

Summer 2022 Student Directory

Contents

Summer 2022 Student Directory.....	1
Benjamin Amartey.....	5
Plenyo Nahen Gonzaga Araujo	6
Tapiwanashe Bhibho.....	8
Yi-ping Chen	9
Chang-ti Chou	11
Chi-ya Chou	12
Catalina Farías	14
Rui Feng.....	15
Haiqing Gao.....	16
Marie Fatima Gaw	18
Luis Gustavo De Azevedo Gomes	19
Yichen Gong.....	21
Wenhao Gu.....	23
Ziyang Guo.....	24
Motahareh Hakiminejad	25
Thayane Henriques.....	26
Delaram Heydarian	28
Hyerim Hong	29

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

Hsiao-yu Hu	31
Kaiwen Huang	32
Tina Huang	33
Monisola Jayeoba	34
Matej Jungwirth	35
Arushi Kapoor	36
Eleftheria Kelekidou	38
Muhammed Nur Talha Kilic	39
Youngmin Ko	40
Kad dokwan Kook	42
Junqing Leng	44
Yun Pu Li	45
Shiqi Liang	46
Xiaowei Liu	47
Zhihan Liu	48
Hsin Lu	49
Keigo Makino	50
Lisandro Andres Mendieta	51
Chuanfen NI	52
Yihan Pan	53
Ziteng Pang	54
Radhika Garg	55

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

Rohan Rajmohan	56
Ana Luiza Vedovato Rodrigues	57
Jose Lara Sanchez	59
Kazuaki Sano	60
Diptendu Sen	61
Shima Shahabfar	63
Nalin Shani	64
Maulikraj Shrimali	65
Donghyun Sohn	66
Lirika Sola	68
Vsevolod Suschevskiy	69
Le Trung Tran	71
Xiaoman Wang	72
Zhanpeng Wang	73
Dinglin Xia	74
Tong Xu	75
Zheng Yu	76
Chen-wei Yu	77
Pietro Zanin	78
Wenhao Zhang	79
Jinglan Zhang	80
Zheyang Zhang	82

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

Tingyu Zhao.....	83
Jiafeng Zhu.....	84

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Benjamin Amartey

I am Benjamin Tetteh Amartey from Ghana in West Africa. I was born and raised in Tema, which is about 25 miles from Ghana's capital city, Accra. I will be completing my PhD in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Northwestern. My research interest focuses on the impact of age-related hearing loss and cognitive decline on speech understanding in adverse listening environments. In my free time, I enjoy driving, watching movies, and catching up with family and friends. I am thrilled to be attending Northwestern and look forward to being academically challenged as well as contributing to the exciting translational research at Northwestern. I am also looking forward to experiencing the changing of the seasons in Chicago and visiting top attractions in the city. Given that I am moving to Chicago from a warmer climate, I am extremely nervous about Chicago's winter.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Plenyo Nahen Gonzaga Araujo

Hello everyone! My name is Plenyo, and I am from Natal, a beautiful beach city in Brazil. I am a Ph.D. student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department, specializing in Geotechnical Engineering. My research interests lie in working out new methods to improve the sustainability of urban systems. Northwestern seemed like a great place to be a Ph.D. student because of the excellent facilities combined with its proximity to a major city. I look forward to visiting restaurants and experiencing the Chicago's culture. I am really excited to enjoy the range of opportunities I'll have at Northwestern and in the Chicagoland area. Instagram: @plenyo

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

Ana Barioni

My name is Ana Elisa Barioni. I am a PhD student of the Physics and Astronomy department in the Motter's group. I am originally from Brazil and it has always been my dream to study abroad and pursue an academic career as a researcher. I am very much looking forward to moving to the Evanston/Chicago area since I've heard that this is a beautiful place to live with a lot of exciting things to do and to learn. I have also learned a lot from the Northwestern University as I search on the internet. Knowing more about the campus, the resources, and the students, specially from my research group, makes me even more excited to go. At the same time that I am excited, I'm still nervous to start this new journey in my life. I've never been in a foreign country for such a long time before. My family is also nervous about this long time distance, but we will keep in touch through zoom calls and social media. They are also excited to visit Chicago and meet my new house and way of life. In summary, I'm looking forward to start this amazing adventure and do my best with this opportunity.



Tapiwanashe Bhibho

Department of Study: Civil and Environmental Engineering

Country of Origin: Zimbabwe

I was born and bred in Chinhoyi, a small town in the Mashonaland West Province in Zimbabwe. Profile:

An entrepreneur, researcher, educator, and sustainable construction materials enthusiast with a progressive knowledge and experience in Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

Passionate about using my understanding of Mathematics and Pure Sciences to engineer solutions to real-life problems. Global citizen with the ideas and principles of ethical and servant leadership at heart. I am looking forward to meeting and interacting with colleagues from around the globe, and to share with them academic and other life experiences.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Yi-ping Chen

I'm Yi-Ping Chen from Taiwan, and I am starting my Ph.D. study at the Department of Mechanical Engineering this fall. I grew up in Kaohsiung, a southern city in Taiwan, which owns the 4th large harbor in the world. Aside from Kaohsiung, I also lived in Tainan while purchasing my bachelor's degree, and in Taipei for my master's degree. Moreover, I stayed in Taichung for more than a year for work. I'm glad that I could get familiar with these four major cities in Taiwan and enjoy their beauty. I believe these experiences provide me a variety of materials to introduce my home town to my foreign friends and offer me the confidence to be a great host of my home town for hospitality.

