

Michelle Ng

Dept. of Communication, Stanford University
450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford, CA 94305
michelleng@stanford.edu

Education

- 2021 – **Stanford University**
PhD in Communication
MS in Environment and Resources
Advisor: Nilam Ram
- 2014 – 2018 **Harvard University**
BA in Visual and Environmental Studies
Minor in Computer Science
Study abroad: Politics of Food, Water & Energy (Vietnam, Morocco, Bolivia)

Awards & Honors

- 2024 Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society Research Grant
2024 Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences Research Grant
2024 Stanford Center for Affective Science Fellowship
2024 Stanford Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (E-IPER) Collaboration Grant
2023 Stanford Research, Action, and Impact through Strategic Engagement (RAISE) Doctoral Fellowship
2022 Climate Change AI Summer School
2022 Stanford Partnerships for Climate Justice in the Bay Fellowship
2022 Stanford Social Impact Labs PhD Fellowship
2021 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
2018 Planetary Health Undergraduate Scholars Program
2016 Harvard Foundation Award for Intercultural and Race Relations

Publications

Peer-reviewed publications

Ng, M., Gerstorf, D., Conroy, D. E., Pincus, A. L., & Ram, N. (2024). Affective Sensitivity to Air Pollution (ASAP): Person-specific associations between daily air pollution and affective states. *PLoS one*, 19(8), e0307430. [\[link\]](#)

Shi, L., Brandt, A. R., Iancu, D., Mach, K. J., Field, C., Cho, M. J., **Ng, M...** & Reeves, B. B. (2024). Climate impacts of digital use supply chains. *Environmental Research: Climate*. [\[link\]](#)

Torous, J., Lipschitz, J., **Ng, M.**, & Firth, J. (2020). Dropout rates in clinical trials of smartphone apps for depressive symptoms: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 263, 413-419. [[pdf](#)]

Ng, M., Firth, J., Minen, M., & Torous, J. (2019). User engagement in mental health apps: a review of measurement, reporting, and validity. *Psychiatric Services*, 70(7), 538-544. [[pdf](#)]

Mahyar, N., James, M. R., **Ng, M.**, Wu, R. A., & Dow, S. P. (2018). CommunityCrit: inviting the public to improve and evaluate urban design ideas through micro-activities. *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18)*. Montreal, Canada. April 2018. [[pdf](#)]

Conference presentations

Herbert, N., Cannedy, C., **Ng, M.**, Harrison, T., Jorns, J., Fu, O., Carmen Lemos, M., Wong-Parodi, G. (2023). Improving recruiting for impactful RCTs: outcomes from two studies in climate frontline communities. *American Geophysical Union (AGU) Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA. December 2023.

Ng, M., Gerstorf, D., Conroy, D., Pincus, A., & Ram, N. (2023). Affective sensitivity to air pollution (ASAP): person-specific associations between daily air pollution and affective states. *International Conference on Environmental Psychology*. Aarhus, Denmark. June 2023.

Ng, M., Chi, Y., Cho, M., Eichstaedt, J., Reeves, B., Robinson, T., & Ram, N. (2023). Characterizing “bottom-up” engagement with climate communication with mobile sensing. *73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*. Toronto, Canada. May 2023.

Ng, M., Chi, Y., Cho, M., Eichstaedt, J., Reeves, B., Robinson, T., & Ram, N. (2023). Leveraging mobile sensing to characterize person-specific engagement with climate communication. *Stanford Data Science for Sustainability Conference*. Stanford, CA. April 2023.

Crayton, A., Fonseca, J., Mehra, K., **Ng, M.**, Ross, J., Sandoval-Castaneda, M., & von Gnechten, R. (2020). Narratives and needs: analyzing experiences of Cyclone Amphan using Twitter discourse. *“Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning” Workshop at the 36th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. Virtual. December 2020. [[pdf](#)]

Poster presentations

Ng, M., Chi, Y., Ram, N., & Harari, G. (2023). Change in affect as individuals move through physical and digital environments of daily life. *Society for Affective Science’s 2023 Annual Meeting*. Long Beach, CA. March 2023.

