

Yulan D. Chen

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EDUCATION

- 2025 – present **Ph.D. Clinical Science**
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Advisor: Antonia N. Kaczurkin, Ph.D.
- 2022 – 2024 **M.Res. (Master of Research) Developmental Neuroscience and Psychopathology**
University College London, London, UK and Yale University, New Haven, CT
Honors: Distinction
Advisor: Youngsun T. Cho, M.D., Ph.D.
Dissertation: *The Adolescent Balancing Act: Cognitive-Motivational Phenotypes in Late Childhood and their Associated Neural Circuits*
- 2016 – 2020 **B.A. Psychology, Double Major in Global Health**
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

FELLOWSHIP

- 2025 – 2026 **College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship, Vanderbilt University**
Amount: \$36,500

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2026 Graduate School Travel Grant, Vanderbilt University (\$1,000)
2025 Child Study Center Postgraduate Travel Award, Yale University (\$500)
2017 – 2020 Weinberg College Dean's List, Northwestern University

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

(*equal author contribution)

1. Ellis, K. E., Archer, C., Reimann, G. E., **Chen, Y. D.**, Francois, R., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Self-esteem and repetitive negative thinking as mediators of the association between bullying and disordered eating. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.70186>
2. **Chen, Y. D.***, Agrawal, S. *, Anokhin, A. P., Luciana, M., Gee, D., & Cho, Y. T. (2026). Untangling relationships between cognitive development and child and adolescent mental health: Findings from the ABCD Study. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2026.101772>

3. Ellis, K. E.*, Camara, A.*, Archer, C., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Neurodevelopmental and behavioral correlates of household structure independent of socioeconomic status. *Psychoradiology*, kkg022. <https://doi.org/10.1093/psyrad/kkg022>
4. **Chen, Y. D.**, Otaishat, L., Lisi, M., Dajani, R., El Kharouf, A., von Stumm, S., Hadfield, K., Mareschal, I., & Michalek, J. E. (2025). Trust perception in Syrian refugee children. *Development and Psychopathology*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954579425100606>
5. Norcia, A. M., Kaestner, M., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Clement, C. S. (2025). Late development of sensitivity to relative disparity in human visual cortex in the face of precocial development of sensitivity to absolute disparity. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 45, e0126242024. <https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0216-24.2024>
6. Yan, X., Tung, S. S.*, Fascendini, B.*, **Chen, Y. D.**, Norcia, A. M., & Grill-Spector, K. (2024). When do visual category representations emerge in infants' brains? *eLife*. 13, RP100260. <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.100260.3>
7. Kaestner, M., **Chen, Y. D.**, Clement, C. S., Hodges, A., & Norcia, A. M. (2024). Two disparity channels in human visual cortex with different contrast and blur sensitivity. *Translational Vision & Science Technology*, 13, 21. <https://doi.org/10.1167/tvst.13.2.21>
8. **Chen, Y. D.***, Kaestner, M.*, & Norcia, A. M. (2022). Cognitive penetrability of scene representations based on horizontal image disparities. *Scientific Reports*, 12, 17902. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-22670-7>
9. Kaestner, M., Evans, M. L., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Norcia, A. M. (2022). Dynamics of absolute and relative disparity processing in human visual cortex. *NeuroImage*, 255, 119186. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2022.119186>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

1. Archer, C., Jeong, H. J., Reimann, G. E., Durham, E. L., Wang, S., Ellis, K. E., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Interactive effect of irritability and negative life events on internalizing symptoms. Revise and resubmit.
2. **Chen, Y. D.***, Abbasi, A.*, Ellis, K. E.*, Archer, C., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Associations of fear and distress dimensions with EEG frequency band power. In preparation.
3. Archer, C., **Chen, Y. D.**, Reimann, G. E., Jeong, H. J., Durham, E. L., Ellis, K. E., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Functional connectivity signatures of irritability in children. In preparation.
4. Reimann, G. E., Archer, C., Durham, E. L., Jeong, H. J., **Chen, Y. D.**, Wang, S., Derr, T., Chang, C., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Similarity indices and community detection within an internalizing symptoms network. In preparation.
5. Ellis, K. E.*, Camara, A.*, Archer, C., **Chen, Y. D.**, Reimann, G. E., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Environmental predictors of neurostructural and impulsivity trajectories in youth. In preparation.

