Curriculum Vitae

Dan Gao
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025 – present **Research Assistant Professor**
Department of Psychology, Nanjing University, China

2023 – 2025 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Developmental Science
Department of Psychology, University of Alberta, Canada

EDUCATION

2019 – 2023 **Ph. D.**, Education and Child Studies
Institute of Education and Child Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands

2018 – 2019 **Visiting Scholar**, Culture, Child, and Adolescent Development
Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, United States

2016 – 2019 **M.Ed.**, Developmental and Educational Psychology
School of Psychology and Cognitive Science, East China Normal University, China

2012 – 2016 **B.S.**, Applied Psychology
Department of Psychology, Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, China

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on the dynamic process in the social and emotional development of children and adolescents across cultural contexts. I am interested in understanding how family, school, and broader cultural contexts shape developmental trajectories. My work extends to interdisciplinary approaches, integrating behavioral (questionnaires, interviews, and observations) and neuroscientific (EEG, fNIRS) methods to understand the process of children's perceptions and attitudes of people from different groups, at multiple levels of time scales (e.g., days, years) in various ecological contexts (e.g., family, school, culture). The primary goal of my research is to provide meaningful insights that help children promote their well-being in daily life and to foster harmony and equality in society.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles

Gao, D., Wang, Y., & Hawk, S. T. (2026). Daily associations between perceived maternal privacy invasion and youth information management: How do cultural factors matter? *Journal of Adolescence*, *98*(7), 2289–2301. https://doi.org/10.1002/jad.70212

Gao, D., Li, K., & Zheng, Y. (2026). Parenting specificity in the associations between daily parenting lability and adolescent maladaptation. *Child Development*, *97*(4), 1366–1382. https://doi.org/10.1093/chidev/aacag078

Gao, D., van Geel, M., Liu, J., & Mesman, J. (2024). Chinese mothers' profiles of color-conscious socialization and social dominance orientation: Relations to children's racial attitudes. *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology*. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1037/cdp0000709

Gao, D., van Geel, M., Liu, J., & Mesman, J. (2024). Chinese children show racial and skin-tone salience but little color evasion. *Social Development*, *33*(2), e12724. https://doi.org/10.1111/sode.12724

Gao, D. (2023). Emphasizing children's agency in parental socialization. *Nature Reviews Psychology*, *2*(3), 133. https://doi.org/10.1038/s44159-023-00162-3

Gao, D., Liu, J., Xu, L., Mesman, J., & van Geel, M. (2022). Early adolescent social anxiety: Differential associations for fathers' and mothers' psychologically controlling and autonomy-supportive parenting. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, *51*(9), 1858–1871. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-022-01636-y

Gao, D., Hart, C. H., Cheah, C. S. L., Balkaya, M., Vu, K. T. T., & Liu, J. (2021). Chinese American children's temperamental shyness and responses to peer victimization as moderated by maternal praise. *Journal of Family Psychology*, *35*(5), 680–690. https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0000831

Gao, D., Bullock, A., & Liu, J. (2021). Cross-lagged panel analyses of maternal psychological control and young adolescents' emotion regulation. *Journal of Adolescence*, *87*(1), 52–62. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2021.01.001

Gao, D., Liu, J., Bullock, A., Li, D., & Chen, X. (2021). Transactional models linking maternal authoritative parenting, child self-esteem, and approach coping strategies. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, *73*, 101262. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2021.101262

Gao, D., Liu, J., Bullock, A., & Chen, X. (2020). Children's interpretation moderates relations of maternal autonomy support with sociability and assertiveness in China. *Social Development*, *30*(2), 449–462 https://doi.org/10.1111/sode.12491

Gao, D., Jia, S., & Zhou, J. (2018) Developmental mechanism of the visual word form area: From view of neuronal recycling hypothesis. *Journal of Bio-Education*, *6*(4), 213–220. https://doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.2095-4301.2018.04.008

PRESENTATIONS

Conference presentations

Gao, D., Li, K., & Zheng, Y. (2025, May 1-3). *A multi-informant investigation on domain-general and domain-specific associations between daily parenting lability and adolescent maladjustment* [Paper Symposium]. 2025 Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis,

Minnesota, USA.

Gao, D., Geel, M. van., Liu, J., & Mesman, J. (2023, March 23-25). *Children's skin tone and ethnicity salience: Its effects in the ethnically homogenous and whiteness prevalent Chinese context* [Paper Symposium]. 2023 Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Gao, D., Liu, J., Mesman, J., & Geel, M. van. (2022, June 19-23). *Children's social anxiety: Differential associations for fathers' and mothers' psychologically controlling and autonomy-supportive parenting* [Poster session]. 26th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD), Rhodes, Greece.

Gao, D., Geel, M. van., & Mesman, J. (2022, May 2-4). *Chinese urban children's trust towards Chinese rural and White outgroups* [Poster session]. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Special Topic Meeting: Construction of the 'Other': Development, Consequences, and Applied Implications of Racism, Prejudice, and Discrimination, Puerto Rico, USA.

Gao, D., & Liu, J. (2020, June 21-25). *Chinese children's beneficial interpretation moderates relations between maternal autonomy support and child sociability and assertiveness-leadership* [Poster session]. 26th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD), Rhodes, Greece. (Conference canceled)

Gao, D., & Liu, J. (2020, June 21-25). *Cross-lagged panel analyses of child emotion regulation and maternal psychological control in mainland China* [Symposium session]. 26th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD), Rhodes, Greece. (Conference canceled)

Cheah, C. S. L., Vu, K. T. T., Barman, S., **Gao, D.**, Jung, S. E., Kaputsos, S. P., Mandalapu, V., Kim, D.-Y., Masterson, T. D., Zuber, R., Boot, L., & Gong, J. (2019, October). *Validation of a virtual reality buffet environment to assess food selection processes in young adults* [Conference session]. Technology, Mind & Society: An APA Conference, Washington D.C., USA.

Gao, D., & Liu, J. (2019, June). *Longitudinal associations between Chinese children's perceived parental autonomy and punitiveness and self-esteem: Moderation by children's beneficial interpretation* [Poster session]. National Academic Congress of Developmental Psychology, Shanghai, China.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Consulting Editor, *Journal of Research on Adolescence*
Reviewer, *Adolescent Research Review*
Reviewer, *Journal of Adolescence*
Reviewer, *Journal of Research on Adolescence*
Reviewer, *Journal of Family Psychology*
Reviewer, *Social Development*
Reviewer, *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*

Reviewer, Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2025 Biennial Meeting
Reviewer, Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2023 Biennial Meeting

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Member
International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD), Member
Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA), Member