

Yixuan Wang, MSW (she/her)

PhD Candidate in Social Work | Colorado State University | Expected Graduation May 2027

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ACADEMIC PROFILE AND SELECTED RECORD

I am a social work scholar examining meaning making and psychosocial adaptation across serious illness trajectories and the life course, with particular expertise in pediatric and adolescent and young adult psychosocial oncology and culturally responsive palliative and end-of-life care. My research centers the experiential knowledge of young people and others affected by serious illness. I use participatory, arts-based, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches to advance developmental and epistemic justice and inform developmentally responsive assessment and intervention in oncology care.

Scholarly highlights include six published peer-reviewed articles and two manuscripts under review, including four as first author; 15 peer-reviewed conference presentations; and experience as instructor of record for three social work courses and co-instructor for a fourth across in-person and online formats.

EDUCATION

05/2027	Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work, Colorado State University
06/2020	Master of Social Work, Renmin University of China (CSWE-equivalent MSW)
06/2018	Bachelor of Laws in Social Work, Nanchang University

AREAS OF INTEREST

Research Interests: Pediatric and AYA psychosocial oncology, survivorship, and supportive care; meaning making, coping, communication, and psychosocial adjustment; youth-centered, participatory, and arts-based health research; and developmentally and culturally responsive oncology and palliative care.

Teaching Interests: Research methods and program evaluation; human behavior and life-course development; health, oncology, palliative, and end-of-life social work; and grief, bereavement, health policy, and ethics.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Wang, Y.**, Jin, C., Currin-McCulloch, J., MacPhee, D., Rosenberg, A. R., Yang, Y., Su, Z., Liu, P., Wang, J., & Pryor, S. (2026). Not too young to understand: Meaning making from the perspectives of school-aged children with cancer—A scoping review. *Psycho-Oncology*, 35(9). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pon.70592>
- Wang, Y.**, Currin-McCulloch, J., Gallo, N., & Mooney, K. (2025). “The body has a way of dying:” An embodied understanding of the pursuit of medical aid in dying among terminally ill individuals. *Death Studies*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2025.2603961>
- Wang, Y.**, Kebaya, O. E., Arnett, M., Currin-McCulloch, J., & Jones, T. (under review). Supporting social work students’ mental health in the classroom: Universal design and disability justice. *Journal of Social Work Education*.
- Wang, Y.**, Zeng, X., Yang, V., & Currin-McCulloch, J. (under review). The prospect of assisted dying policy in Mainland China: Implications for culturally responsive end-of-life care. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*.

SELECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Meaning Making in Adolescents and Young Adults With Cancer: Principal investigator of a participatory grounded theory dissertation using interviews and optional photovoice to develop an adolescent and young adult centered theory of meaning making.

Through the Lens: Life Beyond Young Adult Cancer: Contributed to a Cambia Health Foundation funded photovoice intervention, including youth advisory engagement, fidelity and program evaluation, national exhibitions, and community dissemination.

Lived Experiences of Medical Aid in Dying: Analyzes qualitative data on terminally ill individuals and care partners, with publications on embodied experiences, decision making, culturally responsive care, and end-of-life rituals.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Wang, Y. (2026). *Listening to resilience: Meaning making in young people with cancer (aged 6-18)*, Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA. (accepted)

Wang, Y., & Jin, C. (2026). *Not too young to understand: A scoping review of meaning making about illness in children and adolescents with cancer*, Paper presentation at the Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers (APOSW) Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

Wang, Y., & Currin-McCulloch, J. (2026). *At the edge of goodbye: Care partner decision-making and distress in the context of medical aid in dying (MAID)*, Symposium presentation at the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS) Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

FUNDING AND ADVANCED TRAINING

2026 **Principal Investigator**, American Psychological Foundation Visionary Grant proposal, \$19,550 requested, under review

2026 **Principal Investigator**, APOS and Mattie Miracle Foundation Early Career Psychosocial Oncology Research Grant proposal, in preparation

2025 **Selected Participant**, Research Methods in Supportive Oncology Program, Harvard Medical School

TEACHING PROFILE

Instructor of Record for Program Evaluation in Social Work (in person) and two sections of Social Work Research Methods (online asynchronous); Co-Instructor for Identity, Power, and Social Justice (in person).

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

2026 – Present Research Chair, Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers

2026 – Present Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*

2025 – Present Reviewer, *Psycho-Oncology*; *Social Work in Mental Health*; *Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology*

SELECTED AWARDS

James and Katherine Pappas Scholarship for PhD Students in Social Work, Colorado State University

Kim Lawson Conference Scholarship, Association of Oncology Social Work

49th Annual Conference Scholarship, Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers

Vicky Buchan Scholarship for Ph.D. Students in Social Work, Colorado State University

Outstanding Graduate, School of Social Research, Renmin University of China