SYMPOSIA PRESENTATIONS

1. **Chen, Y. D.**, Otaishat, L., Lisi, M., Dajani, R., El Kharouf, A., von Stumm, S., Hadfield, K., Mareschal, I., & Michalek, J. E. (2025). Trust perception in Syrian refugee children. Symposia given by Julia Michalek, Ph.D. at the European Conference on Developmental Psychology. Vilnius, Lithuania, EU.
2. Norcia, A. M., Kaestner, M., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Clement, C. S. (2024). Late development of sensitivity to relative disparity in human visual cortex in the face of precocial development of sensitivity to absolute disparity. *Journal of Vision*, 24, 581. Symposia given by Anthony M. Norcia, Ph.D. at the Vision Sciences Society. St. Pete's Beach, Florida, US.

PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1. Archer, C., **Chen, Y. D.**, Reimann, G. E., Abbasi, A., Ellis, K. E., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Functional connectivity patterns associated with irritability in children. Poster session presented at the Organization for Human Brain Mapping. Bordeaux, France, EU.
2. **Chen, Y. D.**, Ellis K. E., Archer, C., Abbasi, A., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Dimensional heterogeneity in cognitive correlates of internalizing psychopathology. Poster session presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry. New York City, NY, US.
3. Archer, C., **Chen, Y. D.**, Reimann, G. E., Ellis, K. E., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Functional connectivity patterns associated with irritability in children. Poster session presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry. New York City, NY, US.
4. Brege, S., **Chen, Y. D.**, Lin, C., Okolo, J., Pan, L., Pham, P., Tamayo, Z., Ji, J. L., & Cho, Y. T. (2026). Striatal connectivity correlates of cognitive-motivational phenotypes in pre-adolescent children. Poster session presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry. New York City, NY, US.
5. Archer, C., **Chen, Y. D.**, Reimann, G. E., Ellis, K. E., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2026). Functional connectivity patterns associated with irritability in children. Poster session presented at the Vanderbilt Translational Science & Research Forum, Nashville, TN, US.
6. Ellis, K. E., Archer, C., **Chen, Y. D.**, Reimann, G. E., & Kaczurkin, A. N. (2025). Trauma exposure is associated with altered white matter microstructure in girls. Poster session presented at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Science Day, Nashville, TN, US.
7. **Chen, Y. D.**, Lin, C., Okolo, J., Brege, S., Pham, P., Lee, K., Ji, J. L., & Cho, Y. T. (2025). Cognitive-motivational phenotypes in late childhood. *Biological Psychiatry*, 97, S254-255. Poster session presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry. Toronto, Ontario, CA.
[https://www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223\(25\)00720-6/abstract](https://www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223(25)00720-6/abstract)
8. Pham, P., Agrawal, S., Frazier, A., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Cho, Y. T. (2025). Motivational Effects on Cognition in Adolescents with Depression and Neurotypical Peers. *Biological Psychiatry*, 97, S209. Poster session presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry. Toronto, Ontario, CA.
[https://www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223\(25\)00611-0/abstract](https://www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223(25)00611-0/abstract)
9. **Chen, Y. D.**, Lin, C., Okolo, J., Brege, S., Ji, J. L., Anticevic, A., & Cho, Y. T. (2024). The Adolescent Balancing Act: Cognitive-motivational phenotypes in late childhood. Poster session presented for the M.Res. in Developmental Neuroscience and Psychopathology. New Haven, CT, US.

