

# Zenan “Alan” Chen

Information & Decision Sciences  
University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management  
321 Nineteenth Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Email: [chen6029@umn.edu](mailto:chen6029@umn.edu) / [me@zenan.ch](mailto:me@zenan.ch) • URL: [zenan.ch](http://zenan.ch)

## Research Interests

Topics	Impacts of IS Artifacts Design and Usage, Generative AI, Digital Platforms
Method	Experiments, Econometrics, Causal Inference, Analytical Modeling, Machine Learning

## Education

2018 - 24 (expected)	<b>University of Minnesota</b> PhD in Business Administration Dissertation Committee: Jason Chan (Chair), Soumya Sen, Alok Gupta, Colin Agur	Minneapolis, MN
2014 - 18	<b>Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen</b> BBA in Economics	Shenzhen, China

## Grants, Honors & Awards

2023	CIST Best Student Paper Award Nominee
2022	ICIS Best Paper in General IS Track
2022	ICIS Best Conference Paper Nominee
2022	WITS Best Student Paper Award (\$1,000)
2022	Carlson School of Management Dissertation Fellowship (\$28,000) Selectively awarded to top students within Carlson School of Management
2022	AMCIS Doctoral Consortium
2021	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, China Bridge Case Competition (as Faculty Mentor, \$6,000)
2021 - 22	Ph.D. Student International Travel Fellowship (\$1,000)
2020	Dean’s Small Research Grant (\$3,000)
2019 - 22	Ph.D. Student Domestic Travel Fellowship (\$750)
2018 - 22	Ph.D. Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,000)
2017	Undergraduate Research Award, CUHK(SZ) 0.9% in School of Management and Economics

## Working Papers

UNDER REVIEW

### Large Language Model in Creative Work:

#### The Role of Collaboration Modality and User Expertise (Job Market Paper)

Zenan Chen, Jason Chan

Scheduled Talks: CIST 2023 (**Best Student Paper Award Nominee**), WISE 2023

Under Review at *Management Science*

## **Less is Not Always More: The Impact of Block Difficulty and Immediacy of Social Media Blockers on Work Time**

Zenan Chen, Jason Chan

ICIS 2022 **Best Paper in General IS Track**, **Best Conference Paper Nominee**

WITS 2022 **Best Student Paper (\$1000)**

Under Review at *Information Systems Research*

## **The Coordination of Functionality Richness, First-party Content Quality, and Revenue-sharing on Digital Platforms**

Zenan Chen, Soumya Sen

Under Review at *Information Systems Research*

## **WORK-IN-PROGRESS**

### **Would AI Replace Friends?**

#### **Examining the Impact of AI Interaction Frequency on Social Relationships**

Zenan Chen, Jason Chan, and Teng Ye

Data collection underway

Target journal: *Management Science*

### **Dynamics of User Preference in the Broadband Market: Implications on Pricing, Broadband Provision, and Coverage**

Zenan Chen, Soumya Sen, Alok Gupta

Model development

Target journal: *Information Systems Research*

## **Talks**

### **Large Language Model in Creative Work:**

#### **The Role of Collaboration Modality and User Expertise**

**(Job Market Paper)**

2023 / 12 Workshop on Information Systems and Economics (WISE)

Hyderabad, India

2023 / 10 Conference in Information Systems and Technology (CIST)

Phoenix, AZ

Best Student Paper Award Nominee

2023 / 10 INFORMS Annual Meeting

Phoenix, AZ

2023 / 09 Business & Generative AI Workshop (Wharton)

San Francisco, CA

### **Less is Not Always More: The Impact of Block Intensity and Immediacy of Social Media Blockers on Work Time**

2022 / 12 Workshop on Information Technologies and Systems (WITS)

Copenhagen, Denmark

Best Student Paper (\$1,000)

2022 / 12 International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS)

Copenhagen, Denmark

Best Paper in General IS Track

Best Conference Paper Nominee

2022 / 10 Conference on Digital Experimentation (MIT CoDE)

Cambridge, MA

2022 / 10 Conference in Information Systems and Technology (CIST)

Indianapolis, IN

2022 / 08 Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS)

