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Office Contact Information   **Personal Information**

Department of Economics   Citizenship: China
University of Pennsylvania   Gender: Female
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Undergraduate Studies:

B.A./B.S., Economics/Mathematics, Wuhan University, China, 2012

Graduate Studies:

University of Pennsylvania, 2012 to the present
Thesis Title: "*Essays on the Economics of Networks*"
Expected Completion Date: May 2019

Thesis Committee and References:

Professor Hanming Fang (Advisor)   Professor Andrew Postlewaite
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Philadelphia, PA 19104
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Teaching and Research Fields:

Labor Economics, Public Economics, Empirical Microeconomics

Teaching Experience:

Instructor, University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2017   Introductory Microeconomics, Instructor
Summer 2015   Intermediate Microeconomics, Instructor
Recitation Instructor and Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2016   Introductory Macroeconomics, Recitation Instructor for Professor Luca Bossi
Fall 2014, 2016   Intermediate Microeconomics, Recitation Instructor for Professor Rakesh Vohra
Fall 2013   Intermediate Microeconomics, Recitation Instructor for Professor Aislinn Bohren
Spring 2014, 2015   Macroeconomic Theory (Graduate Level), Teaching Assistant for Professor Jeremy
                                   Greenwood

Research Experience:

2015, 2018	University of Pennsylvania, Research Assistant for Professor Hanming Fang
2014	University of Pennsylvania, Research Assistant for Professor Xun Tang

Presentation:

2017	North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, St. Louis

Honors, Scolarships, and Fellowships:

2018-2019	Maloof Family Dissertation Fellowship in Economics, University of Pennsylvania
2017	GAPSA Travel Grants, University of Pennsylvania
2017	SAS Dean's Travel Subvention, University of Pennsylvania
2013-2015	Xinmei Zhang Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2013	Lawrence Robbins Prize, University of Pennsylvania

Research Papers:

"A Structural Analysis of Job Referrals and Social Networks: The Case of the Corporate Executives Market" (Job Market Paper)

I develop and structurally implement a labor market search model in which workers, in addition to directly receiving job offers, also receive referrals from their social contacts. In the model, referrals are generated endogenously: an external referral occurs when a friend rejects an offer he/she receives, and an internal referral occurs when a friend leaves his/her current job. I estimate the model by Generalized Method of Moments using data on the labor market history and the social connections of executives in S&P 500 firms. Using the estimated model, I find that referrals play a substantial role in the executive labor market. More than one quarter of the job transitions and raises are driven by referrals. Shutting down referrals reduces executives' welfare by an equivalence of a two to seven percentage points reduction in income. I also evaluate the impacts of the structure of the social networks by comparing the outcomes under the observed networks and alternative randomly formed networks. I find that the welfare distribution is more unequal under the random networks. I further investigate the mechanisms for these effects through the lens of two network statistics: friends' popularity and local community clustering.

"Inferring the Ideological Affiliations of Political Committees via Financial Contributions Networks" (with Hanming Fang)

About two thirds of the political committees registered with the Federal Election Commission do not self-identify their party affiliations. In this paper, we propose and implement a novel Bayesian approach to infer the ideological affiliations of political committees based on the network of financial contributions among them. In Monte Carlo Simulations, we demonstrate that our estimation algorithm achieves very high accuracy in recovering their latent ideological affiliations when the pairwise difference in ideology groups' connection patterns satisfy a condition known as the Chernoff-Hellinger divergence criterion. We illustrate our approach using the campaign finance records from the 2003-2004 election cycle. Using the posterior mode to categorize the ideological affiliations of the political committees, our estimates match the self-reported ideology for 94.63% of those committees who self-reported to be Democratic and 89.49% of those committees who self-reported to be Republican.

Computational Skills:

MATLAB, R (Rcpp), Stata, Parallel Computing