

PEIZHEN WU

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Academic Appointment

University of Rochester, USA	2026.08 - Present
Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities, Humanities Center	

Educational Background

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA	2021.08 - 2026.08
Ph.D. in Literary Studies	
Research areas: Digital Humanities, English and Transnational Literature and New Media, Cultural Analytics	
Dissertation title: Techno-reciprocity: Cyberpunk across East Asia and the West	
Committee: Melissa Littlefield, Robert Markley, Ted Underwood, Brian White	
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA	2019.08 - 2021.05
M.A. in Literary Studies	
GPA 4.0	
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China	2015.08 - 2019.07
B.A. in English Language and Literature (World Literature and Culture)	
GPA 3.81 (Top 20%)	
Columbia University in the City of New York, USA	2017.08 - 2017.12
Exchange Student Program (Full scholarship from Tsinghua University Xuetaang Program)	

Publications

- Peizhen Wu**, and Michael Drout. “‘The Course of Actual Composition’: Analysis of Some Aspects of the Revision History of *The Lord of the Rings* Using ‘Lexomic’ Digital Methods.” *Tolkien Studies*, vol. XXI, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1353/tks.2024.a973779>.
- Peizhen Wu**. “Teaching Trans Studies through Fan Fiction in College English Classrooms.” *Transformative Works and Cultures*, no. 39, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2023.2279>.
- Aniruddha Sharma, Yuerong Hu, **Peizhen Wu**, Wenyi Shang, Shubhangi Singhal, Ted Underwood. “The Rise and Fall of Genre Differentiation in English-Language Fiction.” *CHR 2020 Proceedings*, vol. 1613, 2020, p. 0073.
- Stewart Spencer, Yinqing Zhu, **Peizhen Wu**, Wei Zhao, Clovis Gladstone, Hoyt Long, Anatoly Detwyler, Richard Jean So. “Comparative Literature and Digital Infrastructure: Constructing the ‘Republican China Periodicals Corpus (1918-1949)’ Based on Philologic4.” *Journal of Digital Humanities*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2020, pp. 175–82.
- Peizhen Wu**. “‘Shengmu’ Versus ‘Dream Girl’: A Large-Language-Model-Assisted Comparative Analysis of Gender Critique in Chinese and English Reviews of Liu Cixin’s *The Three-Body Problem* trilogy.” Forthcoming in *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 54, no. 1, 2027.
- Peizhen Wu**. “Strategies for the Intercultural Communication of Chinese Science Fiction: A Digital Humanities Study of Online Reviews of *Waste Tide*.” Under review at *Contemporary Literary Criticism*

Conference Presentations

- “A Computational Comparative Study of Female- and Male-Oriented Chinese Cyberpunk Web Novels”
Presented at “Digital Humanities Conference” (DH 2026) in July 2026 (Independent author)
- “From Passive Viewers to Active Avengers: Fan Agency in the *Cyberpunk: 2077* Transmedia Franchise”

- Presented at “American Popular Culture Conference” (PCA 2026) in April 2026 (Independent Author)
- “The Potential and Limitations of AI in Cross-Cultural Literary Interpretation”
Presented at “Modern Language Association Convention” (MLA 2026) in Jan 2026 (Independent author)
- “Unpacking Transnational Cultural Reflections: Using Digital Humanities methods to Analyze Online Reviews of Chinese and Diasporic Chinese Science Fiction”
Presented at “The Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference” (AAS 2025) in March 2025
(Independent author)
- “Towards Understanding Book Rating Divergence across Platforms and Editions: A Preliminary Case Study”
Presented at “Digital Humanities Conference” (DH 2024) in August 2024 (Co-author)
- “Constructing a Posthuman Community of Shared Future: Cyberpunk Internet Literature and Chinese Ethics”
Presented at “New/Post Literary Theories in AI Times” Conference in June 2024 (Independent author)
- “Slashing in Between: A Case Study of Transnational Queerness in English-written *Haikyuu!!* Fanfictions”
Presented at “American Popular Culture Conference” (PCA 2024) in March 2024 (Independent Author)
- “Black Representation in *Black Panther* Fanfictions: A Digital Humanities Approach”
Presented at “Midwest Popular Culture Conference” (MPCA 2022) in October 2022 (Independent Author)
- “The ‘Kow-tow’ Ceremony and the Amherst Embassy: A Sentiment Analysis Perspective”
Presented at “China Digital Humanities Conference” (CDH 2020) in October 2020, full text included in the China Academic Journal Database (Independent Author)
- “Cultural Analytics and the Book Review: Models, Methods, And Corpora”
Presented at “Digital Humanities Conference” (DH 2020) in July 2020 (Co-author)
- “A Philological Approach towards Edward Said’s *Orientalism*: Ernest Renan as an Example”
Presented at the International Conference on Culture, Language, and Literature (ICCLL 2018) in Malaysia in June 2018 (Independent Author)

