

# XIANGKUN (ELVIS) CAO

325 Upson Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853

Phone: (607) 262 - 6443 · Email: xc295@cornell.edu

<http://www.elviscao.com/>

## EDUCATION

---

**Cornell University** Aug. 2016 - Present  
**Ph.D. Student** in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (current GPA: 3.98) *Ithaca, NY, USA*  
Minor: Energy and Sustainability; Infection and Immunity; Entrepreneurship  
Thesis Committee: David Erickson (chair), Tobias Hanrath, Saurabh Mehta  
Research Interests: HI-Light for CO<sub>2</sub> Conversion (thesis), FeverPhone for Fever Diagnosis

**Nanyang Technological University & Tokyo Institute of Technology** Sept. 2017  
**Visiting Ph.D. Student** in School of Biological Sciences *Singapore*  
**Visiting Ph.D. Student** in Education Academy of Computational Sciences *Tokyo, Japan*  
Fully Funded International Summer School: Big Data Analysis for Health and Biomedical Sciences

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology** Sept. 2015 - May 2016  
**Visiting Master's Student** in Nuclear Science and Engineering *Cambridge, MA, USA*  
Advisors: Mujid S. Kazimi (inviter), Michael P. Short, Matteo Bucci, Thomas J. McKrell  
Research Interests: Accident Tolerant Fuel Cladding

**McGill University** Aug. 2014 - May 2016  
**M.Eng. (Thesis)** in Mining and Materials Engineering (GPA: 3.86) *Montréal, Québec, Canada*  
Thesis Committee: Roderick I.L. Guthrie (chair), Mihaiela Isac, Jun Song, George P. Demopoulos  
Research Interests: Tundish Metallurgy; Water Modeling; Aqueous Particle Sensors; Microbubbles

**Xi'an Jiaotong University** Sept. 2009 - June 2013  
**B.Eng.** in New Energy, **B.A.** in English Literature *Xi'an, China*  
'Tsien Hsue-shen' Elite Class (Top 1%, Named after Father of Chinese Rocketry)

## MAJOR AWARDS AT CORNELL

---

- AACYP Top 30 Under 30 in Science, All America Chinese Youth Federation 2019
- EarthX 30 Under 30, American Conservation Coalition & National Audubon Society 2019
- National Finalist, Lemelson-MIT Student Prize, The Lemelson Foundation 2019
- **Forbes 30 Under 30 in Energy - Class of 2019**, Forbes Magazine 2018
- **First Place Award**, 2018 TCAM Poster/Pitch Competition, Atkinson Center 2018
- Local Pathways Fellowship (LPF), UN SDSN – Youth Initiative (SDSN Youth) 2018
- National Finalist, Young Champions of the Earth in China, UN Environment 2018
- Third Place Award, "Our Microbes, Our Global Health" Symposium Poster Contest 2018
- National Third Place Prize Winner, "Science in a minute" Video Contest, AAAS 2018
- Awardee, the inaugural \$20K "**Scale-Up and Prototyping**" Award, Cornell University 2017
- **\$20K Grand Prize (1/1,150)**, "Create the Future" Design Contest, NASA Tech Briefs 2017
- Best Poster Award, ACLS International Summer School, Tokyo Tech & NTU 2017
- First Place in Student Research Presentation, 9th Annual NYS Biotech Symposium 2017
- National Graduate Division Winner, Sigma Xi Student Research Showcase, Sigma Xi 2017
- Excellence in Research, Journey through Science, the New York Academy of Sciences 2017
- People's Choice Award, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, Cornell University 2017

