexts; constructed a stratified purposeful sample of 1,000 threads for theory-informed content analysis of posts and replies.</li><li>Co-developed a 20-code scheme and a two-stage framework distinguishing access to a human response from the presence of theoretically corresponding support categories; used regression, bootstrapping, and topic-level comparisons to examine communication needs and support gaps across four positions before treatment.</li><li>Identified implications for explanations, preparation for investigations, and follow-up questions in breast care; first-authored manuscript under review at JAMIA and extending the research toward the design of AI tools for need expression and support coordination.</li></ul> |                 |

### Ordinary Tools, Organized Care: Bounded Mutuality in Eating-Disorder Mutual Aid

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| <i>Guided by Prof. Shaowen Bardzell   ESCape Lab, Georgia Tech</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 02/2026–09/2026 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Led constructivist grounded-theory analysis of six public podcast episodes featuring nine speakers from a Chinese eating-disorder mutual-aid organization, using line-by-line and focused coding, constant comparison, and analytic memoing.</li><li>Translated the Chinese transcripts into English and co-developed an organizational map with a cofounder to contextualize how everyday digital tools connect public storytelling, peer activities, volunteer coordination, and professional supervision.</li><li>Examined how members negotiate responsibilities while giving and receiving care, connecting bounded mutuality with collectively developed recovery knowledge and design opportunities for supporting contributors; first-authored manuscript under review at CHI 2027.</li></ul> |                 |

## Rainbow School: Virtual World-Building as Feminist Utopian Practice with Korean Queer Youth

Guided by Prof. Shaowen Bardzell | ESCape Lab, Georgia Tech

09/2025–09/2026

- Contributed to a critical reading of a community-designed virtual school, based on the team's systematic walkthrough, design documentation, and 57 public guestbook entries to examine how virtual environments make inclusive school futures tangible.
- Developed the literature review and contributed to writing and revising the discussion, connecting feminist utopian practice and queer virtual spaces with the institutional work of sustaining inclusion and the school's capacity to communicate community visions; second-authored manuscript under review at *CHI 2027*.

## Accessibility as Social Process: An Ethnography of an Accessible Bar in Shanghai

Guided by Prof. Shaowen Bardzell and Prof. Franklin Li

04/2026–Present

- Conduct ethnographic fieldwork through participant observation and semi-structured interviews to examine how an accessible bar is produced and sustained as a care infrastructure connecting disabled and nondisabled people.
- Investigate how everyday interactions surface situated accessibility needs and how those needs are negotiated into socially acceptable, practically usable artifacts and practices.

## Remember Me: Digital Memory Service for Older Adults

Guided by Dr. Frances Lu Yang | Chinese University of Hong Kong

09/2024–12/2024

- Developed a digital-memory storytelling intervention concept grounded in narrative therapy and care ethics, foregrounding older adults' agency in reconstructing self-identity rather than treating technology as a simple "fix" for loneliness.
- Specified a repeated-measures evaluation design and measures of psychological well-being and social connectedness to support future prototyping and pilot deployment.

## Understanding Behavioral Intention to Use Electronic Health Record Patient Portals

Guided by Prof. Rong Yin | Pittsburgh Institute of Sichuan University

04/2024–02/2025

- Designed and administered a cross-sectional online survey in China ( $N = 883$ ) using an extended UTAUT2 framework to examine behavioral intention to use EHR patient portals.
- Conducted measurement diagnostics and composite-score regression with robust standard errors, alongside sensitivity analyses and exploratory moderation tests with false discovery rate correction.
- Identified anticipated positive experiences, expected habit formation, personal innovativeness, and social influence as consistent correlates of intention to use; led data collection, analysis, manuscript writing, and revision as first author. Manuscript under review at *Health Science Reports*.

## Selected Publications & Manuscripts

- Peng, Y., French, E., Wiczorek, C., Guo, Y., & Li, F. From Symptom Appraisal to Treatment Preparation: Expressed Needs and Peer Support in an Online Breast Health Community. Manuscript under review at the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association (JAMIA)*.
- Peng, Y., Wiczorek, C., French, E., Yin, C. X., Xu, X., & Bardzell, S. Ordinary Tools, Organized Care: Bounded Mutuality in Eating-Disorder Mutual Aid. Manuscript under review at *CHI 2027*.
- Kwon, S., Peng, Y., Wiczorek, C., Yoo, S., Yun, D. H., Song, J., & Bardzell, S. Rainbow School: Virtual World-Building as Feminist Utopian Practice with Korean Queer Youth. Manuscript under review at *CHI 2027*.
- Peng, Y., Qin, H., Su, Z., Liu, D., Yin, R., & Li, K. Understanding Behavioral Intention to Use Electronic Health Record Patient Portals: A Cross-sectional Survey. Manuscript under review at *Health Science Reports*.
- Yang, L., Peng, Y., & Xiong, X. Practice for Well-Being or for Middle-Class Elegance? A Content Analysis of Yoga Images on a Chinese Social Media. Accepted for presentation at the *112th National Communication Association Annual Convention (NCA 2026)*. Revised manuscript under review at *Social Media + Society*.
- Xiong, X., Peng, Y., Kwong, S., & Huang, A. Discipline and Resistance: TikTok Refugees on Xiaohongshu. Accepted by the CUHK 60th Anniversary Graduate Student Conference; arXiv:2507.14465. [Preprint](#).

## Academic Service

Reviewer, ACM Designing Interactive Systems (DIS) 2026

## Methods & Technical Skills

**Qualitative and Design Research:** Ethnographic fieldwork, semi-structured interviews, workshops, constructivist grounded theory, thematic analysis, critical reading of design artifacts, participatory design, co-design

**Quantitative & Computational Methods:** Survey design and analysis, statistical modeling (regression and moderation analysis), quantitative content analysis, computational text analysis (topic modeling), data visualization.