

RONGXIN CHENG

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Curriculum Vitae

POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Psychology, University of California, Riverside 2026 – Present

EDUCATION

- 2021 – 2025 **University of California, Davis**, Ph.D., Personality Psychology
Advisor: Richard W. Robins, Ph.D.
- 2019 – 2021 **New York University**, M.A., Psychology
Advisors: Gabriele Oettingen, Ph.D., Irmak Olcaysoy Okten, Ph.D.
- 2015 – 2019 **New York University Shanghai**, B.A., Psychology
Advisor: Lixian Cui, Ph.D.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Personality Development, Class Identity, Educational Outcomes, Motivation Systems, Social-Contextual Influences

PUBLICATIONS

- Cheng, R.**, Lawson, K. M., & Robins, R. W. (2024). Do temperament trajectories from late childhood to adolescence predict success and failure in school? Findings from a longitudinal study of Mexican-origin youth. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
- Saqr, M., **Cheng, R.**, López Pernas, S., Beck, E. D. (2024). Individualized precision artificial intelligence to predict and explain learners' behaviour. *Learning and Individual Differences*.
- Shi, B., **Cheng, R.**, & Robins, R. W. (2024). Investigating the trajectory of Mexican-origin youth's materialistic values across adolescence and prospective associations with life satisfaction in early adulthood: The role of familism, demographic factors, and parent characteristics. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
- Lawson, K. M., Bleidorn, W., Hopwood, C. J., **Cheng, R.**, & Robins, R. W. (2023). Trajectories of temperament from late childhood through adolescence and associations with anxiety and depression in young adulthood. *European Journal of Personality*.

UNDER REVIEW

- Cheng, R.**, & Robins, R. W. (R&R at Developmental Psychology). Do psychiatric problems from late childhood through adolescence predict poor achievement in school over and above temperament? Findings from a longitudinal study of Mexican-origin youth.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Cheng, R., Trzesniewski, K. H., & Robins, R. W. (in prep). Developmental antecedents of growth mindset in late adolescence: Findings from a longitudinal study of Mexican-origin youth.

Cheng, R., & Robins, R. W. (in prep). Prospective effect of personality traits on school outcomes: Incremental validity of traits between Big Five domains and temperament traits.

Cheng, R., & Robins, R. W. (in prep). Intrapersonal, interpersonal, and person-contextual processes linking personality traits to school outcomes: A Theoretical Model

Cheng, R., & Robins, R. W. (in prep). Intrapersonal and interpersonal mediators of the associations between personality traits and school outcomes.

Cheng, R., & Robins, R. W. (in prep). Family, school, neighborhood, and cultural moderators of the associations between personality traits and school outcomes.

Cheng, R., Zhao, Y., Ladd-Thomas, D., Trzesniewski, K. H. (in prep). A transition of motivation profile before and after a social and emotional learning intervention: Evidence from a large randomized-controlled trial of Indonesian youth.

Cheng, R., Zhou, R., Robins, R. W. (in prep). Predicting early adulthood life outcomes with high school achievement: A conceptual replication and extension of Starr et al. (2024).

Cheng, R., Haghghat, M. D., Molina, D. C., Trzesniewski, K. H., Ferrer, E., Robins, R. W. (in prep). Precursors of the development of growth mindset in early adulthood: Findings from a longitudinal study of Mexican-origin youth.

Atherton, O. E. *, **Cheng, R.***, Whang, P. H., Robins, R. W. (in prep). How do the Big Five and well-being develop across the lifespan? Stability, change, co-development, and cohort differences in an 18-year longitudinal study of Mexican-origin youth and adults.

Meza, E., **Cheng, R.**, Eastwick, P., Robins, R. W., (in prep). Codevelopment of caballerismo and traditional gender role ideology in romantic relationships.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dean's Summer Graduate Support Award, University of California Davis	May. 2025
Duke Travel Awards, University of California Davis	Dec. 2024, 2025
2025 SPSP Graduate Registration Stipend, Society for Personality and Social Psychology	Oct. 2024
NYU GSAS Graduate Student Research Award	Jan.2021
GSAS Dean's Conference Awards, New York University	Nov.2020
Dean's Service Scholarship, New York University Shanghai	Apr.2016

PRESENTATIONS

- Cheng, R.** & Robins, R.W. (Nov 2025). *Do Temperament Trajectories from Late Childhood through Adolescence Predict School Outcomes over and above Psychiatric Symptoms? Findings from a 14-Year Longitudinal Study of Mexican-Origin Youth*. In L.J. Lengua (Chair), "Temperament in Health, Adjustment, and Psychopathology". Paper to be presented at the 25th Occasional Temperament Conference, College Station, TX.
- Cheng, R.**, Atherton, O.E., Whang, P.H., & Robins, R.W. (Nov 2025). *How Do the Big Five Domains Develop Across the Lifespan? Stability, Change, and Cohort Differences in an 18-Year Longitudinal Study of Mexican-Origin Youth and Their Parents*. In K.M. Lawson (Chair), "Temperament and Personality across the Lifespan". Paper to be presented at the 25th Occasional Temperament Conference, College Station, TX.
- Cheng, R.** & Robins, R.W. (Jun 2025). *Personality Traits and School Success: Unveiling Mechanisms and Contextual Moderators from a 17-Year Longitudinal Study of Mexican-Origin Youth*. In **R. Cheng** (Chair), "Personality in Academic Settings: Developmental Processes around the Globe". Paper presented at Association for Research in Personality Biennial Conference, Evanston, IL.
- Cheng, R.** & Robins, R.W. (Feb 2025). *Linking Personality Traits to School Outcomes: Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Processes: Findings from an 18-Year Longitudinal Study of Mexican-Origin Youth*. In **R. Cheng** (Chair), "Understanding Wellbeing and Development in Context: Adoption, Achievement, Autonomy, & Authenticity". Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conference, Denver, CO.
- Cheng, R.** & Robins, R.W. (Feb 2024). *Do Psychiatric Problem from Late Childhood through Adolescence Predict Educational Outcomes over and above the Effects of Temperament? Findings from a Longitudinal Study of Mexican-Origin Youth*. Paper presented in the Data Blitz at the Personality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

SKILLS

Programming Skills:

- SPSS, Qualtrics, RStudio, Mplus

Analytic Skills:

- Structural Equation Modeling (e.g., growth curve models, factor analysis, latent transition analysis)
- Multilevel Modeling (e.g., growth curve models, age-period-cohort models)
- Machine Learning