

Wanqi Zhang
School of Information Sciences
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
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EDUCATION

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, US Aug 2026 – Present
PhD in Communication and Information, Concentration in Information Sciences

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, US Aug 2024 – Aug 2026
Master of Science in Information Sciences, Minor in Statistics
GPA 4.00

Xi'an University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China Aug 2010 – June 2014
Bachelor of Arts: Major in Art Design

Working Experience

Graduate Research Assistant
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN Aug 2024 ~ Aug 2026

- Designed and conducted human–robot interaction (HRI) studies, including experimental protocol design, stimulus development, participant recruitment, questionnaire design, and quantitative data analysis.

PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Conference Proceedings (Peer-Reviewed)

- He, J., **Zhang, W.**, & Barfield, J. (2026). *From Human Bias to Robot Choice: How Occupational Contexts and Racial Priming Shape Robot Selection*. *Proceedings of the 2026 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI 2026)*.
*Selected for Oral Presentation
- **Zhang, W.**, Santos, M., & He, J. (2026). *Bridging Psychological Safety and Skill Guidance: An Adaptive Robotic Interview Coach*. *Companion Proceedings of the 2026 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI 2026)*.
- He, J., **Zhang, W.**, & Barfield, J. (2026). Why That Robot? A Qualitative Analysis of Justification Strategies for Robot Color Selection Across Occupational Contexts. *Proceedings of the 2026 IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN 2026)*. (Accepted)

Journal Articles

- **Zhang, W.,** He, J., & Santos, M. (2026). Tackling the Scaffolding Paradox: A Person-Centered, Adaptive Robotic Interview Coach. Submitted to the International Journal of Social Robotics. (Under review)

HONORS & AWARDS

- Graduate Student Research Award, College of Communication and Information (CCI), University of Tennessee, 2026
- Donald G. Hileman Scholarship, College of Communication and Information (CCI), University of Tennessee, 2026
- Montgomery Howard Scholarship, College of Communication and Information (CCI), University of Tennessee, 2026
- Access and Engagement Badge, School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee, 2026
- Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (Graduate-level academic honor society)
- Honoree of Excellent Student Cadre, School of Arts and Design, Xi'an University, 2013
- Second Prize Scholarship (Top 5%), School of Arts and Design, Xi'an University, 2010 – 2011
- Third Prize Scholarship (Top 8%), School of Arts and Design, Xi'an University, 2011– 2013

SKILLS

- Research Methods: Experimental design; qualitative and quantitative methods; usability testing
- Data Analysis: SPSS; statistical analysis
- Research Tools: Qualtrics; survey instrument design; stimulus development
- Additional / Design Tools: SQL, HTML (basic); Figma; Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator)