

Zhenyi Tsai

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EDUCATION

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Arts: Geography and Environmental Science (Double Major)

Vancouver, B.C.

2022 – 2026

University of Toronto

Bachelor of Arts and Science: Political Science and Environmental Studies

Toronto, Ontario

2020 – 2022

SKILLS

Operational Skills: ArcGIS, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, Digital Marketing, Logistics Management, Database Analysis, Risk Assessment, Electrofishing, Soil and Sediment Control, Carbon Accounting

Certified Training: Emergency Medical Responder, Red Cross First Aid, Mandarin Proficiency

RESEARCH WORK EXPERIENCE

Agroecology & Permaculture Coordinator

Qilian County Government Agricultural Department

Qinghai, China

March 2025 – November 2025

Coordinated an agroecological permaculture project supporting five Tibetan families transitioning from nomadic pastoralism to settled agriculture, managing five plots across three growing cycles (spring, summer, and fall).

- Coordinated an agroecological permaculture initiative in Qilian, Qinghai, supporting five Tibetan families through their transition from nomadic pastoralism to settled agriculture across five sectors and three growing cycles.
- Designed and managed regenerative soil systems, composting, agroforestry, and intercropping, converting lean, marginal highland soil into fertile loam structured to sustain germination and yield across future seasons.
- Implemented precision and drip irrigation with advanced monitoring to optimize water use in a water-scarce environment, and partitioned yak grazing sectors to integrate livestock and cropland without degrading either.
- Partnered with local government to secure new irrigation infrastructure and establish the region's first biogas digester, capturing methane from organic waste as a renewable household fuel source.

Field Research Assistant

Tsinghua University Inst. of Climate Change & Sustainable Development

Shannan Prefecture, T.A.R. China

April 2024 – Sept. 2024

- *Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Monitoring:* Conducted fieldwork in collaboration with Tsinghua University's Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development and local NGOs to survey glacial lakes in the Tibetan Plateau, assessing the risks of outburst flooding and documenting potential impacts on ecosystems and communities.
- *River Basin Climate Impact Analysis:* Examined the climate-driven shifts in major river systems originating from the Tibetan Plateau, analyzing changes in water flow and sediment transport that affect biodiversity, agriculture, and water security across Asia.
- *Indigenous and Local Knowledge Integration:* Worked with Tibetan communities to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into climate impact studies, ensuring that local perspectives and concerns inform risk management and adaptation strategies.

ASSORTED WORK EXPERIENCE

First Aid Instructor

Canadian Red Cross | Pacific First Aid

Vancouver, B.C.

May 2024 – Present

- Instruct and assess Canadian Red Cross courses in Standard First Aid, Emergency First Aid, CPR/AED (Levels A, C, and HCP), and Wilderness First Response, delivering hands-on training in airway management, wound care, fracture stabilization, and remote/austere emergency care.
- Evaluate participant competency against national certification standards, ensuring every candidate meets the practical and theoretical requirements for Red Cross certification.
- Maintain current command of emergency-care protocols aligned with the Red Cross Emergency Care for Professional Responders curriculum, integrating up-to-date best practices — including wilderness-specific risk assessment and improvised care techniques — into course delivery.

Climate Wellbeing Coordinator

UBC Sustainability Hub

Vancouver, B.C.

September 2025 – May 2026

- Co-developed a curriculum toolkit that translated climate wellbeing research into classroom-ready strategies, enabling professors and educators to embed wellbeing considerations directly into course content.
- Researched pedagogical approaches to climate emotions and wellbeing, synthesizing findings into practical guidance for instructors across disciplines.
- Compiled discipline-specific examples demonstrating how climate change and wellbeing content could be integrated into existing course material without requiring curriculum overhaul.
- Wrote facilitation guidance for instructors on managing difficult classroom conversations about climate change, including strategies for responding to student distress.

Teaching Assistant

UBC Geography Department

Vancouver, B.C.

May 2023 – May 2024

- Designed and delivered course units on carbon accounting, sustainable life-cycle analysis, and climate risk management, translating technical frameworks into accessible material for undergraduates.
- Developed tutorial curriculum and teaching materials for GEOG 302: Climate Justice, integrating current research and active-learning methods to deepen student engagement with climate justice.
- Led lectures on climate science, policy, and history through a decolonial and equity lens, fostering critical thinking and inclusive discussion.
- Organized student well-being activities and career-development workshops, connecting students to resources and guidance in climate-related fields.

ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Sustainability Consultant

Climate Justice UBC

Vancouver, B.C.

September 2022 – September 2025

- Using Microsoft Access and ArcGIS, a comprehensive and integrated database that incorporates both traditional data and spatial data for effective tracking, analysis, and reporting of sustainability initiatives.
- Used Excel to monitor the organization's environmental performance, including greenhouse gas emissions, waste generation, and resource consumption.
- Spearheaded the creation of an interdisciplinary document highlighting student demands concerning program modifications to integrate a climate-conscious curriculum relevant to our fields and generation.
- Engaged wider community outreach and collaboration with Sue Big Oil, Social Justice Centre, and municipal government by means of seminars and workshops on climate literacy and sustainable practices.

Student Sustainability Council

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, B.C.

October 2022 – April 2025

- Initiated sustainable practices and environmental stewardship on campus, while advancing UBC's broader mission of education and research through open discussion with deans, professors, and staff.
- Created a climate action coalition with other campus groups and departments to integrate a sustainability guide into campus operations, research, the student body, and sustainable club practices.
- Pursued opportunities to influence University policy and drive systemic change toward a more sustainable and just future through organizing divestment campaigns, campus protests, workshops, and lobbying.