

# Alex (Xiong) LI

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<https://alexli-xiong.github.io/>

## VISITING

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**Washington University in St. Louis, Olin Business School**, Missouri, United States  
Visiting PhD student, 2023 – Now (Invited by Prof. Xiumin Martin)

## EDUCATION

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**University of Hong Kong, HKU Business School**, Hong Kong, 2020 - 2024

Ph.D. in Accounting

**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**, Hong Kong & **Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology**, Japan, 2017 - 2020

Ph.D. Candidate in Chemistry (Transferred to MPhil)

**Jilin University, School of Science**, Changchun, China, 2013 - 2017

B.S. in Food Science (GPA 92.3/100, Rank 1/123)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Supply Chain (Risk & Financing), Taxation, Accounting Regulation, ESG & Climate

## TEACHING INTERESTS

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Managerial Accounting, Empirical Research Methodology, Sustainability and Accounting

## GRANTS

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PI: **“Enforcing Transparency: Can Private Firms Influence Public Peers? Insights from Private Firms' Disclosure Practices”**, Research Postgraduate Student Innovation Grant, HK\$50,000, University of Hong Kong (2023). PI: Alex X. Li, Applied on Sept 2023

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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[1] **“Taxes and Non-debt Financing: Evidence from Trade Credit”** (Job Market Paper)

*Revise and Resubmit, The Accounting Review*

Brief: Analyzing state-level corporate income tax rate changes from 1998 to 2018, the result shows both tax increases and decreases result in reduced trade credit usage, particularly for firms with fewer covenant violations and better ex-ante liquidity positions. Analysis of customer-supplier data suggests that customer trade credit adjustments drive these effects, and reduced trade credit reliance propagates from treated states to other states through supply chain networks.

## WORKING PAPERS

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[2] **“Proprietary Costs and Supply Chain Collaboration”** with Wenzhi Ding (PolyU HK), Guoman She (HKU), and Guochang Zhang (HKU)

Brief: To understand how proprietary costs shape supply chain collaboration, we exploit three natural experiments that alter the risk of information misappropriation by major customers and their employees. We find that when information misappropriation risk is alleviated, suppliers expand sales to treatment customers, especially when customers' incentives are less aligned with suppliers' incentives and when suppliers have unique assets. Along with increased sales, suppliers' R&D investments display greater responsiveness of R&D investment to their customers' growth opportunities, and their patents become more integrated with their customers' patents.

[3] **“Unlocking Hidden Gains: Real Effects of ASC 842 on Non-Intensive Users of Operating Leases”** with Travis Chow (HKU), Doyeon Kim (HKU), and Guochang Zhang (HKU)

Brief: Using a difference-and-differences design, we find that ASC 842 results in a redistribution of trade credit

among customers. Specifically, suppliers are reallocating trade credit from high-lease intensity customers to low-lease intensity customers. The increased trade credit resulting from ASC 842 positively impacts the performance of low lease-intensive firms, as evidenced by their sales growth, employment growth, and investment.

**[4] “Filling the Monitoring Void: Lead Arranger Distraction and Borrower Disclosure”** with Derrald Stice (HKU)

Brief: We predict and find that borrowers with distracted lead arrangers will increase public disclosure to satisfy the information needs of non-lead arranger loan participants. The effect of distraction is more pronounced when non-lead arranger loan participants wield greater bargaining power, exhibit heightened information needs, and when borrowers have higher credit risks. We document a relationship between distraction levels and more stringent loan terms for borrowers in the future, along with evidence that disclosure can mitigate these contracting costs.

**[5] “Unilateral Trust and Buyer-Supplier Disruption”** with Yangyang Chen (CityU HK) and Cuili Qian (UT Dallas)

Brief: Our findings reveal that CEO-inherited trust complements formal contracts and mitigates supply chain disruptions. The effects are most pronounced when suppliers have significant relationship-specific investments and limited capital redeployability, and when there is a greater information friction between the buyer and supplier. Furthermore, the buyer-supplier commits jointly to the CEO with higher inherited trust and achieves greater joint profitability.