10. **Chen, Y. D.**, Yan, X., Grill-Spector, K., & Norcia, A. M. (2023). Spatio-temporal dynamics of category-selective responses in human visual cortex. Poster session presented at the Society for Neuroscience. Washington D.C., US.
<https://www.abstractsonline.com/pp8/#!/10892/presentation/41576>
11. Yan, X., **Chen, Y. D.**, Norcia, A. M., & Grill-Spector, K. (2022). Investigating the temporal dynamics of visual categorization in the human brain using fast periodic visual stimulation. *Journal of Vision*, 22, 4295. Poster session presented at the Vision Sciences Society. St. Pete's Beach, Florida, US.
<https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.22.14.4295>
12. Kaestner, M., Hodges, A., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Norcia, A. M. (2022). Blur disrupts sustained, not transient, global form-from-disparity mechanisms. *Journal of Vision*, 22, 3303. Poster session presented at the Vision Sciences Society. St. Pete's Beach, Florida, US.
<https://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2784015>
13. Clement, C., Kaestner, M., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Norcia, A. M. (2022). Does monocular sensitivity limit the development of binocular sensitivity? Poster session presented at the Stanford University Psychology Summer Program. Stanford, CA, US.
14. **Chen, Y. D.**, Kaestner, M., & Norcia, A. M. (2021). Functional specificity of attentional modulation in the disparity domain. Program No. 489.02. Poster session presented at the Society for Neuroscience.
<https://www.abstractsonline.com/pp8/#!/10485/presentation/13374>
15. Ash, R. T., Nix, K., Lee, M., **Chen Y. D.**, Butts Pauly, K., Williams, N. R., & Norcia, A. M., (2021). Stability and plasticity of steady-state visual evoked potential contrast-response functions. Program No. 477.04. Poster session presented at the Society for Neuroscience.
<https://www.abstractsonline.com/pp8/#!/10485/presentation/21284>
16. **Chen, Y. D.**, Kaestner, M., Lo Verde, L., & Norcia, A. M. (2021). Functional specificity of attentional modulation in the disparity domain. *Journal of Vision*, 21, 2912. Poster session presented at the Vision Sciences Society.
<https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.21.9.2912>
17. Kaestner, M., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Norcia, A. M. (2021). Differences in contrast tuning for absolute and relative disparity channels. *Journal of Vision*, 21, 2673. Poster session presented at the Vision Sciences Society.
<https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.21.9.2673>
18. Kaestner, M., Evans, M. L., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Norcia, A. M. (2020). Neural evidence for multiple spatio-temporal channels underlying human disparity sensitivity. *Journal of Vision*, 20, 857. Poster session presented at 2020 Vision Sciences Society.
<https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.20.11.857>
19. Donovan, A. M., **Chen, Y. D.**, & Rapp, D. N. (2019). Warning! The benefits of evaluative searches are not augmented by pre-task admonitions. Poster session presented at the Psychonomic Society. Montréal, Québec, CA.
<https://www.psychonomic.org/page/2019program>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025 – present **Doctoral Student, Vanderbilt University**

Brain Research and Internalizing Symptoms Lab, Department of Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Antonia N. Kaczurkin, Ph.D.

2024 – 2025

Postgraduate Associate, Yale University

Cho Lab, Child Study Center, Yale School of Medicine

Advisor: Youngsun T. Cho, M.D., Ph.D.

Project: (1) Longitudinal fMRI study on spatial working memory and cognitive function in healthy and depressed teenagers. (2) Identifying cognitive-motivational phenotypes in late childhood, their associated neural circuits, and developmental implications.

- Conducted clinical phone screens with healthy adolescents, adolescents with depression, and their parents.
- Administered and scored IQ tests (WASI) and NIH Toolbox cognitive batteries for healthy and depressed adolescents.
- Acquired behavioral, eye-tracking, and neuroimaging data for a reward processing spatial working memory task in the MRI scanner.
- Thoroughly documented preprocessing procedures in lab wiki pages to ensure reproducibility and transparency.
- Conducted linear mixed-effects models to examine longitudinal and cross-sectional associations between cognitive–motivational dimensions and psychopathology.

