

RANRAN LI

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law
Günterstalstraße 73, 79100 Freiburg im Breisgau

Website: ranranli.net; Email: r.li@csl.mpg.de

[Website](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [ORCID](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

ACADEMIC POSITION

2025 – Postdoc researcher (Humboldt Postdoc Fellow from 2026)
Dept. Criminology
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law, Germany

EDUCATION

2020 – 2025 PhD in Personality Psychology
Dissertation: Unlocking Personality: How situational strength and situational affordances shape behavioral expression. <https://doi.org/10.5463/thesis.1256>
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

2024–25 PhD research visit, *Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law*

2018 –2020 Research Master's in Psychology (with merit)
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

2016–17 Global Exchange, *University of Münster, Germany*

2014 – 2018 BSc in Psychology (distinction)
Soochow University, Taiwan

RESEARCH STATEMENT

With the belief that '*Serious inquiry into human nature is not a luxury*,' I study how personality traits and situational factors jointly shape human behavior—spanning socially constructive behaviors (e.g., prosociality) and behaviors that are harmful to oneself or others (e.g., dishonesty, delinquency). I am currently applying this **person–situation interaction perspective** to the study of delinquency and bystander intervention.

Grounded in rigorous empirical methods, I am equally drawn to theoretical integration—delineating micro-level psychological processes and linking them to broader macro-structures.

While psychology remains my '*Forever Moonlight*,' I have interdisciplinary interests and pursuits. At present, I am actively bridging psychology with criminology, behavioral economics, and sociocultural perspectives. I am additionally interested in philosophy of science (meta-science)

and computational social science.

Support good science – open, rigorous, and trustworthy science – always on the way.

PUBLICATIONS

- Li, R.,** De Vries, R. E., Van Gelder, J.-L. (forthcoming). Entangled pathways to delinquency: An integrative process model of personality, situations, and macro-structures. *Zeitschrift für Psychologie*.
{conceptual/theoretical}
- Li, R.,** Thielmann, I., Balliet, D., & de Vries, R. E. (2025). Trait activation in daily life: Comparing two perspectives on person-situation interactions. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 104689.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrp.2025.104689>
{HEXACO-behavior}
{empirical: diary study}
- Li, R.,** Balliet, D., Thielmann, I., & De Vries, R. E. (2024). Revisiting situational strength: Do strong situations restrict variance in behaviors? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000475>
{cooperation}
{empirical: economic games; meta-analysis}
- Li, R.,** Thielmann, I., Balliet, D., & De Vries, R. E. (2023). Development of the Generic Situational Strength (GSS) scale: Measuring situational strength across contexts. In L. R. Ford & T. A. Scandura (Eds.), *The SAGE Handbook of Survey Development and Application*.
<https://doi.org/10.4135/9781529617757.n35>
{empirical: scale development}
- Li, R.,** Zettler, I. (2025). Entangled Minds: A roadmap for bridging cultural and personality psychology research. *Personality Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/27000710251388772>
{conceptual}
- Li, R.,** & Wilt, J. A. (2025). Situated selves: A cyclical model of personality expression in context. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 102104. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2025.102104>
{conceptual}
- Van Gelder, J.-L., **Li, R.,** Wiechert, S., & Frankenhuys, W. E. (2025). Short-term mindsets: Beyond traits and self-regulation. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 102112.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2025.102112>
{conceptual}
- Li, R.** Revisiting person-situation interactionism. *Nat Rev Psychol* (2022).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44159-022-00139-8>.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREP

- Li, R.,** Thielmann, I., Balliet, D., & De Vries, R. (R&R submitted). When dishonesty pays off: Incentives foster trait activation of Honesty-Humility.
{dishonesty}
{empirical: experimental cheating games}

Ye, Z., Long, F., Feng, R., Van Dijk, W., **Li, R.** (R&R submitted). People feel but don't tell:
Dispositional honesty and emotional responses to others' (mis)fortunes.

{moral emotions}

{empirical: vignette experiment; diary; interactive study}

Li, R., Knabe, M., Derakhshan, S., Arui, A.-K., & Van Gelder, J.-L. Beyond immersion and presence:
Rethinking validity in Virtual Reality criminology. *Manuscript in prep.*

{conceptual}

Li, R., De Vries, R. E., Barnum, T., Herman, S., Tisdall, L., Van Gelder, J.-L. A trait–state model of
reactive guardianship: Psychological pathways to bystander intervention. *Manuscript in prep.*

{bystander intervention}

{empirical: Virtual Reality experiment}

Li, R. (submitted). The Soul of Science: On integrity in an age of pragmatic academia.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Slides/posters available at osf.io/a83tv

Symposium Organizer: International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS), Brussels, Mar 2023: “Trait and situation activation in daily life and organizational settings”

Session Moderator: Academy of Management (AOM), Boston, Aug 2023: “Methodological Advances in OB Research”

Other presentations (selected):

Personality Psychology	European Conference of Personality (ECP); Association for Research in Personality (ARP) conference; Differentielle Psychologie (DPPD) conference; Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI) Conference;	Edinburgh, Aug 2026; Berlin, Aug 2024; Madrid, Aug 2022; Evanston, July 2023; Kassel, Sept 2025; Utrecht, April 2024;
Criminology	European Society of Criminology (ESC) conference; American Society of Criminology (ASC) conference;	Warsaw, Sept 2026 Washington DC, Nov 2025
Behavioral Economics/ Interdisciplinary	International Conference on Social Dilemmas (ICSD); Cognition, Behavior, & Evolution Network (CBEN) conference; Matterhorn Symposium;	Leiden, July 2024; Maastricht, Oct 2024; Leiden, April 2026; Brig, Switzerland, Sept 2025;
Management	Academy of Management (AOM) conference; Working community of Dutch Work & Organizational Psychology (WAOP),	Boston 2023; Tilburg, Nov 2022; Groningen, Nov 2023
Others: VR, Tech	Machine+Behavior conference; XR meeting; VIRTUES VR meeting;	Berlin, April 2026; Würzburg, Oct 2025; Hagen, Sept 2025;

GRANTS, AWARDS**Grants/Fellowship**

- 2026 Humboldt Postdoc Fellowship: two-year
- 2025 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding PhDs: \$6,000
- 2024 DAAD (German Grant Council) Research Grant: Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees, €1,300*7 months
- 2024 iBBA Online Experiment Grant €2,500, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- 2021 Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI) SeedCorn Research Grant €3,000

Awards

- 2024 Best Student Presentation Award, International Conference on Social Dilemmas (ICSD), Leiden, Netherlands
- 2024 Runner-up for the Best Paper Award, Kurt Lewin Institute, Netherlands
- 2022 Best Paper Award, Working community of Dutch Work & Organizational Psychology (WAOP) conference, Tilburg, Netherlands

Scholarship

- 2024 Travel Grant European Conference of Personality (ECP)
- 2023 Academy of Management (AOM) conference registration scholarship
- 2017 DAAD (German Grant Institute) - STIBET fellowship
- 2014 - 2018 Soochow University Scholarship for students with outstanding academic performance (*7 times); Franklin Scholarships for Dual Degree of Soochow University (*3 times). Sum up to NT\$ 400,000 ($\approx 12,680\text{€}$)

REVIEWING

- Personality and Social Psychology Review: Emerging Editorial Board (2023–2025; 4);
European Journal of Personality (4);
Collabra: Psychology (1);
Health Psychology (1);
Zeitschrift für Psychologie (1);
Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology (1);
SAGE Handbook of Survey Development and Application (1).

TEACHING

