Dinghao Luo, PhD

PhD in Systems Neuroscience

Contact

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LinkedIn
Personal portfolio
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Education

Systems Neuroscience, **PhD**
2021–2026
Max Planck

Biological Sciences, **MS**
2021–2023
Max Planck

Natural Sciences, **BA**
2017–2020, **First Class**
University of Cambridge

Languages

Mandarin (native)
Cantonese (native)
English (fluent)
German (intermediate)

Awards & Honours

Jardine Scholarship
Full undergraduate funding at the University of Cambridge

IMPRS Fellow
One of the top students; Full funding with stipend at Max Planck

Pingshan Book Award
Awarded to the Chinese edition of *Entangled Life* in 2025

Bundy Scholarship
Awarded for First-Class grades at Cambridge

Work & Research Experience

MAX PLANCK FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCE, Jupiter, FL, US
PhD Researcher, Systems Neuroscience | 2021-2026

- Led a six-year project, turning an open-ended question into focused studies across behaviour, electrophysiology, imaging, and modelling.
- Tested competing biological explanations with controlled interventions and integrated the results into a first-author manuscript now under review at *Neuron*.
- Identified a bottleneck in the lab's workflow and built FibreSight, an open-source image-analysis workbench that reduced manual curation from days to hours.

***SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN* CHINA**, *Chinese edition of* Scientific American
Science Writer and Editor | 2020-2021

- Researched, edited, and translated science features for a general audience.
- Planned and conducted interviews with prominent scientists including Anil Seth, Cyriel Pennartz, and David Rosenthal for a feature on theories of consciousness, published in print in March 2021.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, Cambridge, UK
Undergraduate Researcher, Neuroscience | 2019-2020

- Designed and ran controlled studies on dopamine's role in learning and memory, receiving First-Class marks for the resulting thesis.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, London, UK
Research Intern, Biology | 2018

- Awarded a competitive Genetics Society studentship for an eight-week project on Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease, leading to a co-authored paper.

Leadership Roles

NEU-REALITY, *Chinese popular science platform focussed on neuroscience*
Section Lead | 2017-2021

- Founded and led the Neuro-Frontier section of a 35-person writer group.
- Assigned articles, scheduled contributors, and tracked work through publication.
- Wrote and edited neuroscience features for Chinese readers.

TECHX, *Academic summer camp for high school students*
Academic Lead | 2020

- Led cognitive neuroscience teaching for approximately 40 students.
- Wrote nine bilingual preparation modules and taught four hours per day.
- Worked with other Academic Leads to deliver the course on time and guide student group projects.

Additional Skills & Activities

Software & analysis: Python, SQL, and MATLAB; statistical analysis and data visualisation.

Music: Trained in classical music; singer, keyboardist, drummer, and bassist; composed and released an album of original music on Bandcamp.

Writing: Writes long-form essays and reviews on books, film, and games on my personal website and Substack.