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**SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

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**[1] “Socially Responsible Suppliers: Evidence from Tax Transparency along Supply Chain”** with Travis Chow (HKU)

**[2] “Climate Policy Uncertainty and Corporate Investment”** with Menghan Wang (HKU)

Brief: Using the Pair Agreement and the US exit from the Agreement as a shock to the climate policy uncertainty, we find that corporate investment negatively correlates with the increase and decrease in climate policy uncertainty. However, the energy sector shows an asymmetric response to the uncertainty, indicating their sensitivity to policy changes. This effect is more pronounced for firms that have ex-ante higher climate-related opportunities and ex-post climate-related exposure risks.

**[3] “Supplier-Customer Culture Proximity and Supplier Selection”** with Charles Kang (HKU)

Brief: We leverage the FactSet Supply Chain database to pinpoint the inception year of customer-supplier relationships spanning from 2001 to 2019. By employing the TNIC code, we discern the top 10 peers, and employ the Mahalanobis distance method to ascertain the pseudo supplier. Our findings indicate that potential suppliers exhibiting a higher degree of cultural proximity are more likely to evolve into actual suppliers in the future.

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**OTHER PUBLICATION (SCIENCE DOMAIN)**

**[1] Li, X.**; Pei, Y.; Zhang, Y.; Liu, Y.; Fu, W.; Li, J.; You, H.\*; Huang, J.\*, Single-molecule mechanical unfolding of AT-rich chromosomal fragile sites DNA hairpins: Resolving the thermodynamic and kinetic effects of single G-T mismatch. *The Journal of Physical Chemistry B*, 2020, 124, 42, 9365–9370. (Featured as Cover Article, Rank 36 out of 131 in category Materials Science, SCOPUS JOURNAL METRICS (2022))

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**TEACHING**

**Teaching Certificates:**

Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, HKUST, 2018

Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, HKU, 2021

**Teaching Experiences:**

MACC7012 Accounting for Business Valuation and Contracting (Fall 2023) (*Master level, Teaching Assistant*)

CHEM4410 *Physical Chemistry in Biological Applications* (Fall 2019) (*Undergraduate level, Participant in Teaching*)

**Applicable Courses:**

Managerial Accounting, Empirical Research Methodology

**HONOR AND AWARDS**

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HKU Presidential Scholarship (HKU-PS, Highest Distinction in Hong Kong), HKU, 2020-2024

Postgraduation Scholarship, HKUST, 2018-2020

Bao-Gang Award (top 0.1%), China, 2016

China National Scholarship (top 0.1%), China, 2014, 2015

**CONFERENCE AND STUDIES**

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Ph.D. consortium in Hawaii Accounting Research Doctoral Institute (HARDI), Hawaii, United States (scheduled 2024)

Accounting PhD Rookie Camp, Texas, United States (scheduled 2023)

EAA Talents Workshop, Madrid, Spain (scheduled 2023)

HKU-TLV Finance Forum, Tel Aviv, Israel, 2023

Hong Kong Junior Accounting Faculty Conference, 2022

China Accounting and Finance Review (CAFR) Virtual Annual Conference, 2021

CUHK Accounting Research Conference, 2021

Hong Kong Junior Accounting Faculty Conference 2021

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS**

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**Research Assistant for Professors:** Travis Chow (2022), Guochang Zhang (2023). Projects on taxation policy, capital market research

**Computer skills:** Python, Stata

**SERVICE**

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RPG Student Representative (Accounting Area), HKU Business 2022-2023

Student Coordinator, HKU Accounting Ph.D. Recruitment Camp, 2022, 2023

## REFERENCES

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Guochang Zhang (Supervisor)  
Chung Hon-Dak Professor in Accounting  
Business School, University of Hong Kong  
KK 1214, K. K. Leung Building, University Dr, Lung Fu Shan, HK  
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