During my Ph.D., I'll focus on designing mechanical systems by considering the various source of uncertainties to mitigate the risk during operations and improve the overall robustness and reliability of our design objectives. This issue is gaining increasing attention for engineering

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

design/decision/optimization nowadays relies more on computer models. Therefore, the domain knowledge of “Design Under Uncertainty” undoubtedly plays a crucial role in modern engineering and decision-making. To me, not only do the promising and broad applications of the related tools fascinate me but also the Design Society always emphasizes the value of making a better world by addressing the most critical socio-technical issues. That’s why I’m excited to contribute my intelligence to support this value, making engineering more than just engineering.

Aside from my research, I enjoy building interpersonal relationships and watching hilarious movies/sitcoms. In my opinion, making friends with different people is like reading books, and I can always feel my mind and horizon be broadened during the relationship. Watching sitcoms, to me, is another way to enjoy a relationship. When I watch the Big Bang Theory and How I Met Your Mother, it feels like the characters are my friends and we live together and share our lives. Therefore, I can obtain a great sense of belonging in these activities. Since I and my wife (an F2 dependent) cannot imagine how the life will be like in Evanston, we’re quite nervous but looking forward to starting our new life there. We hope we could make friends with people over there and won’t feel bored and isolated. Last but not least, we’re planning to raise children during the study years.



Chang-ti Chou

Hi everyone! My name is Chang-Ti Chou. I'm going to study Material Science and Engineering at Northwestern University for my PhD degree. I come from Taiwan. My interests in research are computational material science. I think it is a beautiful thing to simulate unknown materials and predict their properties. I can explore material science even beyond the experimental limits. I am excited to join the big Northwestern family. I can't wait to see the stunning views on campus!

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Chi-ya Chou

My name is Chi-Ya Chou. I was born in Taiwan, and I grew up in Taipei City. I'm going to pursue my Ph.D. in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and I'm in the group called Transportation systems analysis and planning. My research interests include transportation planning and travel behavior. I'm especially interested in topics related to sustainability and urban resilience. I aspire to study people's decision-making behavior toward emerging transportation services and explore strategies for future transportation planning and operations. In my free time, I like listening to music and watching movies and series. My favorite singer is Taylor Swift, and I also listen to Japanese rock music. I watch all types of films, except for horror movies. In addition, I've been

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

watching Stranger Things recently because Season 4 is now on Netflix! However, it has been a long time since the last time I watched it. I almost forgot what happened in previous seasons, so I'm reviewing Season 1-3 now. I also like cooking, although I'm still practicing how to cook. Painting is my new hobby, and I like to paint landscapes. Furthermore, I love to travel and try cuisine from different countries. My favorite country is Japan, and I have been there six times. I take lots of pictures during my trips, and I'd say photography is one of my hobbies. I'm looking forward to having a walk/run along Lake Michigan and learning more about the architecture in Chicago. Meeting new people is what I'm most excited about at Northwestern, and it's also what I'm nervous about. Nice to meet you!

Catalina Farías

Hi everybody! My name is Catalina Farías and I am from Santiago, Chile. I was born and raised in Santiago and I continue living here. I have a BA in Social Communication and I will be studying in the School of Communication in the Media, Technology and Society (MTS) PhD program. My research interests are digital inclusion and digital inequalities. Specifically, I've been studying how people adopt and use technology, the digital divide that exists between different sectors of society (e.g. gender inequalities, rural and urban areas, educational level, age), and how this influences the development of digital skills. My other research area is digital activism and message effects on digital environments and their influence on civic engagement. I am really excited to start the program and get to know Evanston, Chicago (I always wanted to visit the city), and the campus!

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Rui Feng

I am a PhD student in the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. I come from China. In my spare time, I like to jogging, shopping, and cooking Chinese food. I also love the Formula 1 Racing. My WeChat is 15628789686, and welcome to add me to make friends!



Scan the QR code to add me as friend

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Haiqing Gao

Hello, everyone! My name is Haiqing Gao. I'm from China, Guizhou Province. I will study in the Industrial Engineering and Management Science department. It's really nice to meet you, and I hope that we can become good friends.

My research interest is applying optimization methods to solve healthcare problems. For example, I have designed an algorithm to promote mobile health interventions. The project aims to utilize wearable devices, such as iWatch, to provide patients with timely suggestions. In China, insufficient healthcare resources cause conflicts between patients and doctors, so I hope I can design an algorithm that is feasible in real applications to release the burden on doctors in the future.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

As for my personal interest, I love reading fiction, watching animations and TV series, and doing sports, and I am willing to try new things. For the reading, I read detective fiction most of the time. My favorite author is Agatha Christie. Her stories have been adapted for movies and TV series uncountable times, such as the Murder on the Orient Express. I also enjoy science fiction because it combines imagination and logical deduction based on facts. For the animations and TV series, I watch those with fancy stories or vivid characters. Since I have watched many animations and Korean TV series, I can understand part of Japanese and Korean. I plan to learn deeper in Japanese later. Moreover, those animations and televisions inspire me to explore different cultures. Therefore, I am thrilled to listen to your culture in your hometown if you want to share it with me. For sports, I like swimming, doing Pamela and running. Besides them, I can play badminton, tennis, basketball, frisbee, and volleyball (though not very well). Exercising helps me maintain a healthy body as well as a good mood. Though Ph.D. study can be really time demanding, I think keeping enough exercise is quite crucial.

