

# Zenan “Alan” Chen

Assistant Professor, Information Systems  
Naveen Jindal School of Management  
The University of Texas at Dallas

800 W Campbell Road  
Richardson, TX 75080

[zenan.chen@utdallas.edu](mailto:zenan.chen@utdallas.edu) / [me@zenan.ch](mailto:me@zenan.ch) • Site: [zenan.ch](http://zenan.ch)

## Academic Appointment

2024 - **University of Texas at Dallas, Naveen Jindal School of Management** Richardson, TX  
Assistant Professor, Information Systems

## Education

2018 - 24 **University of Minnesota** Minneapolis, MN  
PhD in Business Administration (Information & Decision Sciences)  
Dissertation: *Design Considerations of IS Artifacts and Digital Platforms*  
↳ INFORMS ISS Nunamaker-Chen Dissertation Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up ↳  
↳ WITS Best Dissertation Award ↳

2014 - 18 **Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen** Shenzhen, China  
Bachelor of Business Administration (Applied Economics)

## Research Interests

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

## Awards

2024 Innovative Method Award 2024 @ this IS research  
2024 INFORMS ISS Nunamaker-Chen Dissertation Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up  
2023 WITS Best Dissertation Award  
2023 WeB Best Completed Research Runner-up  
2023 CIST Best Student Paper Runner-up  
2022 ICIS Best Paper in General IS Track  
2022 ICIS Best Conference Paper Nominee  
2022 WITS Best Student Paper Award (\$1,000)  
2021 1<sup>st</sup> Place, China Bridge Case Competition (as Faculty Mentor, \$6,000)  
2022 Carlson School of Management Dissertation Fellowship (\$28,000)  
Selectively awarded to top students within Carlson School of Management  
2021 - 22 Ph.D. Student International Travel Fellowship (\$1,000, \$1,200)  
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)

## Publications

2024	<b>Large Language Model in Creative Work: The Role of Collaboration Modality and User Expertise</b> , <i>Management Science</i> Zenan Chen, Jason Chan Best Student Paper Award Runner-up @ CIST 2023 Best Completed Research Runner-up @ WeB 2023 Innovative Method Award @ this IS research (2024)
------	--

## Media Coverage

2025	The Economist: <a href="#">How AI will divide the best from the rest</a>
2024	this IS research (Podcast): <a href="#">Awards under the Christmas Tree</a> (Innovative Method Award)
2024	Forbes: <a href="#">Will The AI Boom Hurt Creativity? Not If Humans Lead The Way</a>

## Working Papers

UNDER REVIEW

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

Zenan Chen, Jason Chan

**Revise and resubmit at *Information Systems Research***

- Best Paper in General IS Track @ ICIS 2022
- Best Conference Paper Nominee @ ICIS 2022
- Best Student Paper (\$1000) @ WITS 2022

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

Zenan Chen, Soumya Sen

**Revise and resubmit at *Information Systems Research***

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

2025 - **Lost in Thoughts: Revealing AI Reasoning Increases Trust but Crowds Out Unique Human Knowledge**

Zenan Chen, Ruijiang Gao, Yingzhi Liang

2023 - **Would AI Replace Friends?**

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

Zenan Chen, Teng Ye, Jason Chan

## Talks

### CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

#### **Large Language Model in Creative Work: The Role of Collaboration Modality and User Expertise**

2024 / 03	Annual AI in Management (AIM) Conference	Los Angeles, CA
2023 / 12	Workshop on Information Systems and Economics (WISE)	(Online) Hyderabad, India
2023 / 12	Workshop on e-Business (WeB) ﴿ Best Completed Research Runner-up ﴾	(Online) Hyderabad, India
2023 / 12	Conference on AI/ML and Business Analytics	Philadelphia, PA
2023 / 11	Conference on Digital Experimentation (MIT CoDE)	Cambridge, MA
2023 / 10	Conference in Information Systems and Technology (CIST) ﴿ Best Student Paper Award Runner-up ﴾	Phoenix, AZ
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) ﴿ Best Student Paper ﴾ (\$1,000)	Copenhagen, Denmark
2022 / 12	International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) ﴿ Best Paper in General IS Track ﴾ ﴿ Best Conference Paper Nominee ﴾	Copenhagen, Denmark
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

#### **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

### INVITED TALKS

2023 / 12	John Hopkins University, UC Davis, University of Rochester
2023 / 11	HKU, UT Dallas, Northeastern University
2023 / 10	CUHK

## Teaching

### INSTRUCTOR

2025	<b>ITSS 3300 Information Technology for Business</b>	<b>4.8/5</b> (RateMyProfessors.com)
2020, 21	<b>IDSC 4444 Descriptive and Predictive Analytics</b>	<b>5.4/6</b> Instructor Evaluation (Student Rating of Teaching)

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

2024	<b>CMBA 5813 Competing In The Digital Age</b>	
2024	<b>IDSC 6051 Information Technologies and Solutions</b>	
2024	<b>MSBA 6345 Consultative Problem-Solving &amp; Agile Management for Analytics Projects</b>	
2023	<b>MSBA 6441 Casual Inference via Econometrics and Experimentation</b>	
2019 - 22	<b>MSBA 6410 Exploratory Data Analytics and Visualization</b>	
2020	<b>MSBA 6450 Modeling and Heuristics for Decision Making and Support</b>	
2019	<b>IDSC 6444 Business Analytics for Managers (MBA)</b>	
2017	Digital Media Elite Program	Peking University HSBC Business School

### GUEST LECTURES

2025 / 11	Generative AI Course	University of Texas at Austin (Online)
2025 / 01	PhD Seminar: LLM in Creative Work	University of Wisconsin-Madison (Online)
2022	Workflows for Empirical Research in R and Git	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

2020 -	Information Systems Research	
2022 -	Management Science	
2024 -	MIS Quarterly (MISQ), Production and Operations Management (POMS), INFORMS Tutorials in Operations Research	

### CONFERENCE REFEREE

2019 -	ICIS, CIST, WITS
2022 -	AMCIS, HICSS
2024 -	INFORMS Workshop on Data Science

### DISCUSSANT

2024	WITS
------	------

## OTHER

- 2022 PhD Student Brownbag Organizer  
2021 - 24 Founding coordinator for *MISQ Insider* (MISQ-affiliated student-led initiative)

## Skills

Programming:	Python, R, SQL, C++, JavaScript, TypeScript
Software:	Mathematica, Stata, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
Databases:	MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB

## Side Projects

- 2023 ChatGPT Quick Actions: a macOS utility to leverage ChatGPT in any applications.  
2021 - IS Jobs ([isjobs.xyz](https://isjobs.xyz)): a crowdsourced database for Information Systems (IS) job posts.  
2020 - Surge.fm: A crowdsourced self-organizing news aggregator & tracker.