Zenan "Alan" Chen

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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 2nd 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 2nd 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   1st 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 **Large Language Model in Creative Work: The Role of Collaboration Modality and User Expertise**, *Management Science*
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: How AI will divide the best from the rest
2024	this IS research (Podcast): Awards under the Christmas Tree
2024	Forbes: Will The AI Boom Hurt Creativity? Not If Humans Lead The Way

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

Would AI Replace Friends?
Examining the Impact of AI Interaction Frequency on Social Relationships
Zenan Chen, Teng Ye, Jason Chan

Dynamics of User Preference in the Broadband Market: Implications on Pricing, Broadband Provision, and Coverage
Zenan Chen, Soumya Sen, Alok Gupta

Talks

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)	(Online) Hyderabad, India
	⚜ Best Completed Research Runner-up ⚜	
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)	Phoenix, AZ
	⚜ Best Student Paper Award Runner-up ⚜	
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

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

2025 / 01	University of Wisconsin-Madison (Online PhD Brownbag Guest Speaker)
2023 / 12	John Hopkins University, UC Davis, University of Rochester
2023 / 11	HKU, UT Dallas, Northeastern University
2023 / 10	CUHK

Teaching

INSTRUCTOR

4.8/5 (RateMyProfessors.com)

2025 **ITSS 3300 Information Technology for Business**

2020, 21 **IDSC 4444 Descriptive and Predictive Analytics**

5.4/6 Instructor Evaluation (Student Rating of Teaching)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

2024 **CMBA 5813** Competing In The Digital Age

2024 **IDSC 6051** Information Technologies and Solutions

2024 **MSBA 6345** Consultative Problem-Solving & Agile Management for Analytics Projects

2023 **MSBA 6441** Casual Inference via Econometrics and Experimentation

2019 - 22 **MSBA 6410** Exploratory Data Analytics and Visualization

2020 **MSBA 6450** Modeling and Heuristics for Decision Making and Support

2019 **IDSC 6444** Business Analytics for Managers (MBA)

2017 Digital Media Elite Program @ Peking University HSBC Business School

GUEST LECTURES

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, LaTeX
Databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB

Side Projects

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