Minneapolis, MN

2022 / 07 Symposium on Statistical Challenges in e-Commerce Research (SCECR)

Madrid, Spain

2022 / 06 Industry Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference

Philadelphia, PA

## **The Coordination of Functionality Richness, First-party Content Quality, and Revenue-sharing on Digital Platforms**

2022 / 10	INFORMS Annual Meeting	Indianapolis, IN
2022 / 06	Platform Strategy Symposium (Boston University)	Boston, MA
2021 / 12	Workshop on Information Technologies and Systems (WITS)	Austin, TX
2021 / 06	China Workshop on Economics of Information Systems Theory (CWEIST)	Virtual
2020 / 10	Conference in Information Systems and Technology (CIST)	Virtual

## **Attendance Tracking Apps & Academic Performance: Evidence from a Field Study**

2021 / 06	Symposium on Statistical Challenges in e-Commerce Research (SCECR)	Virtual
-----------	--	---------

## **Dynamics of User Preference in the Broadband Market: Implications on Pricing, Broadband Provision, and Coverage**

2020 / 06	China Workshop on Economics of Information Systems Theory (CWEIST)	Virtual
2019 / 10	Conference in Information Systems and Technology (CIST)	Seattle, WA

## **Teaching**

### **INSTRUCTOR**

2020, 21	<b>IDSC 4444 Descriptive and Predictive Analytics</b> Association rules mining, Text mining, Clustering (K-means, hierarchical, etc.), Classification (K-NN, decision trees, etc.), Numerical Prediction (linear regression, tree-based methods, etc.) <b>5.4/6</b> Instructor Evaluation (Student Rating of Teaching), <b>4.8/5</b> (RateMyProfessors.com)
----------	---

### **TEACHING ASSISTANT**

2023	<b>MSBA 6441</b> Casual Inference via Econometrics and Experimentation
2019, 20, 22	<b>MSBA 6410</b> Exploratory Data Analytics and Visualization
2020	<b>MSBA 6450</b> Modeling and Heuristics for Decision Making and Support
2019	<b>IDSC 6444</b> Business Analytics for Managers (MBA)
2017	Digital Media Elite Program @ Peking University HSBC Business School

### **GUEST LECTURES**

2022	Workflows for Empirical Research in <i>R</i> and <i>Git</i>	PhD Student Brownbag
2022	How to Build a Personal Academic Website	PhD Student Brownbag
2019	Intro to Text Mining & Future Directions	Business Analytics for Managers (MBA)

## **Services**

### **JOURNAL REFEREE**

2022 -	Management Science
2020 -	Information Systems Research

### **CONFERENCE REFEREE**

2022 -	AMCIS
2019 -	ICIS, CIST, WITS

## OTHER

- 2022 PhD Student Brownbag Organizer
- 2021 - Founding coordinator for *MISQ Insider* (MISQ-affiliated student-led initiative)

## Skills

Programming:	Python, R, SQL, C++, JavaScript, TypeScript
Software:	Mathematica, Stata, $\text{\LaTeX}$
Databases:	MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB
OS:	macOS, Linux, Windows

## Referees

### Jason Chan

Associate Professor, Mary and Jim Lawrence Fellow  
Information & Decision Sciences  
Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota  
[jchancf@umn.edu](mailto:jchancf@umn.edu)

### Soumya Sen

Associate Professor, McKnight Presidential Fellow  
Information & Decision Sciences  
Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota  
[ssen@umn.edu](mailto:ssen@umn.edu)

### Alok Gupta

Senior Associate Dean of Faculty, Research and Administration  
Information & Decision Sciences  
Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota  
[gupta037@umn.edu](mailto:gupta037@umn.edu)

## Side Projects

- 2023 [ChatGPT Quick Actions](#): a macOS utility to leverage ChatGPT in any applications.
- 2022 [Thread.pub](#): Twitter-thread-as-a-blog service.
- 2021 - [IS Jobs \(isjobs.xyz\)](#): a crowdsourced database for Information Systems (IS) job posts.
- 2020 - [Surge.fm](#): A crowdsourced self-organizing news aggregator & tracker.