

# Zhao, Ziyu

Curriculum Vitae | Jan 2025

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Peabody College of Education and Human Development  
Vanderbilt University  
230 Appleton Place, Nashville, TN 37203

## Education

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| Expected Jun 2028 | <b>Doctor of Philosophy</b> , Community Research and Action<br>Department of Human and Organizational Development<br>Vanderbilt University  |
| 2022              | <b>Master of Arts</b> , Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences<br>Department of Comparative Human Development<br>The University of Chicago<br><i>Thesis</i> : Hopes Matter: Adolescents' Coping and Identity Searching for Maternal Absence in Rural China |
| 2019              | <b>Bachelor of Arts</b> , Anthropology<br>Colorado College<br><i>Thesis</i> : Making and Remaking Shangrila: The Confrontation and Negotiation between Tibetan Cultural Preservation and State-Sponsored Tourism  |

## Research Interest

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My primary interest lies in mixed-method studies and cross-cultural theory construction related to adolescent development across both developed and developing countries. Specifically, my research focuses on 1) adolescent identity processes across developing and developed countries (e.g., United States and China), where youth possess culturally distinct values and ways of meaning-making, 2) how relational empowerment and youth engagement contribute to positive youth development, 3) youth development in rural areas, and 4) evaluating youth programs through a relational, strength-based, and culturally responsive lens.

## Grants & Awards

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| 2025    | Lezhiyixin Evaluation Grant (\$30K), Lezhiyixin Foundation                   |
| 2024    | Travel Grant (\$250), Association for Moral Education                        |
| 2024    | John Cheek Scholarship (\$5K), Vanderbilt University                         |
| 2023-   | Russell G. Hamilton Fellowship, Vanderbilt University                        |
| 2022    | Maroon Scholar Research Award Scholarship (\$30K), The University of Chicago |
| 2022    | MA Thesis Research Grant (\$600), The University of Chicago                  |
| 2015-19 | Trustee Merit Scholarship (\$28K), Colorado College                          |
| 2019    | Academic Department Research Grants (\$700), Colorado College                |
| 2018    | Faculty Student Collaborative Grant (\$4K), Colorado College                 |
| 2018    | Venture Grant (\$1K), Colorado College                                       |

## Research Experience

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- 2024- **Principal Investigator**  
Music for Companionship Evaluation Project  
*Lezhiyixin Foundation, Shanghai, China*
- 2024- **Project Coordinator**  
Reimagining Educational Leadership for Authentic Youth Engagement in Rural Settings (RELAYERS) Study  
*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN*
- 2023 **Research Assistant**  
Michigan CEAL, Michigan Medicine Department of obstetrics and Gynecology  
*The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*
- 2022 **Research Assistant**  
Survey Lab  
*The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL*
- 2018 **Undergraduate Student Researcher**  
Faculty-Student Collaborative Grant  
*Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO*
- 2017 **Undergraduate Student Researcher**  
Venture Grant  
*Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO*

## Publications

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Buyuktur, A. G., Cross, F. L., Platt, J., Aramburu, J., Movva, P., **Zhao, Z.**, Cornwall, T., Hunt, R., McCollum, J. A., Reyes, A., Williams, C. E., 2nd, Ramakrishnan, A., Israel, B., Marsh, E. E., & Woolford, S. J. (2024). Communities conquering COVID-19: Black and Latinx community perspectives on the impact of COVID-19 in regions of Michigan hardest hit by the pandemic. *Journal of clinical and translational science*, 8(1), e210. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cts.2024.591>

**Zhao, Z.** (2019). Making and Remaking Shangrila: The Confrontation and Negotiation between Tibetan Cultural Preservation and State-Sponsored Tourism. *Colorado Journal of Asian Studies*. 8: 37-55.

### *Under Review*

**Zhao, Z.**, Bryant, I., Erford, B.T. (2024). Meta-Study of New Directions for Evaluation Articles Published from 2010 to 2024. *Submitted to New Directions For Evaluation*.

## Conference Presentations

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**Zhao, Z.** (2024, October). Conceptualizing Adolescent Identity Development within the Feminization of Migration Contexts. *Annual Conference of the Association for Moral Education, New York City, NY*.

Cross, F., **Zhao, Z.**, Ku, C., Williams, C., Bailey, S., Williamson, S., Resnicow, K., & Marsh, E. (2023, November). "Life as we knew it": Continued Challenges in Getting Up-to-Date COVID Vaccinations Amongst Black and Latinx Michigan Residents. *APHA 2023 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA*.

Woolford, S., **Zhao, Z.**, Cross, F., Sawant, K., Buyuktur, A., Williamson, S., Bailey, S., Israel, B., Marsh, E., Kellogg, N., Movva, P., & Platt, J. (2023, November). “Stop With Algorithms”: COVID-19 Misinformation and Communication Through the Lens of Young Black and Latinx Michiganders. *APHA 2023 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.*

**Zhao, Z.** (2018, September 28). Comparison of Indigenous Cultural Representations in Tourism between the Santa Fe and Pikes Peak Regions: Social Transformation, Intra/Extra Tribal Conflicts, and Agency in Tourism. *Summer Research Symposium, Colorado Springs, CO.*

### Teaching Experience

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Fall 2023	<b>HOD 2500 – Systematic Inquiry</b> Vanderbilt University.
Spring 2024	<b>HOD 1250 – Applied Human Development</b> Vanderbilt University.
Spring 2025	
Fall 2024	<b>HODC 3342 – Introduction to Community Psychology</b> Vanderbilt University.

### Service

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2024	<b>International Mentorship at Peabody (iMAP)</b>
	<i>Mentor</i>
	Vanderbilt University

### Skills

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Language	Strong reading, writing and speaking competencies for English, Mandarin Chinese, and Cantonese Chinese; Conversational in German.
Research	Ethnography, Qualitative Interview and Analysis, Quantitative Analysis, Mixed Methods.
Coding	Stata, R, LATEX.
Databases	REDCap, Qualtrics.