

Yuxiao (Xiao) Yang

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EDUCATION

Teachers College, Columbia University <i>M.A., Bilingual/Bicultural Education</i>	New York, NY Aug 2024 – May 2026
The Pennsylvania State University <i>B.S., World Languages Education; B.A., Spanish</i>	University Park, PA Aug 2020 – May 2024
Universidad Complutense de Madrid <i>Exchange Program, Language and Area Studies</i>	Madrid, Spain Jan 2023 – May 2023
King's High School	Seattle, WA

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Research Finalist, 3MT "Minutes to Win It" Research Competition, Teachers College, Columbia University (2026)
- Founders Award, Teachers College, Columbia University (2024–2025)
- Graduate Assistantship Grant, Teachers College, Columbia University (2025–2026)
- Dean's List, The Pennsylvania State University (2020–2024)
- Education Abroad Grant, The Pennsylvania State University (2023)
- Puget Sound Chapter Scholarship (2020–2021)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Learning Experience Designer, StoryPainter (storypainterapp.com)	June 2025 – Present
• Co-developed and published StoryPainter on the Apple App Store, a generative drawing-to-story tool grounded in sociocultural learning theory for early child narrative and vocabulary development. • Designed adaptive, task-based prompt flows to map generative visuals to individual proficiency levels alongside real-time L1 translation and custom voice models. • Executed iterative usability testing with five multilingual children across three languages to refine voiceovers, prompt structures, and image-interpretation loops for my Integrative Project research instrument.	
Researcher, Integrative Project, Teachers College	Sep 2025 – May 2026
• Conducted a teacher-inquiry study on three trilingual elementary students across transnational contexts (China/Mexico/US, Russia/Germany, China/Spain) and analyzed over 100 minutes of video and session transcripts through thematic coding. • Applied sociocultural and multimedia learning theories to model AI visuals as semiotic resources for cognitive load reduction and concept-to-L2 mapping. • Found that children constructed narrative meaning (personification, inference, story revision) ahead of their second-language fluency, and developed the construct of <i>trans-modal narrative agency</i> to describe this pattern.	
Research Assistant, Teachers College	Sep 2025 – May 2026
• Applied machine-learning topic modeling, moving from the open-source LACOID application to BERTopic after evaluating each tool's limits, to classify 365+ multilingual teacher-reflection paragraphs into 40+ topics and synthesize them into meta-themes for a bilingual teacher-education study. • Ran a PRISMA systematic review across five academic databases (ERIC, Scopus, Web of Science, Education Research Complete, Academic Search Premier), screening 655 records down to 83 included studies and documenting the full search-and-exclusion workflow. • Built a multi-level coding framework to analyze students' language portraits alongside reflective texts, quantifying code frequencies across two data sources to trace patterns in multilingual identity and embodied language experience.	

- Evaluated the Samara Community School dual-language program through observations of two Spanish-English classrooms (Pre-K and elementary) and interviews with two dual-language teachers.
- Applied a 12-indicator framework across three domains (school climate, curriculum, and instruction) to assess program quality and formulate research-backed recommendations for bilingual education.

PRESENTATIONS

- Yang, X. (2026). Research Finalist, 3MT "Minutes to Win It" Research Competition. *Integrating generative AI in bilingual education: Scaffolding vocabulary and narrative competence through co-creation*. Teachers College, Columbia University.
- Yang, X. (2025). *Gamification and language learning on Busuu*. Course presentation, Technology-Based Language Teaching and Materials Design, Teachers College, Columbia University.
- Yang, X. (2024). *Multicultural and multilingual children's book reviews and classroom applications*. Course presentation, Bilingual/Bicultural Curriculum Design for Elementary and Middle Schools, Teachers College, Columbia University.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Pre-K through adult)

Language Tutor, Preply (Online)

Nov 2024 – Present

- Delivered individualized trilingual instruction (English, Spanish, Mandarin) to 60+ emergent bilinguals, with custom curricula for IB, IELTS, and TOEFL preparation.
- Converted 90% of trial lessons into ongoing students and retained 80% beyond their first lesson package, maintaining a 4.9/5.0 rating across 2,000+ tutoring hours.

Lead Chinese Teacher, PK–5 World Language Camp, Bellefonte Area H.S., PA

June 2024 – July 2024

- Designed differentiated Mandarin curricula for 100+ Pre-K to 5th-grade students across six rotating cohorts to drive independent target-language production.
- Integrated multisensory cultural tasks (calligraphy and fine-motor activities) to lower affective filter and increase learner engagement.

Spanish Student Teacher, Bellefonte Area High School, PA

Sep 2023 – June 2024

- Taught five sections of Spanish I and III Honors (120+ students) through comprehensive unit planning and multi-domain assessments to track language proficiency.
- Designed project-based cultural units to promote target-language fluency and active student engagement.

RESEARCH SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Research Methods: Qualitative and teacher-inquiry research; thematic and multi-level coding; semi-structured interviews and classroom observation; PRISMA systematic literature review; video and session transcript analysis

Technical: Machine-learning topic modeling (BERTopic); qualitative coding applications; generative-AI prompt design; UX design and user testing

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (native); English (fluent); Spanish (Advanced Low). Conduct instruction and research sessions with children and families in all three.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Pennsylvania K–12 Spanish Instructional I Teacher Certification (2024–2030)
- CITI Program: Human Subjects Research (Social & Behavioral Researchers)
- CITI Program: Responsible Conduct of Research (Social & Behavioral)
- ACTFL Oral and Writing Proficiency, Spanish: Advanced Low
- DELE Spanish Diploma, Level B1
- AI for Business, Columbia Engineering
- Youth Mental Health First Aid Certificate