## EMPLOYMENT

---

- Graduate Research Assistant**, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA Dec. 2016 - Present  
Integrated Micro & Nano Fluidic Systems Laboratory (Erickson Lab)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA Aug. 2017 - Dec. 2017  
MAE 2210: Thermodynamics (Instructor: Elizabeth M. Fisher)
- Visiting Graduate Research Assistant**, MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA Sept. 2015 - May 2016  
Mesoscale Nuclear Materials Laboratory (Short Lab)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant**, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada Feb. 2015 - May 2015  
MIME 455: Advanced Process Engineering (Instructor: Frank Mucciardi)
- Graduate Research Assistant**, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada Aug. 2014 - Sept. 2015  
McGill Metals Processing Centre (Guthrie Lab)
- Research Assistant**, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China Sept. 2012 - June 2014  
Ministry of Education Key Laboratory of Thermal Fluid Science and Engineering (Yaling He's Lab)
- Industrial Trainee**, Guodian United Power Technology Co., Ltd, Hebei, China July 2012 - Aug. 2012  
Wind Turbine Manufacturing Division (Baoding Branch)
- Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China Sept. 2011 - June 2012  
State Key Laboratory of Multiphase Flow in Power Engineering (Bofeng Bai's Lab)

## EXPERIENCE

---

- HI-Light: A Solar Thermal Reactor for CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction** Dec. 2016 - Present  
*Thesis Research* (joint work with Y. Kaminer, J. Silva, Cornell) *Ithaca, NY*
- Constructed chemical reactors of 0.1L and 1L, for solar thermal conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> to fuels.
  - Landed on **Forbes 30 Under 30 in Energy - Class of 2019**, for the work on HI-Light.
  - Received **\$20K International Grand Prize** from NASA Tech Briefs "Create the Future" Design Contest, and **\$20K "Scale-up and Prototyping Award"** from Cornell Engineering.
  - Presented research at the **SPIE'18** conference; abstracts accepted to the **ACS'19** conference.
  - The commercial partner in the HI-Light effort, Dimensional Energy, advanced into the final of the **\$20M NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE (10 in the world)**.
- FeverPhone for Acute Febrile Illness Diagnosis using a Mobile Device** Dec. 2016 - Present  
*Project Lead* (joint work with J. Kim, Cornell) *Ithaca, NY*
- Developed a latex bead nanoparticle-based two-color Malaria-Typhoid dual detection LFIA.
  - Conducted extensive clinical sample testing for the validation study.
  - Presented research at the **SPIE'18** conference. Received **First Place Award** at **TCAM'18** by Atkinson Center, **Best Poster Award twice**, etc. Wrote two papers as the first/co-first author.
- Point of Care Inflammation Assessment with a Mobile Device** Dec. 2016 - Present  
*Project Lead* (joint work with Y. Serge, Cornell) *Ithaca, NY*
- Developed a Europium nanoparticle-based LFIA for co-detection of C-Reactive Protein (CRP) and Procalcitonin (PCT) antigens in human serum.
  - Performed validation study and demonstrated good correspondence with gold standard approaches.

- Multi-metallic Layered Composite Accident Tolerant Fuel Cladding** Sept. 2015 - May 2016  
*Research Assistant* (joint work with S. McAlpine, MIT) *Cambridge, MA, USA*
- Performed thermochemical analysis to identify promising metal candidates for the multi-metallic layered structure with FactSage.
  - Contributed to the building of the oxidation experimental set-up.
- A Particle Sensor for Optimizing Inclusion Removal by Bubbles** Aug. 2014 - Sept. 2015  
*Thesis Research* (joint work with S. Chang, McGill) *Montréal, Québec, Canada*
- Designed an aqueous particle sensor system for in-situ and on-line measurement for microbubble.
  - Optimized gas bubbling from ladle shroud for inclusion removal in water modeling tundish.
  - Published **four refereed journal papers** including ISIJ Int., METALL MATER TRANS B.
- A Swirl Generator in High Water-cut Crude Oil Cold Transmission** Sept. 2011 - June 2012  
*Undergrad Research Assistant* (joint work with C. Wang, et al., Xi'an Jiaotong University) *Xi'an, China*
- Optimized the swirl generator structure, and tested the water-oil separation effect experimentally.
  - Project received **Outstanding Award (Top 4/2049)** in the National University Student Social Practice and Science Contest on Energy Saving & Emission Reduction, by Ministry of Education of China.

