

# Yifan Xu

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## EDUCATION

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- May 2025      **PhD, Organizational Communication & Technology**  
The University of Texas at Austin  
*Dissertation:* Accomplishing robotic autonomy: Exploring communicative practices in robotics development and the construction of agency  
*Committee:* Keri Stephens, Craig Scott, Shiv Ganesh, Joshua Barbour, Elliott Hauser
- 2019 - July  
2020      **Communication Studies** (Graduate Courses in Quantitative Research, Qualitative Research, Health Communication, Training & Development, Negotiation)  
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
- December  
2018      **MS, Agriculture/Animal Science**  
Murray State University, Murray, KY
- July 2017      **BS, Veterinary Medicine**  
Qingdao Agricultural University, Qingdao, China

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- Xu, Y.**, & Hauser, E. (2024). Accomplishing robotic autonomy: The complexities of sociotechnical care and agency in the laboratory. *Human-Machine Communication*, 9, 143–166. <https://doi.org/10.30658/hmc.9.9>
- Stephens, K., Castro, S., **Xu, Y.**, Juan, A., Diaz, N., Blessing, R., & Brody, S. (2024). Rectifying a data desert one step at a time: A co-created, community-based approach. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00909882.2024.2357131>
- Xu, Y.**, Stephens, K., Carlson, N., Lieberknecht, K., & Leite, F. (2024). Moving toward preparedness efficacy: Uncovering barriers to preparedness in communities disproportionately impacted by flooding. *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, 32(1), 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-5973.12524>
- McGlone, M. S., Stephens, K. K., Jia, M., Montagnolo, C., & **Xu, Y.** (2024). Multiple messaging strategies for increasing HPV vaccination intentions among English- and Spanish-speaking parents. *Vaccines*, 12, e650. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines12060650>
- Xu, Y.** (2023). Envisioning a better world of human and technology: Theoretical and empirical considerations to connect communication scholarship to ethical technology design. *Annals of International Communication Association*, 48(1), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23808985.2023.2255586>
- Stephens, K. K., Harris, A. G., Hughes, A., Montagnolo, C., Nader, K., Stevens, S. A., Tasuji, T.,

**Xu, Y.,** Purohit, H., & Zobel, C. (2023). Human-AI teaming during an ongoing disaster: How scripts around teaching and feedback reveal this form of human-machine communication. *Human-Machine Communication*, 6(1), 65-85.  
<https://doi.org/10.30658/hmc.6.5>

**Xu, Y.,** & Farris, K. L. (2022). The influence of leadership styles and supervisor communication on employee burnout. *Journal of General Management*, 49(3), 169-179.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/03063070221122664>

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## **PUBLISHED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

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**Xu, Y.** (2024). Accomplishing robotic autonomy: The complexities of situated practices and agency in the laboratory. In *Companion of 2024 ACM Conference Human-Robot Interaction (HRI'24), March 11-14, 2024. Boulder, CO, USA*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3610978.3638355>.

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## **HANDBOOK & BOOK CHAPTERS**

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Stephens, K., & **Xu, Y.** (In press). Leadership communication and media technologies. In G. Jian & G. Fairhurst (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Organizational Leadership Communication*. Routledge.

Scott, C., **Xu, Y.,** & Tesfai, Y. (2024). Types of organizations. In V. D. Miller, & M. S. Poole (Eds.), *Handbook of Organizational Communication Theory and Research*, (pp. 423-442). DeGruyter.

Stephens, K. K., Carlson, N. H., & **Xu, Y.** (2022). Disaster rescue communication using mobile devices, social media, and artificial intelligence. In A. Singh (Ed.), *International Handbook of Disaster Research*. Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8800-3\\_175-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8800-3_175-1)

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## **PAPERS UNDER REVIEW**

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Hauser, E., & **Xu, Y.** (Under review). Negotiating the real worlds of domestic service robotics. Submitted to *ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing 2024 (CSCW)*.

Shorey, S., Menhart, S., Hauser, E., & **Xu, Y.** (Under review). Representative deliberation: Imagining users of domestic service robots through designing a robotics competition rulebook. Submitted to *ACM Conference on Human-Robot Interaction*.

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## **PAPERS IN PROGRESS**

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**Xu, Y.** Imaginaries of a robotics future: The conflict reality on the ground and alternative imaginings.