There are two things that I am most excited about living in Evanston: snow and my own room. My home and university are in the South area, so it's scarce to see the snow. I can't wait to ski and skate at Evanston in winter! Furthermore, it's the first time that I will rent a house outside the school, furnishing the room on my own, and need not share my room with my roommates. How excited I am!

Marie Fatima Gaw

Hi everyone, I'm Fatima Gaw. I'm an incoming PhD student of the Media, Technology and Society (MTS) program. I am from the Philippines, but I have moved to Australia for two years for my master's degree. I got back in 2020 (pandemic year!) to teach and do research. I have been in the academe professionally for 2.5 years now, working as an Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines. My research interests center on the mediation of platforms, networks and algorithms in political, culture and discourse. My recent works have been around election discourses and disinformation (see my latest analysis ([Links to an external site.](#))), from the election of populist leader Rodrigo Duterte in 2016 to the election of the son of the dictator Bongbong Marcos Jr. to office just last May. I'm looking forward to living in Chicago because I heard it hits the sweet spot between a busy city and a laid back culture. I truly need some slower pace in my life. Northwestern is also the best place for me to do my research as it has one of the best Comm and media departments in the world. The labs are so cool on paper, they might be much more amazing IRL! The only thing I'm nervous about is bringing my dog with me from Manila to Chicago. There's too many papers to process (more than my own visa!) so I'm hoping for the best results for me and him. Cheers, hope to see you all soon. Follow me to Twitter @fatimagaw!



Luis Gustavo De Azevedo Gomes

I was admitted to the Managerial Economics and Strategy Ph.D. program at the Kellogg School of Management. I was born in Brazil, and I lived here all my life, but for a brief single-term study abroad program at Rice University in Houston. My family lives in a small city in the state of São Paulo, and that is where I lived until I went to college in the city of São Paulo. I graduated in Economics from the University of São Paulo and soon after I joined FGV's São Paulo School of Economics to pursue my Master's degree. During these years, I became interested in applied economic theory, especially in the applications to political economy. In other words, I am interested in applying Economics' theoretical framework to study political situations. In this theme, one topic that captivates me is the study of conflicts, as studying military history has been one of my hobbies.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

Academical interests aside, I am also into cooking and manual crafts such as calligraphy and, more recently, bookbinding. What I most look forward to once I move to Evanston is coming back to an in-person academic environment. The conversations and free exchange of ideas face to face is the part I miss the most from the pre-pandemic period. Right now, my only source of anxiety has been finding a roommate and renting a place to live.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Yichen Gong

Hi, I'm Yichen Gong, you can call me Chloe as a preferred name! I'm a student in the 2022 fall IBiS program (Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences Graduate Program, you can consider it as a general biology Ph.D. program). I think I will study neuroscience in this department. I'll come to Evanston in early August. I was born and raised in Shanghai, China, where I spent most of my life. This is a beautiful city with countless delicious food from all over the world, though I'm not quite into its weather :P (rains and winds a lot). I'll graduate from Fudan University this year in June. I can say my undergrad life is filled with self-improvement and freedom and chilliness. I do love the school.

I will call myself a girl like a spirit (if it doesn't sound too narcissistic). My MBTI is ENFP. I'm full of energy and ready to make new friends! For sports, I love swimming and working out (mainly following

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

KEEP). I love American and Japanese TV series, and my favorites are Person of Interest and Unnatural Death (for now). I like Cardi B's and Yonezu Kenshi's songs. I go to musicals sometimes, mainly English or French. I love cats and planning to keep one in Evanston! I've attached my WeChat and Instagram QR codes. Please please do not hesitate to contact me! We can chat about our interests and our future life in Chicago. Also do not hesitate to grab food or hang out with me!