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

---

1. Wang R., Serge Y., Lu Z., Tablante E., Colt S., **Cao X.**, Ren Y., Cárdenas W., Mehta S., Erickson D., "A Rapid Diagnostic Platform for Colorimetric Differential Detection of Dengue and Chikungunya Viral Infections." *Analytical Chemistry*, Accepted (2019)
2. Zhou Z., Liu X., Xu J., **Cao X.**, Zhu X., "Elemental Mercury Removal over a Novel Starch-Modified MnOx/Bentonite Composite." *Fuel Processing Technology* 187, 16-20 (2019)
3. Liu X.\*, **Cao X.\***, Liu Y., Li X., Wang M., Li M., "Branched Multiphase TiO<sub>2</sub> with Enhanced Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting Activity." *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* 43 (46), 21365-21373 (2018) \* indicates equal contribution.
4. Zhou Z., Liu X., Hu Y., Xu J., **Cao X.**, Liao Z., Xu M., "Investigation on Synergistic Oxidation Behavior of NO and H<sub>2</sub>O during the Newly Designed Fast SCR Process." *Fuel* 225, 134-139 (2018)
5. Chang S., **Cao X.**, Zou Z., "Regimes of Micro-bubble Formation Using Gas Injection into Ladle Shroud." *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions B* 49 (3), 953-957 (2018)
6. Chang S., **Cao X.**, Zou Z., Isac M., Guthrie R., "Micro-bubble Formation under Non-wetting Conditions in a Full-scale Water Model of a Ladle Shroud/Tundish System." *ISIJ International* 58 (1), 60-67 (2018)
7. Chang S., **Cao X.**, Hsin C., Zou Z., Isac M, Guthrie R., "Removal of Inclusions using Micro-bubble Swarms in a Four-strand, Full-scale, Water Model Tundish." *ISIJ International* 56 (7), 1188-1197 (2016)
8. Chang S., **Cao X.**, Zou Z., Isac M, Guthrie R., "Micro-Bubble Swarms in a Full Scale Water Model Tundish." *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions B* 47 (5), 2732-2743 (2016)

## PAPERS IN PREPARATION/UNDER REVIEW

---

1. Kim J.\*, **Cao X.\***, Mehta S., Erickson D., "Quantitative Two-Color Multiplexed Lateral Flow Immunoassay for Detecting Malaria." In Preparation (2019) \* indicates equal contribution.

2. Serge Y.\*, **Cao X.\***, Wang R., Lu Z., Ren Y., Mehta S., Erickson D., "A Lateral Flow Immunochromatographic Assay for Point-Of-Care Detection of C-Reactive Protein (CRP) and Procalcitonin (PCT) Antigens in Human Serum." In Preparation (2019) \* indicates equal contribution.
3. **Cao X.**, Kim J., Lu Z., Wang R., Mehta S., Erickson D., "Two-Color Multiplexed Lateral Flow Immunoassay for Point-of-Care Differential Detection of Malaria and Typhoid." In Preparation (2019)
4. Lu Z., **Cao X.**, Mehta S., Erickson D., "Global Distributed Blockchain System for Rapid Aflatoxicosis Diagnosis." In Preparation (2019)
5. **Cao X.**, Kaminer Y., Silva J., Hanrath T., Erickson D., "HI-Light: A Scalable Photothermal Chemical Reactor Platform for CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction." In Preparation (2019)

## JOURNAL REVIEWED

---

- *Energy Conversion and Management* (2019-Present)
- *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* (2019-Present)
- *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions B* (2018-Present)