2023 – 2024

Master’s Student, Yale University

Cho Lab, Child Study Center, Yale School of Medicine

Advisor: Youngsun T. Cho, M.D., Ph.D.

Project: Identifying cognitive-motivational phenotypes in late childhood and their associated neural circuits.

- Conducted principal components analysis on baseline ABCD data from ~8,000 children to identify distinct behavioral phenotypes, validated using split-half cross-validation.
- Developed and implemented rigorous quality control pipeline for pediatric structural and resting state fMRI data using QuNex and high-performance computing, ensuring data integrity across a large sample.
- Performed fMRI preprocessing and global brain connectivity analysis using Human Connectome Project (HCP) minimal preprocessing pipelines.
- Conducted and trained postgraduate research assistants to conduct visual BOLD signal quality control.
- Utilized Linux-based clusters for computational tasks, optimizing the efficiency of neuroimaging data processing.

2022 – 2023

Research Assistant, Queen Mary University of London

Visual Cognition Lab, Department of Psychology

Advisor: Isabelle Mareschal, Ph.D.

Project: Effect of child and maternal psychopathology on child facial trust perception in Syrian refugee mother-child dyads residing in Jordan.

- Examined the relationship between child trustworthiness perceptions and psychopathology, contributing to understanding of child development in vulnerable populations.
- Conducted regression analyses using IBM SPSS to investigate predictors of child trustworthiness in face-judgement tasks.
- Authored a comprehensive literature review on current research of children’s trust perception of facial cues.

- Published manuscript detailing study results, which found that child and maternal psychopathology did not predict child trustworthiness in a refugee cohort, while child age was a significant predictor.

2021 – 2022

Research Assistant, Stanford University

Vision and Neuro-Development Lab, Wu Tsai Neuroscience Institute and Dep. of Psychology
Advisors: Anthony M. Norcia, Ph.D. and Kalanit Grill-Spector, Ph.D.

Project: Development of object category visual processing utilizing a category oddball paradigm.

- Collected longitudinal infant (newborn, 3 mo, 6 mo) resting-state MRI data, ensuring hearing protection, operating the scanner, and optimizing data quality by facilitating infant sleep during scans.
- Collected adult and infant (3–6 mo) EEG data, ensuring fixation on stimuli using attention and artifact minimization techniques during infant data collection.
- Performed rigorous artifact rejection for both adult and infant EEG data to ensure data integrity and quality.
- Conducted Reliable Components Analysis on both the oddball and carrier frequencies for adult and infant data.

2020 – 2022

Lab Manager/Research Coordinator, Stanford University

Vision and Neuro-Development Lab, Wu Tsai Neuroscience Institute and Dep. of Psychology
Advisor: Anthony M. Norcia, Ph.D.

Project: Effects of attention, contrast, blur, and grating orientation on disparity sensitivity across development.

- Collected 200+ EEG sessions of adult and child (4–5 years) steady-state visually evoked potential (SSVEP) data.
- Performed Fourier analysis (frequency and time domains) with Reliable Components Analysis in MATLAB.
- Led subject recruitment (adults via SONA; children via preschools and social media) and managed participant databases using REDCap.
- Trained postdocs and staff to use Magstim EGI EEG acquisition system, including xDiva, PowerDiva, and Net Station software, in the Koret Human Neuroscience Community Lab.
- Maintained optimal functionality of 20 EEG nets for the Norcia and Koret Community labs by repairing broken electrodes.
- Developed and implemented a data storage system to ensure organized, accessible data archives for future analyses and investigations.

2019 – 2020

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Northwestern University

Gratton Lab, Department of Psychology
Advisor: Caterina Gratton, Ph.D.

