

Yifan (Annie) He

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| **Individual value-equity investor achieving 1-year returns >20%, consistently outperforming the index**

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

August 2020-May 2024

- B.A. in Economics; B.S. in Statistics; B.S. in Psychology; Minor in Mathematics
- GPA: 3.97/4.00 (186 credit hours); Magna Cum Laude, Highest Distinction in Statistics, Distinction in Economics; Phi Beta Kappa, James Scholar Honors, Distinguished Undergraduate Researcher Certificate, Fall 2023 Preble Research Award with \$1250 Scholarship
- **Relevant Courses:** 1st-year-PhD Microeconomic Theory I, Advanced Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Differential Equations, Real Analysis, Statistical Modeling, Machine Learning & Deep Learning, etc.
- **Exchange Experiences:** semester-long study abroad at Vienna University of Economics and Business & University of Vienna in Spring 2023; interned at Thinkubator, a circular economy think tank
- Short-term study abroad in Winter 2024 to explore Economic Development in Benin, West Africa

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Yale University - Tobin Center for Economic Policy

New Haven, Connecticut

Postgraduate Associate - *Supervisor: Thomas Steffen*

September 2024-Present

- Full-time predoc working on research projects involving Information Economics and Generative AI
- Developed a unique dataset of ~160,000 shareholders letters by implementing web-scraping techniques and deploying open-source LLMs locally via llama.cpp, leveraged on HPC clusters for parallel computing
- Contributed empirical evidence to investigate the impact of visionary CEOs on market performance, examining the economic implications of executive characteristics in corporate settings
- Presenter at Envisioning AI at Yale: An Interdisciplinary Symposium ([research poster](#))

Vienna University of Economics and Business

Vienna, Austria

Volunteered Researcher - *Supervisor & Collaborator: Markus Lampe*

April 2023-Present

- Ongoing research on how local tariff policy stances influenced the outbreak of the U.S. Civil War
- Mined public opinions toward trade policies behind historical newspapers with stance detection method
- Bridged the gap between the conventional manual reading approach and advanced NLP methods (distant reading) to automate historical information extraction
- Presenter at the 2024 Undergraduate Research Symposium, 10th Annual Econ Research Symposium at UIUC; Brownbag Seminar at WU; Envisioning AI at Yale: An Interdisciplinary Symposium; 2025 Pre-Doctoral Economics Conference at Princeton University ([research poster](#), [data visualization](#))

Illinois Risk Lab

Champaign, Illinois

Text Analysis Researcher - *Supervisor: Xiaochen Jing*

August 2022-December 2022

- Tackled down tasks involving Natural Language Processing and Deep Representation Learning
- Replicated and modified algorithms from research papers and public resources to real-world datasets via R and Anaconda, meanwhile seeking potential improvements
- Implemented long short-term memory model to perform sentiment analysis and text classification on IMDb dataset to extract useful insights from featured user review

Gies College of Business

Champaign, Illinois

Research Assistant - *Supervisor: Sarah Lim*

August 2022-October 2022

- Assisted Consumer Psychology research projects with their data collection process at the Gies Behavioral Research Lab to study purchasing behaviors

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

Research Paper: *Evaluation of China's "Double Reduction Policy" with Synthetic Control: Its Influence on Industrial Performance and Stock Market Volatility*

Champaign, Illinois

Primary Author

September 2022-January 2023

- Discovered the anticipatory negative impact of policy implementation on industrial performance
- Constructed frameworks for control units, covariates, and potential outliers to do econometric evaluations
- Retrieved data from authorized sources, coded model in R, and finally shed light on political instability
- Manuscript being accepted to the Illinois Student Undergraduate Research Journal (ILSURJ)

Honor Project on Intermediate Macroeconomics

Champaign, Illinois

Economics Researcher - Supervisor: Rui Zhao

August 2021-December 2021

- Wrote a research paper about China's high saving rate puzzle from cultural perspectives, pointing out the irrationality of one of Hofstede's cultural dimensions

Extracurricular Project on Interactive Pokédex with Shiny R

Champaign, Illinois

Creator & Programmer

December 2022-January 2023

- Self-integrated an informative Pokémon dataset, created a user-friendly [website](#) with ~1000 lines of code
- Practiced reactive programming and traditional R scripting, enhanced debugging skills, absorbed tips and grasped theories from *Mastering Shiny*; provided data visualization with interactive features

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCES

Entrepreneurship on Lego Minifigures

Online (Global)

Business Owner & Arbitrage Seller

July 2020-August 2021

- Focused on Lego minifigure deals by discovering the remarkable price discrepancies, made about 60 deals with 80+ items sold, earned \$1300+ with an average net profit margin of at least 150%
- Served different roles on an E-commerce platform: market research, financial operation, import purchase, pricing, copywriting, photographing, and customer service
- Applied theories from economics and consumer psychology (information failure) into reality, satisfied and met needs from customers, attracted a number of returned clients, achieved a win-win business

Illinois Business Consulting

Champaign, Illinois

Experienced Consultant

September 2022-December 2022

- Built a financial pricing model for a Fortune 200 client, collaboratively worked together as a team of ten
- Delved into secondary research of macroeconomics factors, then established and polished risk matrixes
- Wrapped up the leasing model with 10 functional spreadsheets to help the client in writing contracts and setting up accurate prices, successfully replaced the old one with a high acknowledgment

Illinois Ventures

Champaign, Illinois

Part-Time Fellowship

September 2022-December 2022

- Guided by a senior associate to learn fundamentals about venture capital through an entrepreneur's perspective on a weekly base, closely dealt with three portfolio companies
- Drafted market analysis and risk evaluation to deliver annual investment reports, extracted essence from financial databases like PitchBook and Crunchbase
- Co-helped to launch the Angel Network, researched upon angel groups to gather 50+ wealthy individuals

Fortune Venture Capital Co. Ltd

Beijing, China

Investment Management Intern

June 2021-August 2021

- Business travel to more than 10 cities, interviewed 40+ relevant members amongst management teams
- Involved in the whole process of due diligence, recorded interviews with rich and detailed content to create an 86-page manuscript independently
- Proofread industry research reports about wind energy, crafted valuation model and final project proposal

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Department of Economics

Champaign, Illinois

Econ Tutor

February 2024-May 2024

- Held tutoring hours to walk through problems with undergrad students from both introductory and advanced Economics classes, helping them grasp the accessible reasoning behind each problem

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Champaign, Illinois

Teaching Assistant

August 2022-October 2022

- Led group discussions among international students on sensitive topics to help them reflect and adapt, creating an inclusive atmosphere that encouraged everyone to share
- Took charge of the grading process, drafted emails as reminders, coordinated students with their mentors
- Held intern panel to share experience, and sharpened interpersonal skills by guiding students along

SKILLS

- Languages: English, Mandarin Chinese, German (A2 level)
- Programming Skills: R, Python, Stata, Latex; certified as Data Scientist Associate by DataCamp
- Methodologies: advanced spreadsheet modeling with Excel and VBA; specialized in parallel computing, machine learning, text mining, big data, and everything about LLMs and VLMs