## TALKS & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

---

1. "HI-Light: A Solar Thermal Chemical Reactor for CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction", Oral & Poster Presentation at the Spring 2019 ACS National Meeting (ACS'19), Apr. 2019, Orlando, FL, USA.
2. "Overview and Outlook on CO<sub>2</sub> Photothermal Conversion by Light Alkanes", Oral Presentation at the Spring 2019 ACS National Meeting (ACS'19), Apr. 2019, Orlando, FL, USA.
3. "Converting Carbon Dioxide to Solar Fuels: Opportunities and Challenges", Oral Presentation at the TTI/Vanguard Conference on "IoT, Data, and the New Last Mile", Mar. 2019, Berkeley, CA, USA. (**Invited Speaker**)
4. "FeverPhone: Fever Diagnosis on Your Phone", Ninth Annual 50-Second Sustainability Project Pitch and Poster Competition (TCAM'18), Nov. 2018, Ithaca, NY, USA. (**First Place Award**)
5. "Fever Diagnosis on a Mobile Device", Oral Presentation at the 2018 Sibley Graduate Research Symposium (SGRS'18), Oct. 2018, Ithaca, NY, USA. ("**Drafting the Future**" Award)
6. "FeverPhone", Poster 4, Poster Presentation at the "Our Microbes, Our Global Health" Symposium, Aug. 2018, Ithaca, NY, USA. (**International Third Place Winner**)
7. "HI-Light Technology: A Solar-thermocatalytic Reactor for CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction", Poster 1, Poster Presentation at the Carbon Dioxide Removal/New Carbon Economy Consortium workshop, May 2018, Ithaca, NY, USA.
8. "FeverPhone", Video Presentation at the 2018 Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in STEM, Feb. 2018, Washington, DC, USA. (**National Third Place Winner**)
9. "HI-Light: An Optofluidic Reverse Combustion Reactor for Photothermo-catalytic Conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> into Fuels", Paper 10491-36, Oral Presentation at the 2018 Photonics West and BiOS Conferences (SPIE BIOS'18), Jan. 2018, San Francisco, CA, USA.
10. "A Smartphone Based Dual-plexed Molecular Diagnostics Platform for Point-of-care (POC) Inflammation Assessment", Paper 10485-28, Oral Presentation at the 2018 Photonics West and BiOS Conferences (SPIE BIOS'18), Jan. 2018, San Francisco, CA, USA.
11. "FeverPhone: Fever Diagnosis on Your Phone", Invited Talk at Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Nov. 2017, Raleigh, NC, USA. (**Featured Graduate Speaker**)

12. "FeverPhone: An Expandable Diagnostic Platform", Invited Talk at the 2nd Annual SPARK Talks of Cornell University (SPARK'17), Oct. 2017, Ithaca, NY, USA.
13. "Application of Smartphone Technology in Food Safety", Invited Talk at Journey Through Science Day at the New York Academy of Sciences, Oct. 2017, New York City, NY, USA.
14. "FeverPhone", Poster 12, Poster Presentation at the Cornell NanoScale Facility 2017 Annual Meeting (CNF'17), Sept. 2017, Ithaca, NY, USA.
15. "FeverPhone: Point of Care Diagnosis of Acute Febrile Illness using a Mobile Device", Poster 23, Poster Presentation at the ACLS International Summer School (ACLS'17), Sept. 2017, Singapore. **(Best Poster Award)**
16. "FeverPhone: Fever Diagnosis with a Mobile Device", Poster 6, Poster Presentation at the 9th Annual New York State Biotechnology Symposium (NYSBS'17), May 2017, Syracuse, NY, USA. **(Best Poster Award)**
17. "FeverPhone", Invited Talk at Ithaca's March for Science Event, Apr. 2017, Ithaca, NY, USA.
18. "FeverPhone: Fever Diagnosis on Your Phone", Sigma Xi's 5th Annual Student Research Showcase, Apr. 2017, North Carolina, USA. **(National Graduate Division Winner)**
19. "FeverPhone", Contest Talk at Cornell's 3rd Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, Mar. 2017, Ithaca, NY, USA. **(People's Choice Award)**