逍逍家的猫罐头

Lucerne, Switzerland



Scan the QR code to add me on WeChat

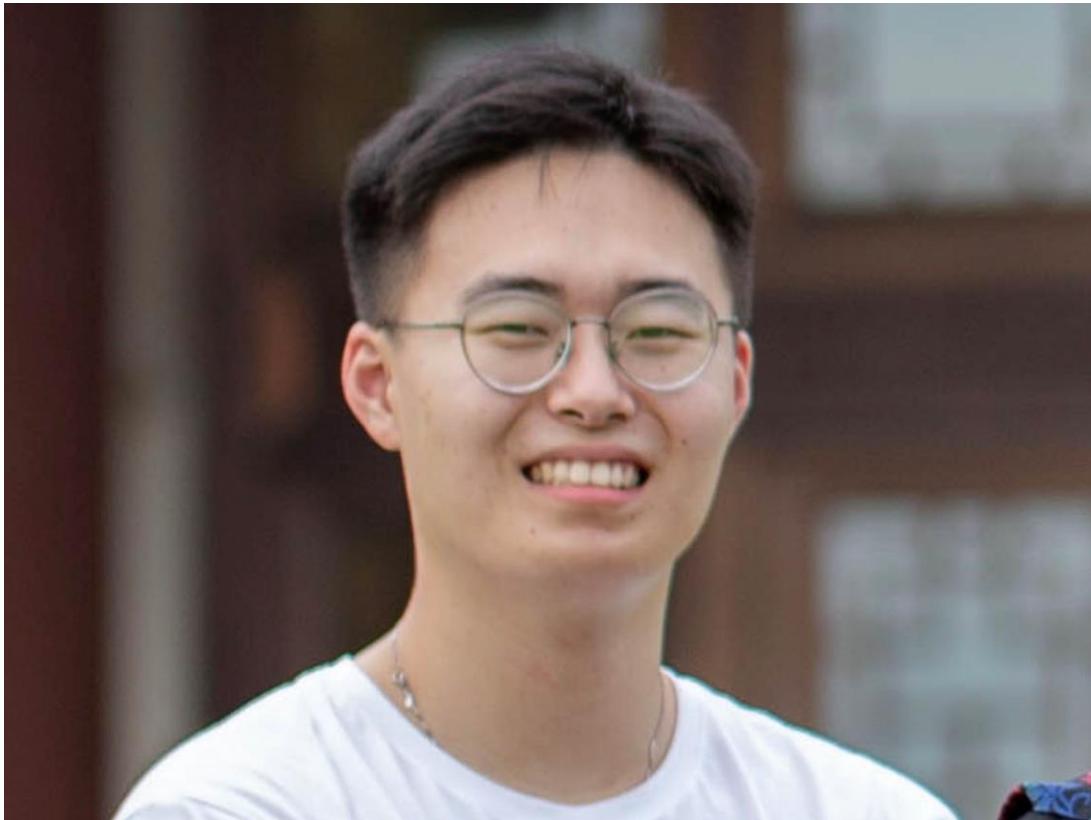
Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Wenhao Gu

I am a new Ph.D. student in Operations Management, Kellogg School of Management. I have been living in China since I was born, so it is the first time that I go abroad. For me, in terms of research, I am interested in math problems, especially those related to stochastic process. In my spare time, I love playing basketball very much, and I also enjoy playing games on steam. I am feeling both excited and nervous about my life in Northwestern. I feel excited because it is a place that is completely new for me, like culture, food and environment. I feel nervous mostly because my English is not good enough, so I am worried if I can communicate well with people there and make friends. Anyway, I believe it will be a wonderful experience.



Ziyang Guo

I will study computer science. I was born and raised in China. My research interests are in visualization and human-computer interaction. In my spare time, I like to play billiards and badminton.

I am excited about new cultures and meeting people from different countries, but I am also a bit nervous about them (new cultures and new languages). Here is my WeChat id: gzy991030. Looking forward to meeting everyone!

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Motahareh Hakiminejad

Greetings! I'm Motahareh Hakiminejad (Moti for short) from Tehran, Iran. Department of Study: I will be a student in the Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences (IBiS) Ph.D. program, an interdisciplinary program with faculty from five departments. Country of Origin: I was born in Kashan, a historical city, and raised in Tehran, the capital of Iran. Profile: I am a biologist, and I love studying the intricate, complex, and beautiful machinery of living beings through computational methods. For my master thesis, I developed a machine learning tool to identify driver mutations based on the effect of mutation on protein. I play Tar, an Iranian string instrument, go hiking or birdwatching, or make some crafts in my spare time. I'm an outdoorsy person and love being in nature, so I love the natural sights of Evanston. The fact that Chicago is nearby is incredible, allowing you to have the hustle and bustle of a big city and the calm of a small town. I look forward to making many new friends and having new experiences! I enjoy meeting new people, so feel free to contact me. I am available by email (mot.hakimi.95@gmail.com). I'm also on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/MotHakimi>) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/motahareh-hakiminejad-7840471b7>)



Thayane Henriques

My name is Thayane Henriques, a Brazilian girl from Rio de Janeiro who is going to start a Ph.D. in Media, Technology, and Society in the Communication Department at Northwestern this fall. At the doctoral level, my interests are Fan studies, Mainstream Media, Digital Media, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Social Justice, Online Participation and Inequality, and Social Media. I want to investigate how a mainstream “feminist-oriented” product, like a TV show, addresses gender issues and depicts women. At the same time, examine how this content influences fans’ engagement with feminism and other social movements and affects their identities. For that, it would be interesting to explore fans’ behavior on social media, like Twitter, and their original content-creation, like fan videos. Fruitful

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

questions could emerge: If a product reinforces stereotypes about feminism, do fans renegotiate these conceptions on social media? Do fans create content to engage with other minority social fights? How does the gender portrayal of a mainstream product affect girls' self-perception? What strategies do activist fans use to spread their content on digital platforms? Can exposure to offensive messages lead to collective action by fans of minority groups? I recognize that mainstream media sometimes can be harmful by inadvertently perpetuating sexist and misogynistic depictions, and fans could be a potent social group that refuses prevailing gender ideas.

About my personal interests, I am crazy about watching k-dramas and going to the movies. I also enjoy going to the beach on weekends. I believe Chicago and Evanston are fantastic cities to live in. I am thrilled to go to Northwestern but also anxious, especially because of Chicago's weather. As I am from Rio, I am used to sunny and hot days. I am sure it will be hard to face Chicago's Winter.