**Xu, Y.** Organizing a techno future: Achieving robotic autonomy via the construction of agency.

Norman, E., Liu, X., **Xu, Y.**, & Stephens, K. Anticipatory discursive organizing for community embedded robotics.

## CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

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**Xu, Y.** (2024, September). Sociotechnical care in the laboratory. Work presented at the *Sociotechnical Consequences of AI Workshop*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**Xu, Y** & Hauser, E. (2024, June). *Accomplishing robotic autonomy: Sociotechnical care and construction of agency*. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Conference, Human-Machine Communication Division.

**Xu, Y.** (2023, May). *Envisioning a better world of human and technology: Theoretical and empirical considerations to connect communication scholarship to ethical technology design*. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Conference, Human-Machine Communication Division.

**Xu., Y.** (2023, May). *An investigation of the making of robots*. Research proposal presented at the International Communication Association conference, Human-Machine Communication Division (Research Escalator).

**Xu., Y.** (2023, March). *Resilient infrastructure: Water, buildings, and communication*. Presented at Planet Texas 2050 Symposium.

Menhart, S., **Xu, Y.**, Coolidge, A., Carlson, N., & Sun, S. (2022, November). *Organizational identity and artificial intelligence: A linguistic analysis of podcast interviews*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference. **Top Student Paper Panel in Human Communication & Technology Division.**

Carlson, N., **Xu, Y.**, Stephens, K. (2022, November). *Disaster rescue communication using mobile devices, social media, and artificial intelligence*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference.

Stephens, K., Harris, A., Senarath, Y., **Xu, Y.**, Hughes, A., Zobel, C., & Purohit, H. (2022, November). *Human-AI teaming in disasters: Understanding how volunteers work with AI systems*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference.

**Xu, Y.**, & Hauser, E. (2022, June). *'Realistic' robotics: The ethics of imagining service robots*. Paper presented at Work in the Age of Intelligent Machines (WAIM) Working Conference.

**Xu, Y.**, Nandurkar, B., Carlson, N., Barbour, J. (2021, November). *Telling the story of the ATX Exchange: Development of social networks in the collective pursuit of public goods*

during COVID-19. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference (Research Escalator).

**Xu, Y.** (2021, November). *A theory-based intervention to tackle teenagers' mental health issues related to problematic social media use.* Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference (Research Escalator).

**Xu, Y.,** Farris, K.L., Cavanagh, M., & Yrlas, T. (2020, November). *The influence of leadership styles and supervisor communication on employee burnout.* Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference (online).

## **EXTERNALLY FUNDED DISSEMINATION PRODUCT**

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Stephens, K., & **Xu, Y.** (September 17, 2022). Harvey reminded us of the power of the Colorado River. *Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas.* <https://idrt.tamug.edu/harvey-reminded-us-of-the-power-of-the-colorado-river/>

## **INVITED TALKS**

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March 2024      Invited Speaker, Co-presented *Ethical Dimensions of the Dobby Robot* with Dr. Justin Hart, Texas Robotics Symposium 2024, Austin, Texas.

October 2023      Invited Panel Speaker, *Designing Good Projects involving Robots.* Texas Robotics Symposium 2023, Austin, Texas.

September 2023      Invited Speaker, *Mini Workshop on Value-Sensitive Design.* Human-Centered Robotics Lab, The University of Texas at Austin.

July 2023      Invited Speaker, *RoboCup@Home: How Values Shape an Unrealized Future of Domestic Service Robots.* Human-Centered Robotics Lab, The University of Texas at Austin.

April 2023      Invited Speaker, *Applying Social Science Methods to Robotics Development.* Human-Centered Robotics Lab, The University of Texas at Austin.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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2024      Outstanding Graduate Research Award, Moody College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin

