

CHEN LIANG

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EDUCATION

Expected 2027 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA
Ph.D. candidate in Economic Sociology at MIT Sloan School of Management
Awards/Honors: MIT Presidential Graduate Fellowship

Graduated June 2021 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL
Master of Arts in Computational Social Science (STEM authorization)
Awards/Honors: Quadrangle Scholar Research Award, Director's Scholarship
Overall GPA: 3.85/4.0

Graduated May 2019 **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI
Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy, with a minor in Statistics
Sophomore Honors Award; James B. Angell Scholars for eight consecutive terms of all A records
Overall GPA: 3.94/4.0; GRE: 167 Critical Reading | 169 Math | 5 Writing

SKILLS *Programming and Modeling*: Python, R, Vensim, Stata
Languages: Mandarin Chinese - native, English - professional
Methods: Social Simulation (Agent-Based and System Dynamic Models), Ethnographic Methods (interviews and participatory observation), Network Analysis, Natural Language Processing, Econometrics, Machine Learning, Game Theory, Large-Scale Computation and Parallelization

PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCES & REVIEWS

PhD Candidacy Paper: *From Opinion Dynamics to Collective Action: How Asymmetric Tolerance Leads to Group Polarization*. Supervised by Prof. Ezra Zuckerman and Ray Reagans at MIT

2022 Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS), Paper Panel
2023 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Round Table
2023 Annual Meeting of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists (INAS), Paper Panel

Potential Thesis Project: *Data-Making Fans and Platform Governance: A System Dynamic Perspective*

2025 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Round Table
2025 Annual Meeting of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists (INAS), Paper Panel
2025 European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS), Paper Panel
2025 International System Dynamic Conference, Poster Session

Review Experience

2026 American Sociological Review (Impact Factor: 6.2)
2025 Management Information Systems Quarterly (Impact Factor: 6.0)
2025 Academy of Management Conference
2025 International System Dynamic Conference

Other Experimental Projects

- *From Composition to Conduct in the Boardroom: A Dynamic NK Model* (Working Paper). Second Author. I designed the model and my co-author, Takahiro Inada, developed the theory.
- *The Multidimensionality of Political Polarization in the U.S. Congress: Topic Networks*. Solo Author, International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Sunbelt Conference (2020)
- *From Online to Offline: Protests on Democratic and Republican National Convention*. Solo Author, Yale Undergraduate Research Conference & Michigan Journal of Political Science (2017)
- Zhu, H., He, F., Wang, S., Ye, Q., & Liang, C. (2019). Zombie Firms and Debt Accumulation: A Theoretical Framework and Chinese Experience. *China & World Economy*, 27(6), 104-126. Doi:10.1111/cwe.12298

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2022-now **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA
Research Assistant, with Prof. Nathan Wilmers
- Analyze and manage census data, merge databases pertaining to the establishment level of firms
 - Conduct in-depth analysis to examine the factors contributing to the decline in labor share over the past two decades, employing advanced econometric techniques and system dynamic modeling methods
- 2021-22 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA
Research Assistant, Center for Collective Intelligence, with Prof. Thomas Malone
- Managed and administered experiments on Amazon Mechanical Turk, investigating the capacity of large language models (LLMs) like GPT-3 to inspire human creativity in solving real-world problems
- 2019-20 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL
Research Assistant, Knowledge Lab, with Prof. James Evans
- A DARPA-funded project using artificial but socially plausible simulations with known causal rules as testbeds to validate social science modeling methods
 - Headed the analysis of an environment which simulates military and political conflicts, where agents make decisions based on local and global information as well as real-time network connections
 - Designed, implemented, and optimized statistical and machine learning models from Rare Event Regression and Graphical Causal Models to Neutral Network and Agent-Based Model
- 2018 **American Enterprise Institute**, Washington, DC
Research Intern, Office of Derek Scissors
- Investigated hundreds of Chinese outward investment and contracted projects based on financial reports and major state-sponsored media
 - Updated the widely cited “China Global Investment Tracker” database
 - Analyzed the ownership structures of 70+ Chinese state-owned enterprises
- 2017 **Peking University**, Beijing, China
Research Institute of Maritime Silk-Road
- Analyzed DMSP-OLS Nighttime Light (NTL) data using ArcGIS and Python
 - Assessed the economic development of the countries on the Maritime Silk-Road
 - Collected data from hundreds of articles to draft policy memos about how to build successful and economically viable ports and channel overseas investment
- 2016 **Peking University**, Beijing, China
Research Intern, Center of New Structural Economics
- Led a six-member team to evaluate China’s outward investment environment
 - Helped design questionnaires for future field research
 - Reported over 100 pages of policy memos on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Nigeria
 - Developed policy recommendations on SEZ development to the Federal Government of Nigeria
- 2015-17 **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI
Research Assistant, Chinese Government Censorship and Propaganda Strategy
- Analyzed 50+ government documents and 3000+ social media posts on sensitive political events

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022-26 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA
Teaching Assistant at the Sloan School of Management
Teaching Assistant for 15.339 Developing Leadership Capabilities (2022, 2025, 2026), 15.716 Leading Organizations (2024, 2025), 15.900 Competitive Strategy (2025), 15.347 Designing Empirical Research in the Social Sciences (2026)
- 2020-21 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL

- Teaching Assistant for MACS 30100: Perspectives on Computational Modeling (2021, Graduate Core Requirement for the MACSS program); American Colonial Economic History (2020)
- 2017-18 **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI
- Peer Advisor for Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program; Mentored 26 college students by assessing their needs and connecting them with school resources; Hosted bi-weekly seminars which introduced students to research ethics and statistical methods for a whole academic year

RELEVANT LIFE EXPERIENCE

- 2017 In **Lisbon, Portugal**, designed and implemented Virtual Reality (VR) mini games using Unity 3D and C#; helped psychological researchers assess autistic patients' conditions through VR games
- 2017 In **Belgium**, studied the history and structure of the European Union (EU); Interviewed agencies in the EU headquarters and politically influential NGOs; Finished a research project on EU digitalization
- 2016 In **Israel and the Palestinian Territory (West Bank)**, studied Middle East history and politics; Interviewed local governments, minority communities, and human right organizations in "frontline" cities like Hebron; Volunteered to plant trees for local Palestinians
- 2014-15 At **Peking University**, led the English-to-Chinese translation of "Science, Philosophy and Social Procedure" (Frank H. Knight 1942 Ethics); Article published in the *Review of New Political Economy* (Chinese), Issue 33