Besides, I am very closed to my family. For sure, I will miss them very much.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Delaram Heydarian

I'm Delaram Heydarian. I'm a first-year incoming Ph.D. student in the industrial engineering Department. My research interest lies in Stochastic Processes and Health Scheduling. I'm going to rent an apartment in Evanston. My hobbies are doing Pilates and watching movies.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Hyerim Hong

Hi, I'm Hyerim Hong. I'm from Seoul, South Korea, where I spent most of my life. I have traveled to the United States and Spain among other places and have pleasant memories of each of them. I hope to make new great memories in Evanston for the next five years. I will be doing my doctorate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, where I would be studying contemporary theater in Spanish-speaking countries, especially Spain. My research interests include immigrant narratives, ethical issues in representation, testimonio, and documentary theater. These interests stemmed from my personal passion for theater and from my concern for contributing to society.

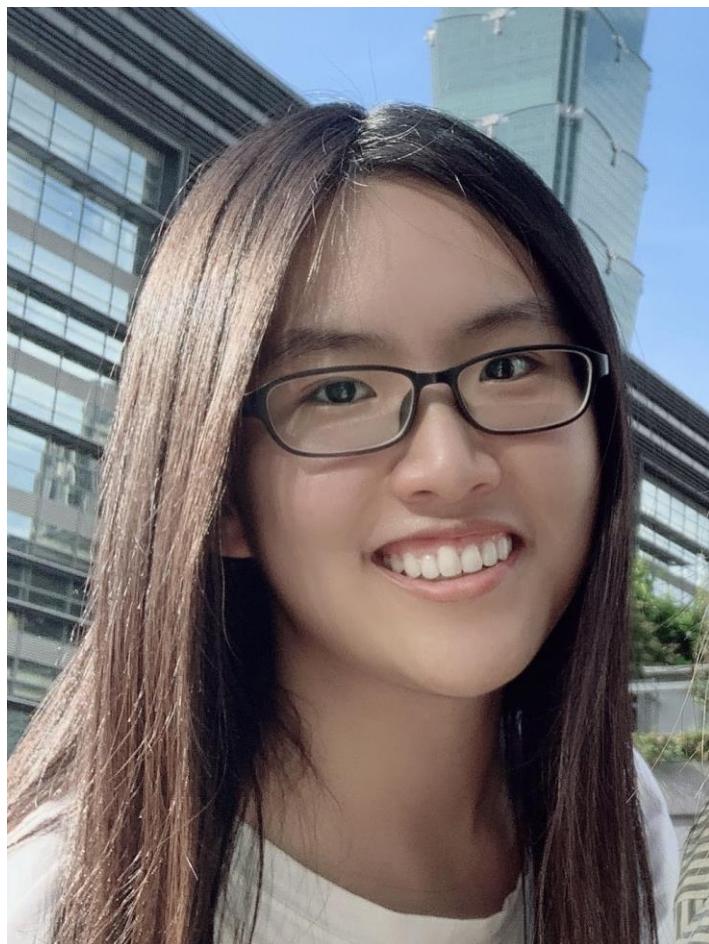
Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

I'm very excited to be joining the Northwestern University community. I have heard great things about the community, such as how kind and cooperative people generally are and the supportive atmosphere it has. I'm also looking forward to living in Evanston and in close distance from Chicago, as I have always wanted to enjoy the suburbs' tranquility as well as the vibrant city life. I would love to see the lake and all the greenery in Evanston. I've never been to Chicago, but I've been told that it has great art, theater, and culture, which I won't miss out. There is one thing I am worried about living in Evanston: the cold. I can't stand cold weather and I've heard that winter in Illinois is very long and quite extreme. People on the Internet give bits of advice to wear layers and to put on waterproof boots and coats, but honestly, I'm not sure if that would be enough for me to keep myself warm. However, I won't let the cold hold me back from enjoying my time in Evanston. I'm sure I'll figure out my own ways to cope with the cold eventually. I look forward to making new friends and experiencing new cultures at Northwestern University and in Evanston!

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Hsiao-yu Hu

Hi everyone, I'm Hsiao-Yu, born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan. I will be studying in the department of IEMS (Industrial Engineering & Management Sciences), and my research focuses on algorithm design and combinatorial optimization. I received my bachelor's degree from National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan, and spent a year as an exchange student at Bilkent University, Turkey. In my free time, I enjoy watching films and traveling, and I'm also a beginner in tennis. I'm really excited to join Northwestern this Fall. I look forward to meeting you all, learning about your research, and having fun together. My WhatsApp (and WeChat) phone number is +886 922 186 726 and my Instagram handle is hsiaoyu0726. Please feel free to DM me.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Kaiwen Huang