## TEACHING

---

### Teaching Assistant

*Cornell University, Instructor: Elizabeth M. Fisher*

Aug. 2017 - Dec. 2017

*Ithaca, NY, USA*

- MAE 2210: Thermodynamics

### Teaching Assistant

*McGill University, Instructor: Frank Mucciardi*

Feb. 2015 - May 2015

*Montréal, Québec, Canada*

- MIME 455: Advanced Process Engineering

## COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

---

- NBA 5070 Entrepreneurship for Scientists and Engineers, Fall 2018, Cornell
- MSE 5330 Materials for Energy Production, Storage, and Conversion, Fall 2018, Cornell
- MAE 6620 Biomed Tech Point of Care Diag, Spring 2017, Cornell
- MAE 6510 Advanced Heat Transfer, Fall 2016, Cornell
- MAE 5430 Combustion Processes, Fall 2016, Cornell
- CHEE 631 Foundations of Fluid Mechanics, Fall 2014, McGill
- MIME 653 Transport Phenom-Process Metal, Fall 2014, McGill

## MENTORED PROJECTS

---

1. Cheng-Hung (Jason) Hsin. "Water Modeling Experiments and Real-time Particle Detection Sensors". Undergraduate Co-op Research Project, Spring 2015 (The Co-op in Materials Engineering Program, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada)

## LEADERSHIP

---

### Vice President

*Chinese Entrepreneur Association at Cornell (CEAC)*

Aug. 2018 - Present

*Ithaca, NY, USA*

- Organized orientation events for new Chinese Ph.D. students at Cornell.
- Organized entrepreneur talks and networking activities.

**Vice President and Treasurer**

*Cornell Chinese Visiting Scholars/Students Association (CVSA)*

Sept. 2017 - Present  
Ithaca, NY, USA

- Coordinated events for over 500 Chinese visiting students, professors, and postdocs at Cornell.
- Organized campus workshops and networking activities.

**Web Manager and Book Editor**

*Xi'an Jiaotong University Online Overseas Education Forum (XJTU BBS GoAbroad Forum)* Xi'an, China

Apr. 2016 - Present

- Organized graduate school application online Q&A events for over 6,000 students in Xi'an Jiaotong University.
- Edited a 120-page graduate school application guide "My story of going abroad" consisting of 25 stories of XJTUers from 10 majors.

**Class Representative**

*Xi'an Jiaotong University 'Tsien Hsue-shen' Honors College*

Sept. 2009 - June 2012  
Xi'an, China

- Organized team bonding activities aiming for increasing interactions between classmates and job talks facilitating career development for students.
- Received "Outstanding Student Leader" award twice.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

---

- American Chemical Society (ACS), 2019 – Present
- The International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE), 2018 - Present
- American Physical Society (APS), 2017 - Present
- The New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), 2017 - Present
- Sigma-Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society, 2017 - Present

**TECHNICAL STRENGTHS**

---

<b>Programming Languages</b>	Python, C++, LabVIEW, DASyLab
<b>Experimental skills</b>	Design of experiments, Microfluidics, Materials characterization

**MISCELLANEOUS**

---

<b>Languages</b>	Proficient in Mandarin and English
<b>Hobbies</b>	Reading, Movies
<b>Fun facts</b>	I can swing books with each of the five fingers of my right hand!

**REFERENCES**

---

- David Erickson (de54@cornell.edu) | Ph.D. Advisor | Sibley College Professor in MechE at Cornell
- Christopher Hernandez (cjh275@cornell.edu) | DGS | Associate Professor in MechE at Cornell
- Tobias Hanrath (th358@cornell.edu) | Ph.D. Committee | Associate Professor in ChemE at Cornell
- Saurabh Mehta (smehta@cornell.edu) | Ph.D. Committee | Associate Professor in Nutrition at Cornell