Project: Measuring individual differences in functional networks governing emotion regulation in older adults.

- Assisted in collection of older adult data (resting-state fMRI, behavioral interviews, and behavioral tests including the NIH Toolbox and an emotion regulation task).

2019

Summer Research Intern, Stanford University

Vision and Neuro-Development Lab, Department of Psychology
Advisor: Anthony M. Norcia, Ph.D.

Project: EEG pilot experiments measuring disparity sensitivity using SSVEPs.

- Conducted subject recruitment, data collection, preprocessing, and analysis for several phases of pilot testing to guide key decisions for main experiment.

2018 – 2019 **Undergraduate Research Assistant, Northwestern University**
The Reading Comprehension Lab, Department of Psychology
Advisor: David N. Rapp, Ph.D.
Project: Effects of inaccurate information on fact-checking behaviors.

- Collected data and coded screen recordings for 180 participants.

2018 **Undergraduate Research Assistant, Northwestern University**
The Social Self Lab, Department of Psychology
Advisor: Wendi L. Gardner, Ph.D.
Project: Effects of shame and guilt on empathy and desire to belong.

- Coded 900+ participant short-answer responses.

2018 **Undergraduate Research Assistant, Northwestern University**
The Motivated Effort-Allocation Model Lab, Department of Psychology
Advisor: Daniel C. Molden, Ph.D.
Project: Effects of perceived progress on motivated self-regulation.

- Tested participants using a computerized anagram paradigm and analyzed written responses.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE & OBSERVATION

2023 **Graduate Shadow, Yale New Haven Hospital**
Children's Psychiatric Inpatient Services
Advisor: Youngsun T. Cho, M.D., Ph.D.

2021 – 2022 **Crisis Hotline Volunteer, San Mateo County Crisis Center**
StarVista Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Hotline

SERVICE RECORD

2025 – present Ph.D. Application Mentor and Mock Interviewer, *Project SHORT*, virtual

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025 – present Private Academic Tutor, *C.Rose Learning, Nashville, TN*
2026 Teaching Assistant - Sports Psychology, *Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN*
2025 Teaching Assistant - General Psychology, *Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN*
2023 Special Educational Needs Teaching Assistant, *Opogo Education Agency, London, UK*

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2026 Emotion Regulation, Sleep Quality, and Anxiety Disorder Diagnosis Webinar, *ADAA*
2025 Regression Modeling Strategies 4-day Short Course, [*Frank E. Harrell Jr., Ph.D.*](#)

SKILLS

Programming languages: R, MATLAB, Mplus, Bash scripting, Linux environment

High-performance computing: Command-line workflows, large-scale data processing and batch analyses

Statistical and quantitative methods: Linear mixed-effects modeling, principal components analysis (PCA) with split-half cross-validation, exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis (EFA, CFA), independent component analysis (ICA), Reliable Components Analysis (RCA)

Neuroimaging analysis: Human Connectome Project (HCP) Minimal Preprocessing Pipelines (MPP) via the Quantitative Neuroimaging Environment and Toolbox (QuNex) suite, FMRIB Software Library (FSL), resting-state fMRI quality control and preprocessing, global connectivity analyses

Neuroimaging data acquisition: High-density EEG acquisition (adult, child, and infant; Magstim EGI system), low-density adult EEG acquisition (Grass Technologies system), infant structural MRI acquisition (GE Discovery MR750), adolescent functional MRI acquisition (Siemens 3T Prisma B).

Psychological and cognitive assessment: Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI) and NIH Toolbox Cognitive Battery with adolescents

Data collection/participant management: Qualtrics, REDCap, Sona Systems, BuildClinical, Epic

Data visualization: Connectome Workbench, WebPlotDigitizer, Inkscape

Reference management: EndNote, Mendeley

Languages: English (native), Mandarin (bilingual fluency speaker, intermediate reading and writing)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Association of University Women

Graduate Women in Science

National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity

Psi Chi