Hi, everyone! I am Kaiwen, an incoming PhD student in the Screen Cultures program, Department of Radio/TV/Film, School of Communication. I was born and raised in Guiyang, a mountainous town in Southwest China. I have lived in other Chinese cities including Tianjin and Guangzhou, and I have spent a year studying in London, United Kingdom. My research explores the changing notions of screens – pre-cinematic spectacles, contemporary world cinemas, and new/alternative media – and how they intervene in our lifeworld. My other interests span the topics of hip-hop and R&B music, K-pop girl groups, Japanese anime, video game livestreaming, YouTube, and “pop cultures” in general. My favorite writers are Jorge Luis Borges, Italo Calvino, and Umberto Eco. I go swimming in my spare time and I watch European football games. I look forward to advancing my study in Evanston because I plan to be a visual culture researcher and college professor in the future. And I hope to make friends in and out of my interested areas and broaden my horizons. I am both excited and nervous about my upcoming Evanston living experience because this will be my first time to the US. Having been exposed to a lot of (often biased and self-contradicted) media coverage about the US in China, I wish to see for myself this time. Feel free to add me on WeChat, my ID: PVD777

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Tina Huang

Hello everyone! I am Tina. I'm an international student from Taiwan and was born and grew up in Taipei, the capital city of Taiwan. I will start my PhD in NW mechanical engineering this fall. I have decided to join Rogers Research Group. Also, I will receive my bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at National Taiwan University this June. In my free time, I enjoy jogging and traveling. I am very new to the US and Chicago/Evanston. There are so many places I wish to explore on weekends and holidays! I've also heard that the facilities at NU Recreation are fantastic! I plan to jog around the campus regularly after I reach the campus. Anyone interested is welcome to join me :)

Feel free to connect with me via Facebook/Instagram! Here is my Facebook profile link:

<https://www.facebook.com/y.t.huang0813/> And this is my Instagram handle: thuang0813

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Monisola Jayeoba

Hi all, my name is Monisola Jayeoba. I am from Ekiti State, Nigeria and I'm currently rounding off my master's studies in Design Informatics at The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. Come Fall '22, I will be joining the Technology and Social Behavior doctoral program at Northwestern University.

My research interest lies at the intersection of Human Computer Interaction, Computer Supported Cooperative Work, and Health Informatics. I am particularly interested in building human-centered digital technologies for healthcare in resource-constrained environments. When I am not studying, I enjoy cooking and watching fantasy movies. I am excited about the beautiful Lake Michigan at Northwestern, and I look forward to spending a lot of time by the lake. Honestly, I am nervous about the wind. As someone who has lived in Edinburgh where I experienced a similar wind speed, I feel like I might not survive my first one year in Evanston..lol.



Matej Jungwirth

Hi there, my name is Matej Jungwirth and I will be joining the Political Science department at NU as a PhD student. While I was born in the Czech Republic, I spent most of my adult years in the US where I obtained my undergrad and Master's degree. I am keenly interested in the politics of Central and Eastern Europe, especially with regards to polarization and democratic backsliding. I really look forward to exploring NU's campus, getting to know my peers and professors in the PoliSci department (and elsewhere!) and being very close to my US family in Milwaukee.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Arushi Kapoor

Hello, Everyone. I am Arushi Kapoor and I am excited to have been accepted at the CEE (Civil and Environmental Engineering) department at Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering at Northwestern University. I currently reside in Delhi, India. During my formative years, I had the opportunity to live and learn about diverse cultures across India and imbibe the good elements of each of them. I grew up in six different states and found myself being more open to people with diverse cultural backgrounds and different languages. These experiences have shaped my ability to adjust quickly to the ever-changing environment. I completed my undergraduate degree in Medical Biotechnology and master's degree in Biotechnology from Amity University, India. I believe that biotechnology is the backbone for all innovations in the field of life sciences. Microbiology, bioremediation, and environmental sciences can help in the development of bio-engineered solutions to the humungous problems we face today and being a part of the solution is of keen interest to me.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

Beyond the realm of academics, my extracurricular interests include biking and hiking. I am keen to explore and join groups to give wings to my interests. Given my proclivity to explore the world, I enjoy learning new languages and experiencing new cultures. My hobbies help me align with nature to gain new experiences and appreciate diversity. I look forward to living and exploring Evanston and Chicago. As a most sought-after seat for global learning, I expect it to be an opportunity to meet and engage with the larger global community, understand their perspectives, appreciate diversity, experience cuisine, and festivals, make friends and become a part of a global community. Among the many reasons for joining Northwestern University are the diverse topics and projects currently being researched and the many opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The faculty, facilities, and research opportunities offered at Northwestern University are unmatched. Though I have traveled out of India for holidays in the past, I have not had the opportunity to visit the United States of America till now. So, this is both exciting and daunting as I will be moving away from family for an extended period.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Eleftheria Kelekidou

Hello! I am Eleftheria and I am an incoming Economics Ph.D. student at NU. I am 21, I am from Greece, where I grew up, and for the last six years I have been living in Cyprus. I am about to complete my undergrad in University of Cyprus, where I majored in Economics and minored in Mathematics, and I have been working as a research assistant in my department for the past two years. Currently, I am interested in econometrics and political economy and my senior thesis examined the relationship between austerity and populism in the European Union. Apart from my academic interests, I am an avid reader of literature, both classic and modern, with some of my favorite authors being Gabriel García Márquez, Stendhal, and Umberto Eco. I am really thrilled about moving in Evanston as it seems like an excellent place to live, and I am also excited about starting my Ph.D. at a university like Northwestern where the research opportunities and the overall student experience are incomparable. I am a little nervous about adapting to an entirely unfamiliar environment as I am coming from a relatively small university, but on the same time I find this a tempting challenge that will help me grow as a person. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in person in September!