Teaching and Tutoring Experiences

University of Rochester

- Independently design and teach two core courses in “Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities”
Debates in Digital Studies: Core graduate seminar exploring critical frameworks, media theory, and ethics in digital humanities (Fall)
Computational Methods in the Humanities: Lab-based graduate seminar in advanced computational research, including text analysis, visualization, and coding (Spring)
- Mentor, Meliora Digital & Interdisciplinary Fellows Program
Advise PhD fellows across the humanities on the digital/computational projects related to their dissertations
Lead recruitment and selection of incoming fellows

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Independently designed and taught two English Major courses from 2021 to 2022:
Topics in Lit and New Media Studies: Undergraduate seminar examining the intersection of fan studies and media studies.
Postcolonial Literature: Undergraduate seminar exploring 20th-century postcolonial literature in conjunction with 19th-century imperial novels.
- Taught undergraduate academic writing course, *RHET 105*, for multiple times since 2019
Developed an innovative “Generative AI and Rhetorical Analysis” session
- Consistent inclusion on the university-wide *List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent*
- Provided tutoring at the Writers Workshop (Writing Center) since 2021, with over 99% positive feedback
- Beijing Y-English Education Consulting Co., Ltd.

Served as a TA for academic English reading and writing from 2016 to 2019 (over 200 hours of work)

Other Research and Service Experiences

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA

The founding student organizer of “Data Cultures Lab at iSchool” from 2023 to 2026, holding monthly meetings and organizing presentations and discussions about DH projects from iSchool and other departments

The founding organizer of an online “DH Reading Group” starting from 2024, holding biweekly meetings and providing readings and discussions for DH and humanities scholars in China and US

Research Assistant to Professor Zhiyu Quan since 2022, providing paper and grant writing guidance for faculty and students in Actuarial Science

Research Assistant to Professor Ted Underwood from 2020 to 2021, and participated in the NEH DH project research “Broadening Access to Text Analysis by Describing Uncertainty”

Reviewer for the journal *Transformative Works and Cultures*

Reviewer for Digital Humanities Annual Conferences since 2022

Tsinghua University, China

Started remote web design and metadata collection for the Republic of China Intellectual Works Collection project of the Institute of World Literature and Culture in August 2023

Participated in the Tsinghua University Academic Innovation Talent Training Program from 2018 to 2019, project “Hardy’s *The Woodlanders* and Ecofeminism,” advised by Professor Nie Zhenzhao

Participated in the Tsinghua University Undergraduate Academic Advancement Program in 2018, received guidance from Professor Shen Weirong and a support fund of 50,000 RMB

University of Chicago, USA

Joined the Textual Optics Lab organized by Professor Hoyt Long for summer research in August 2018

Research results were published in *Digital Humanities* (see “Publications” section)

University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Joined the summer seminar of the Institute for World Literature at Harvard University in July 2017

Presented “Marlow’s Self-contradictory Journey: Imperialism and Cosmopolitanism in *Heart of Darkness*”

Skills and Awards

Programming Languages and Software

Python, R, SQL, MATLAB, Tableau

Languages

Mandarin (native), English, Japanese (JLPT N3), French (TEF reading level B), Spanish (Reading)

Scholarships and Research Grants

Dissertation Scholarship from the English Department of the University of Illinois, 2024-2026

Research Grants from the English Department on the Fan fiction project, 2021

Summer Scholarship from the English Department of the University of Illinois, 2019-2026

Graduate Scholarship from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois, 2019-2020

Competitions

Best Debater and Team Champion, Champaign Debate Competition, 2020

Meritorious Winner (Top 8%), Mathematical Contest in Modeling, 2018