

Introversions, Friendships, and Adjustment in Chinese Adolescents

Short Description: I wanted to investigate introversion and how it interacts with friendships to affect school, social, and psychological adjustment in Chinese youth. I won a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to conduct this research study in Beijing in 2011.



Role: Primary Investigator/Lead Project Director/Primary Research Analyst

- Reviewed existing literature
- Designed research plan
- Proposed budget; coordinated with NSF on budget allocation
- Constructed IRB application and obtained IRB approval for human subjects
- Designed survey questionnaires and measurement instruments
 - Translated established measures from English to Chinese
 - Conducted focus groups to ensure accurate translation
- Contacted schools, teachers, and parents in China for research recruitment; collaborated with schools, teachers, parents, and students to implement surveys
- Managed and directed multiple research teams on executing surveys
- Organized, cleaned, and merged data
- Analyzed results using advanced statistical methods (e.g., structural equation modeling) and software (e.g., R, SPSS, Mplus)
 - Psychometric studies (e.g., seeing if measures are valid in China)
 - Outcome studies (e.g., seeing how variables relate to adjustment)
- Presented findings through publications, talks, and conference presentations

Deliverables:

- **Awards:**
 - Fellowship for Advancing Research, University of Maryland, 2013
 - RISE Research Award Finalist, Association for Psychological Science, 2013
- 1 published dissertation
- 3 first-authored research articles in high impact, peer-reviewed journals
 - **Wang, J. M.** (in press). Preference-for-solitude and internalizing difficulties in Chinese adolescents. *Personality and Individual Differences*.
 - **Wang, J. M.** (2014). Psychometric properties of the Network Relationship Inventory-Social Provision Version in Chinese youth. *Child Psychiatry Human Development*, 45, 695-702.
 - **Wang, J. M.**, Hartl, A.C., Laursen, B., Booth-LaForce, C., & Rubin, K. H. (2015). Agreeableness, neuroticism, and youth's physical aggression in China and the United States: The mediating role of temper. *Journal of Early Adolescence*. doi: 10.1177/0272431615588953.
- 4 conference presentations at professional conferences

Preference-for-Solitude in Adolescents

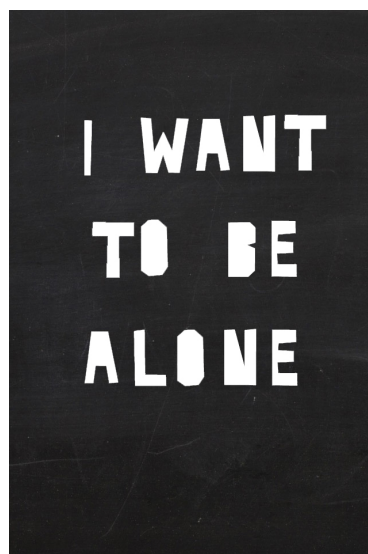
Short Description: I wanted to investigate youth who prefer to be alone, as the majority of studies have been focused on shy youth. I wanted to establish evidence that youth who prefer to be alone could be reliably differentiated from youth who are shy or socially anxious.

Role: Primary Investigator/ /Primary Research Analyst

- Reviewed existing literature
- Designed statistical plan
- Assessed measures to find which ones are the most appropriate in assessing preference-for-solitude; constructed questionnaires based on existing measures
- Contacted schools, teachers, and parents for research recruitment; collaborated with schools, teachers, parents, and students to implement surveys
- Managed and directed multiple research teams on executing surveys
- Organized, cleaned, and merged data
- Analyzed results using advanced statistical methods (e.g., structural equation modeling) and software (e.g., R, SPSS, Mplus)
- Presented findings through publications, talks, and conference presentations

Deliverables:

- 1 published dissertation
- Invited to present at various universities
 - University of Alaska
 - Tufts University
 - University of Texas—Dallas
 - Fordham University
 - Florida Atlantic University
- Profiled in *Psychology Today*
- 1 first-authored research articles in high impact, peer-reviewed journal
 - **Wang, J. M.**, Rubin, K. H., Laursen, B., Booth-LaForce, C., & Rose-Krasnor, L. (2013). Preference-for-solitude and adjustment difficulties in early and late adolescence. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, 42, 834-842. doi:10.1080/15374416.2013.
- 5 conference presentations at professional conferences



OTHER PROJECTS:

Research Manager: (lead and directed 27 research assistants and staff members)

- Inttervention study on socially anxious preschoolers (“Turtle Project”)
- Traumatic Brain Injury study in children (“TBI Project”)
- Friendship study on children’s friendships from elementary to high school (“Friendship Project”)

Lead Research Investigators:

- Bullying in children across elementary and middle schools in Hong Kong
- Personality and aggression in Chinese adolescents versus American adolescents
- Peer rejection and personal values predicting rejection sensitivity in adolescence

Deliverables:

- First-authored and co-authored research articles in high impact, peer-reviewed journal
- Conference presentations at professional conferences
- Invited talks and presentations at universities



Instructor, University of Maryland

- Designed curriculum for 2 classes on Human Development
- Utilized media platforms and technological tools to engage student learning
- Implemented a web-based simulation program (Virtual Child) that allows students to raise a child on the web
- Among **top highest rated instructors** in department at the University of Maryland



The image shows a sequence of six 3D avatars representing a child's growth from infancy to adulthood. The first avatar is a baby in a pink onesie. The second is a toddler in a blue and white shirt and blue pants. The third is a young girl in a red dress. The fourth is a young woman in a blue shirt and blue pants. The fifth is a woman in a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark blue shorts. The sixth is a man in a black t-shirt and blue pants.

Raise your child, live your life.

MyVirtualLife is two simulations in one. The first simulation allows you to raise a child from birth to age 18 and monitor the effects of your parenting decisions over time. In the second simulation you will make first person decisions and see the impact of those decisions on your simulated future self over time.