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Muhammed Nur Talha Kilic

I'm Muhammed Nur Talha Kilic and I'm from Istanbul / Turkey. Nowadays, I am about to finish my master's degree in Electronics Engineering in Istanbul Technical University (ITU) and working as an Embedded Software Engineer on satellite technologies in a private company. As of Fall 2022, I will start my PhD in Computer Science on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. I am highly enthusiastic about computer vision projects enhancing by AI technologies. In Northwestern, I really want to increase the collaboration and be part of groups working on these projects. I was born in Konya, which is located in the center of Turkey, and it is famous with Rumi, known as one of the best-selling poets in the US. I find myself introverted and, I think it will be challenging and great experience for me to make friendships with people from all over the world. I am a big fan of violin concertos. In Northwestern, I plan to enroll in the violin course if I get the opportunity. Since the climate of Chicago is similar to that of Istanbul, those who like cold weather like me will definitely love the city. I love meeting new people and staying in touch, so I am adding my social media accounts. Please do not hesitate to contact me. LinkedIn : <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mntalhakilic/> Instagram : @mntalha_kilic

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Youngmin Ko

Hi! I am Young. I will be starting off my PhD path in Statistics department, which I am really excited about. I am born and raised in a small town called Paju, South Korea and moved to the United States in 2016 for my undergraduate education. I was supposed to graduate in 2020, but due to two years of military service, I graduated this year. I studied mathematics in college and now I am planning to shift my gear into a more applied field and hence the statistics program :) Because I am relatively new to the field of statistics, I am still catching up on a lot of stuffs in the field, but for now I am interested in studying statistics in a more mathematical perspective, and hopefully sublimate my understandings in mathematics and statistics into the fields of ML and time series. Of course, this is just a tentative plan, so it may change as I go along!

Besides my academic interests, I enjoy reading and working out. I played rugby for couple years in college and did CrossFit for a year. Unfortunately, I did not work out at all in my senior year, so I am planning to reignite my energy in Evanston :) Visiting the campus made me think it would be really

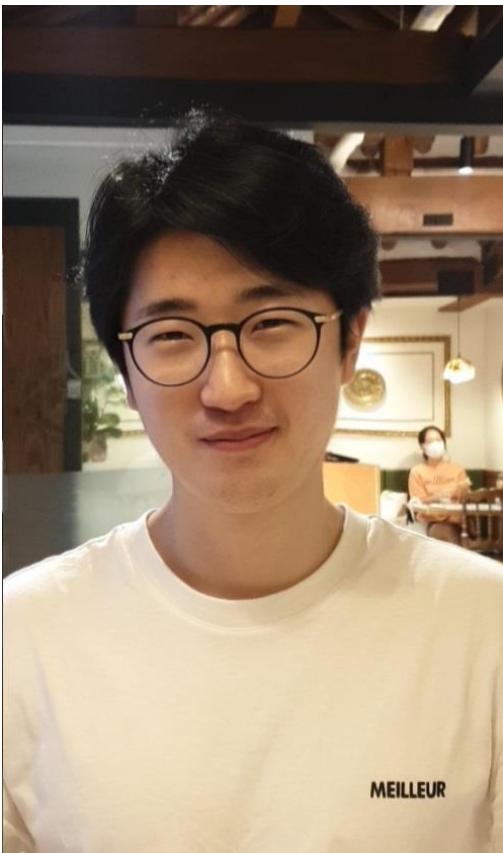
Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

nice to jog along the shore of the Lake Michigan! Also, I enjoy any genre as long as the book itself is good! Any book recommendations are much appreciated :) As much as I am excited about moving to Evanston, I am also nervous about it. It feels like a new start just as when I first moved to the US six years ago. I talked to my friends about this, and our conclusion was that this may be because the East Coast and the Midwest are so far away that it feels like they are in different countries. But just as I did fine in my college year, I believe I will get along :). Last but not least, I would like to connect with everyone in the ELP, so feel free to add me on instagram :) It's oldmin_ko523. Unfortunately, I am back in Korea now, so I won't be able to meet y'all in-person, but I look forward to meeting you guys in September in Evanston! Take care everyone :) (Photo of me in front of the Bean in Chicago this March)

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Kad dokwan Kook

Hello, my name is Dokwan Kook. I am studying Mechanical Engineering at Northwestern. I was born and grew up in South Korea. It is my first time studying abroad and standing up all by myself, so I am excited and nervous at the same time. I am interested in energy storage devices, mainly batteries. I always try my best to read books, but usually, I watch YouTube. Audios and videos are more attractive than text, aren't they? I dream one day, all the journals have YouTube channels and the author explains the paper using flashing lights or some fantastic visual effects. Being aside from electricity, I enjoy playing tabletop games. These days, I am kind of addicted to Mahjong, the origin of Rummikub. Also, I like to work out at the gym. I used to work out at home, but the weather is becoming hotter and hotter, and I need some cool air otherwise I will be choked before I got exhausted. Another reason for going to the gym is that there was a specific limit to exercising at home. When I wanted to increase strength, because there was no weight I can lift, I tried to do more