Cho, M., Zelikman, E., Cerit, M., **Ng, M.**, Haber, N., Ram, N., Reeves, B., & Robinson, T. (2022). Screenomics 2.0: A computational assay for digital screens, processing intensive longitudinal records of everyday media use at scale. *National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee (NAIAC) field hearing*. Stanford, CA. October 2022.

Ng, M., Suhardiman, D., Langan, S., Merrey, D., & Karki, E. (2022). Contesting hydropower narratives in Nepal: disjunctures between academic literature and community perspectives. *72nd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*. Paris, France. May 2022.

Ng, M. & Ram, N. (2022). Affective sensitivity to air quality: person-specific correlations between air quality and affective states. *Society for Affective Science's 2022 Annual Meeting*. Virtual. March 2022.

Comments and reports

Pellitier, P.T., **Ng, M.**, Castaneda, S.R., Moser, S., & Wray, B. (2023). Embracing climate emotions to advance higher education. *Nature Climate Change*. [\[link\]](#)

Ng, M., de Haan, N., King, B., & Langan, S. (2021). Promoting inclusivity and equity in information and communications technology for food, land, and water systems. *CGIAR Platform for Big Data in Agriculture, Cali, Colombia*. [\[pdf\]](#)

Research Experience

- 2021 – **Research Assistant, The Change Lab, Stanford, CA**
Collect, clean, analyze, and visualize intensive longitudinal data (e.g., experience sampling, mobile sensing, digital traces) to examine the psychological and behavioral dynamics of personal climate adaptation.
- 2023 – **Research Assistant, Our Communities, Our Bay Project, Stanford, CA**
Perform participant outreach and manage survey data to support ongoing data collection. Participate in weekly meetings with Stanford researchers and community partner organizations.
- 2022 **Climate Justice Fellow, Climate Resilient Communities, East Palo Alto, CA**
Produced a community engagement guide for community-based climate adaptation, based on interviews with staff and participant observations of Climate Change Community Team meetings.
- 2018 – 2021 **Digital Innovations Analyst, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka**
Researched intersections between (1) digital technologies, (2) inclusion and equity, and (3) food, land, and water systems. Coordinated with partners from government ministries, international donors, UN agencies, local NGOs, and smallholder farmers and fisherpeople. Fieldwork in Ghana, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, and South Africa.
- 2018 – 2019 **Research Assistant, Digital Psychiatry Department, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA**
Researched user engagement of mobile mental health apps.

2017 – 2018 **Research Assistant, Harvard Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Cambridge, MA**

Contributed to policy papers about the ethics and governance of artificial intelligence.

2017 **Design Intern, UCSD Design Lab, San Diego, CA**

Conducted user research and designed, developed, piloted, and evaluated a crowd-based platform for participatory urban planning.

Talks

Mar. 2024 “Environmental Justice at Stanford,” The Duality of Environmental Justice, Stanford University

Nov. 2021 “Digital Inclusion to Enhance Climate Resilience” session, Water & Climate Pavilion, UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)

Oct. 2020 “Human-Centered Design and Gender” session, CGIAR Big Data Convention

Jun. 2020 “Gender and Digital Innovation,” International Water Management Institute’s Gender and Inclusion Strategy launch

Dec. 2019 Agritech 101, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Dec. 2019 “Digital Innovations for Addressing Water Challenges” session, International Water Association’s Water and Development Congress, Sri Lanka

Sept. 2019 Presentations to donors, African Green Revolution Forum, Ghana

Aug. 2019 “Voicing Water Visions: IWMI’s campaign for more inclusive water governance,” Stockholm World Water Week, Sweden

Sept. 2018 1st Annual Regional Learning Alliance Meeting, ReWater MENA project, Egypt

Teaching

Winter 2024 TA for Media Psychology (Professor Byron Reeves)

Winter 2023 TA for Environmental Governance (Dr. Sibyl Diver)

Multimedia

Winter 2024 “Environmental Justice at Stanford University,” Stanford Environmental Justice Working Group [\[link\]](#)

Spring 2019 “On Our Shoulders: Health Care in Madagascar’s Rainforests,” Planetary Health Alliance [\[link\]](#)

Service

- 2023 – Coordinating Council member, Stanford Environmental Justice Working Group
- 2022 – 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, Stanford Department of Communication
- 2021 – 2022 Transition Student Advisory Council, Stanford Doerr School for Sustainability