Kehang Zhu

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Harvard University *2021.8 – 2026.5 (Expected)*
• Physics & Computer Science (Secondary)
Advisors: John Horton (MIT Sloan Management School), David Parkes (Harvard Computer Science)
Reviewers service*:* ICML, ICLR, NeurIPS, CHI, IC2S2
Funding: OpenAI Research Fund (2025), Google DeepMind Seed Fund (2024), DropBox Research Fund (2023)
Awards: Purcell Fellowship 2021 , Introduction to Technical AI Safety Fellowship 2023

M.S., Harvard University *2021.8 – 2024.5*
• Computer Science, GPA: 3.875/4

B.A., University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) *2017.8 – 2021.5*
• Physics, GPA: 4.14/4.3 (No.1/340) (*Awards: **Valedictorian** 2021, National Scholarship 2018&2019)*

SKILLS

Human Behavior Modeling: Econometrics, Machine learning: Natural Language Processing, Language Model,
Generative AI: Pytorch, Lightning, HuggingFace, Retrieval-augmented Generation,
Visualization: D3.JS, R, User Study: Qualtrics, Prolific, Analysis: Python/ R/ C++

SELECTED WORKS

- Manning, Benjamin S*., **Kehang Zhu***, and John J. Horton. "Automated Social Science: Language Models as Scientist and Subjects." 2024 (Reject & Resubmit at Quarterly Journal of Economics)
- Crystal J. Qian*, **Kehang Zhu*,** John J. Horton, B. Manning,Nithum Thain, Vivian Tsai, James Wexler, Understanding Economic Trade-offs Between Human and AI Agents in Bargaining Games (Submitted to ICLR 2026)
- **Kehang Zhu***, Anand Shah*, Yanchen Jiang, Jeffrey Wang, Kerem Dayi, John J. Horton, David Parkes, Learning from Synthetic Laboratory: Language Model Agents as Auction Participants, (NeurIPS Workshop 2024, CODE 2024)
- Carolina Nobre*, **Kehang Zhu***, Eric Morth, Hanspeter Pfister, Johanna Beyer. Reading Between the Pixels: Investigating the Conceptual Hurdles to Visualization Literacy (2024 CHI)

RELEVANT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

*Doctoral Researcher, **Harvard*** *2021 - Present*

- Design and manage multi-year dissertation research projects dedicated to **Modeling Human behavior** with **Language Model agents** and apply **Economics analysis**, design iterative experimentation platform for A/B testing.
- Co-advised by Prof. John Horton in MIT Sloan School of Management & Prof. David Parkes in Harvard CS
- Collaborated with **Google DeepMind** researchers to study AI agent as proxy for human players in Negotiation
- Developed new **benchmark** in Rationality for Natural Language Processing and Language Model
- Designed and ran Large Scale **Human Subject study** on Qualtrics to explore cognitive limitations in visualization.
- Presented at World Bank (2024), Microsoft Research (2024), Economics and Computation (2024), Wharton (2024).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Google DeepMind **New York City, NY, U.S.**
Research Intern, People+AI Research 2025.5 – 2025.8

- Designed and implemented an experiment in Deliberate Lab, an open-source platform with coding contributions
- Evaluated / benchmarked agents to prove out superhuman capabilities in a multi-player negotiation game.
- Ran human subject experiments [N=324] in Prolific, Developed a dataset of multi-agent interaction in a structured bargaining scenario.

Applify.ai **Boston, MA, U.S.**
Natural Language Processing (NLP) Researcher 2023.5 – 2023.8

- Led the development of AI-driven features, including Essay Brainstorm and Essay Polish, utilizing LLM to create personalized, interactive writing assistance tools for underprivileged high students applying to U.S. colleges.
- Expanded the platform by developing the Essay Coach feature based on user feedback, iterating NLP techniques to provide tailored writing support.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

President of Harvard GSAS Entrepreneurship Association **Cambridge, MA, U.S.** *2021 – 2023*

- Led a team of 20 people and organized 50+ panel discussions in AI, Education, Fintech and Web3.
- Initiated and organized Harvard GSAS Web3 Demo Day (2022) with 20 keynote speakers worldwide and attracted an audience of 300+