

Health and Honesty in Hangzhou

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Introduction

- China's population has increasingly **diversified**; in Guangzhou, the **African population** has grown **30-40%** annually
- Cited barriers to health care include **expense**, legal concerns, **language**, and **cultural differences**
- Interested in barriers to healthcare foreigners in **Zhejiang province** endure

Objective of Internship

This internship provided the opportunity to not only investigate how foreigners navigate potential difficulties of the **Chinese healthcare system**, but also to assist other fellow ZJU researchers in recruiting study participants and editing their papers.

Work Profile

- **Interviewed** & handed out **questionnaires** to local **Hangzhou** and **Yiwu** foreigners on health experiences
- Edited fellow researchers' papers and learned about the **Markov model** for disease analysis
- **Recruited participants** for a wallet civic honesty study conducted in China

Reflection



Figure 1. This summer's Princeton interns alongside our ZJU coordinator and Professor Zhu.

Chinese Wallet Study

A recent German study [Cohn et al., 2019] suggested that the likelihood of **Chinese people returning lost wallets** is low, compared to people of other nationalities. We helped a behavioral psychologist recruit participants for a study hoping to refute these results. The German study had participants who found lost wallets contact the original owners via email. Our colleague argued that Chinese people **rarely use email**, depending on phone calls and **WeChat** as their primary **modes of communication**. She aimed to re-create the experiment, inserting a phone number into the "lost" wallet, instead of an email address.

Esophageal Cancer Screening Research

We helped a PhD candidate with preparing a paper for publication. Her research utilized **Markov state analysis software** to simulate the **progression of esophageal cancer** and assessed the **cost-effectiveness and cost-utility** of screenings for the disease, as well as follow-up screenings. Her research indicated **notable benefits in pairing screening with follow-up** appointments.

The Health of Foreigners

Surveying the existing anthropological and public health research on this foreigner population in the southern megacity of Guangzhou aided us in designing a **focus group framework**. Our interviews were geared towards foreigners in a small city called **Yiwu**, located right outside of Hangzhou. Yiwu is a trade hub, attracting thriving **expat communities** from various parts of **Africa and the Middle East**.



Figure 2. In our trip to Yiwu, we strolled around a popular hub for local businesses and restaurants owned by foreigner communities. It was intriguing to see the mixing of Chinese and other foreigner cultures, even down to cuisine.

Looking Ahead

- **Alison:** Piqued my interest in further investigating Chinese-foreigner relations and tensions in China.
- **Jasmine:** Inspired me to learn more about disease modeling and would like to be involved in more "math-y" corners of EEB.

Questions to Consider

- 1) Did switching from email to phone numbers as the main contact method in the wallet study impact the original results?
- 2) We are still awaiting responses to our foreigners' health survey.

Conclusion

The Center for Health Policy Studies at Zhejiang University allowed us to see various stages of public health research, including devising focus group questions, surveying a location of interest, recruiting participants, and preparing a paper for publication.

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