2024      HRI Pioneer at ACM Conference Human-Robot Interaction (HRI'24)

2022      Top Student Paper Panel, Human Communication & Technology Div., National Communication Association (NCA)

- 2020 – 2024 Graduate School Fellowship, Moody College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2020 – 2024 Provost and Moody Fellowship, Moody College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2023– present **Research Assistant**, UT-Austin, Moody School of Communication  
*Community-Embedded Robotics: Understanding Sociotechnical Interactions with Long-term Autonomous Deployments (GCR)*. Research conducted with Dr. Keri Stephens, Dr. Elliot Houser, and Dr. Luis Sentis, funded by National Science Foundation, \$3,600,000 (first two years \$1,200,000).
- 2022– 2023 **Research Assistant**, UT-Austin, Good Systems  
*RoboCup@Home: Constructing Domestic Service Robotics*. Research conducted with Dr. Elliot Houser and Dr. Samantha Shorey.
- 2022 – 2023 **Research Assistant**, Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas  
*Disaster Risk Infrastructure Project for Underserved Communities in Texas (DRIP)*. Research conducted with Dr. Keri Stephens. Value: \$290,000.
- 2022 – 2023 **Research Assistant**, UT-Austin, Moody School of Communication  
*Integrating Information Flows and Supporting Communities as Decision-Makers in Response to Acute and Chronic Stressors*. Research conducted with Dr. Keri K. Stephens, funded by National Science Foundation, Value: \$1,200,000.
- 2021 – 2022 **Research Assistant**, UT-Austin, Moody School of Communication  
*An Environmental Scan and Randomized Factorial Experiment to Investigate the Efficacy of Multiple Messaging Strategies for Improving HPV Vaccine Confidence Among English-and Spanish-Speaking Parents*. Research conducted with Dr. Keri K. Stephens and Dr. Matthew McGlone, funded by Merk Pharmaceuticals. Value: \$143,000
- 2020 – 2022 **Research Assistant**, UT-Austin, Dell School of Medicine  
*Telling the Story of the ATX Exchange — Development of Social Networks in the Collective Pursuit of Public Goods During COVID-19*. Research conducted with Dr. Carmen R. Valdez and Dr. Joshua B. Barbour.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- Sponsorship Chair** HRI Pioneer Workshop, ACM Conference Human-Robot Interaction (HRI'25)

- Ad Hoc Reviewer**      *Management Communication Quarterly* (1 manuscript), 2023 – present  
*Digital Health* (3 manuscripts), 2024  
*Journal of General Management* (3 manuscripts), 2022  
International Communication Association Conference, 2020 – present  
National Communication Association Conference, 2020 – present
- Lab Manager**      OPTIC Lab (Organizing Practices through Technology, Information, & Communication Lab), directed by Dr. Keri Stephens. 2021 – 2024.
- Chair**      Professional Development Committee of Communication Studies Graduate Community, UT-Austin, 2022
- Managed the committee and led four department-wide events.
  - Organized and facilitated conference presentation prep sessions.
  - Recruited industry alumni for a career talk panel and mediated the panel.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2023 – 2025      **Instructor of Record**, The University of Texas at Austin
- Course #1: Network Analytic Approaches to Organizational Communication (Adapted content)
  - Course #2: Communication for Innovation (Developed content, assignment, and class activities for upper-division undergraduate students)
- 2020 – 2024      **Teaching Assistant**, The University of Texas at Austin
- Course #1: Conflict Resolution
  - Course #2: Network Analytic Approaches to Organizational Communication
  - Course #3: Digital Communication
  - Course #4: Working Virtually
  - Course #5: Understanding America through Baseball
- 2019 – 2020      **Graduate Instructor**, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
- Course: Fundamentals of Human Communication

## TEACHING INNOVATIONS & EDUCATION

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- 2024      • Completed *Project Management Certificate*
- 2023      • Completed training modules for *The Science of Team Science*

- 2020 – 2021 • Attended UT *Inclusive Classrooms Leadership Certificate Seminar* to learn about how to create inclusive classroom climate.
- 2019 – 2020 • Attended Texas State *Teaching & Learning Academy* – A week-long intensive teaching and training workshop.

## SKILLS

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- Quantitative analysis (ANOVA, regression, multivariate), Qualitative analysis (interview, focus group, thematic coding), Computational method (network analysis, semantic analysis)
- R, SPSS, NVivo, Atlas ti.

## WORK EXPERIENCES

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- 2021 **Business Associate** | Texas Venture Labs | Austin, TX
- 2019 **Researcher, Immunology** | Genentech | South San Francisco, CA
- 2019 **Marketing Manager** | TriBioscience | Sunnyvale, CA
- 2016 - 2017 **Co-Founder & CEO** | Qingdao Horse King Translation | Qingdao, China