Zheng Zhang

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Research Interests

Principal Fields: History of Science and Technology; Science and Technology Studies (STS)

Thematic Interests: Political Economy of Technology; History of Computing; Digital Sovereignty; Technocracy and State-building; Cold War Science

Geographical Focus: Modern China; Comparative History of East Asia (China & Japan)

Education

- **University of Wisconsin - Madison** Ph.D. Student **Sept. 2026 – Now**
- **Peking University** M.A. School of New Media **Sept. 2015 – Jun. 2018**

  ***Distinguished* Dissertation**: *The Analysis of Influence on Interaction between Social Robots and Elderly People*
- **Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai** *(closed down)* B.A. in English **Sept. 2010 – Jun. 2014**

Professional Experience

Product Design and Marketing, DataCloak - Shenzhen **Jun. 2019 – May. 2024**

- Successfully helped the company achieve annual revenue growth from tens of thousands to tens of millions and assisted clients in preventing tens of thousands of data breaches and thefts.
- Served as the leader of an organization that responsible for researching and drafting the industry standard for Zero Trust, synthesizing technical specifications with national policy directives.
- As the primary person in charge, I successfully organized and hosted a series of academic conferences on Zero Trust, and three consecutive annual technical summits, each drawing thousands of participants. This role included proposal writing, project management, and fiscal oversight of an annual budget exceeding **1.5 million RMB.**

Product Design, Tencent – Shenzhen **Dec. 2017 – Jun. 2019**

- Participated in the design and operation of the world's first erasable SIM card using dual advanced IMEI technology.
- This card breaks the boundary of carrier networks in any covered country, aiming to help users utilize uncontrolled network services.

Public Scholarship & Critical Reviews

- **Beyond Carbon Democracy: A Critical Review of Victor Seow's *Carbon Technocracy* (2022)** *Independent Review, zhangzheng.net, 2024.*
  - *Analysis:* Discusses the intersection of energy regimes and authoritarian governance, contrasting East Asian developmentalism with Timothy Mitchell's framework.
- **The Politics of Agricultural Science: Review of Sigrid Schmalzer's *Red Revolution, Green Revolution* (2016)** *Independent Review, zhangzheng.net, 2024.*
  - *Analysis:* Explores the continuity of mass mobilization in Chinese technocrats, foundational to my Writing Sample on performative governance.
- **Computing Complexity as Power: Review of Rebecca Slayton's *Arguments that Count* (2013)** *Independent Review, zhangzheng.net, 2025.*
  - *Analysis:* Examines how software engineers constructed professional authority through "metric engineering," serving as a theoretical framework for my dissertation proposal.
- **Technocratic Agency and the Paradox of State-Led Innovation: Review of Evan Feigenbaum's *China's Techno-Warriors* (2003)** *Independent Review, zhangzheng.net, 2025.*
  - *Analysis:* Critiques the teleological narrative of Chinese techno-nationalism and analyzes how strategic weapons elites (the "techno-warriors") navigated political volatility to institutionalize state-led innovation programs like the 863 Program.

Publications and Conference Presentations

- Huang Y., **Zhang Z.,** & Dong B. (2016). Social Robots: The Communicative Rationality towards Robot Development. *Public Communication of Science & Technology, Vol. 19, 2016:185-187.* DOI: 10.16607/j.cnki.1674-6708.2016.19.114
- **Zhang Z.,** Fang X. (2019) The Growth of Gender Consciousness of Left-Behind Rural Women. *Canadian Communication Association (CCA)* (pp. 30), Vancouver, Canada

Projects and Initiatives

Lead an NGO Team to Bridge the Digital Divide **Jul. 2012**

- A leader of a team trained teachers from primary schools affected by the Wenchuan earthquake, equipping teachers with essential internet skills to reduce the educational quality gap with developed areas.

Subtitle Translator (Volunteer) **Jun. 2014 – Apr. 2016**

- Independently translated the complete subtitles for an entire course offered by the University of Amsterdam.

The Biggest Tech Information Influencer on Chinese Social Media **Oct. 2015 – Jun. 2017**

- Engage in public and science communication. Led a team to provide timely news and analysis on emerging technologies via Weibo, China's largest social media platform.
- Represented Peking University as a speaker at Weibo's Influential Summit, sharing insights to encourage greater public engagement in science and technology. Amassing an audience of over **1.7 million followers**.

Honors and Awards

Peking University

- Merit Student (top 1%)
- Distinguished Dissertation (top 5%)
- Science Practice Innovation Scholarship (top 5%, ¥10,000)

Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai

- Outstanding Graduate (top 1%)
- School Scholarship (top 10%)

Tencent

- Vice President Honor

DataCloak

- The Highest Honor of DataCloak (twice)

Language and Skills

- Chinese (Native Language)
- English (Proficiency)
- Japanese (Reading)
- R Language | Excel | SPSS