Northwestern

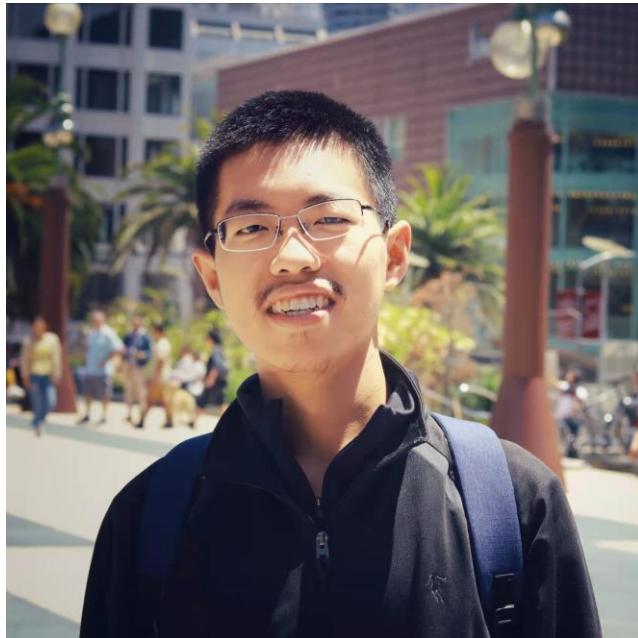
TGS-509: ELP Foundations

attempts of squatting, pulling up, or whatever for the same moment. It meant the time that I used for a single pose was decreasing, leading to collapsed pose. My ankle started to ache, and I could certainly know this was not a good idea. I heard that the weather is quite severe at Northwestern. I am a bit worried about it because according to Google the summer in Chicago is hotter and the winter in Chicago is colder than in South Korea. Nevertheless, I am looking forward to the life at

Northwestern. Instagram ID: cook_the_library

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Junqing Leng

I'm Junqing Leng, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. I born and grew up in Beijing, China. There I finished my high school education, then I left my hometown and traveled to Xi'an for an undergraduate education. And now, I'm leaving my home country, crossing the Pacific Ocean, and to America for my PHD degree. Actually, it is not my first time been to America. I had visited UC Berkley in 2019, just before the COVID came. I can still remember the excitement, curousness, nervousness when I got off the plane and made my first step on the ground of a foreign country on the other side of the world. And relief too, after being stuck in the small seat for 20 hours with an overweight neighbor nearby. But I'm afraid such trip can be even tougher now. Due to the COVID19, plane tickets are much more precious than ever before, yet planes are much easier to be canceled or delayed. Plus, I may have to wear a mask all the way for almost a whole day in the plane even if I can successfully board. I also found difficulties in applying VISA these days. I've made an appointment last week and my application was checked. So many links between me and NU, and so easily they may go wrong. That really makes me nervous and anxious. Anyway, I'm still looking forward to studying in NU. I've seen the campus photos, the Michigan lake, the gym, and the wonderful labs. I think it would be a great place to experience a new lifestyle and realize my academic dream.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Yun Pu Li

Hi everyone! I am Yun-Pu Li, or you can also call me Noel, and I'm a newly admitted Ph.D. student in the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program! I am born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan. For now, I am interested in the research field of neurodegenerative diseases, but I am not confined to that. Apart from doing research, I like to do sports! I like badminton in particular, but I would like to try out different activities also. I have decided to live around the area called Gold Coast, and I look forward to trying out the famous deep-dish pizza (Chicago-style pizza) soon! I have never seen white Christmas, so I am extremely excited about it but due to the fact that I have been raised in a subtropical county, I am also nervous about surviving through the freezing winter in Chicago. Hope to see you all online soon!

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Shiqi Liang

I'm Shiqi Liang, a girl from China. I'm now a senior undergraduate student and will enter Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences (IBiS) Graduate Program at Northwestern in 2022 Fall. I hope I can study the molecular mechanism of gene expression with structural studies and biochemical methods in IBiS. In my spare time, I enjoy drawing and Chinese painting. And sometimes I play games to relax myself. I've never been abroad before, so starting my new life in Evanston is like a big adventure for me. I feel excited to get approaches to a different culture, but, at the same time, I'm nervous about getting accustomed to the new environment as well as my graduate study.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Xiaowei Liu

My name is Xiaowei, a newly admitted PhD student of Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern University. I was born and grew up in China. I am really looking forward to exploring the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston and meeting with all of you in person. By the way, I am really interested in the "Photography" and hope to capture every moment with you using my camera in the future.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Zhihan Liu

Hello everyone! I am Zhihan Liu, who will join the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Science (IEMS) for a Ph.D. study. I came from China and finished my undergraduate study at the University of Science and Technology of China with a major in Statistics. My research areas involve machine learning, optimization, statistics, and finance. I am also looking forward to meeting anyone who shares some common research interests! :) Besides, I love games, music, and sports. My WeChat ID is liuzhihan0627. Just feel free to chat with me.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Hsin Lu

Hi guys, below are something about myself following the template given Department of Study: Kellogg School of Management (operations management track) Country of Origin: I am from Taiwan. Profile: I do empirical research primarily on supply chain, revenue management, and marketing. With an Econ background, I also did some work in Macro, such as house prices and interest rates, and the education system in our country. What are you excited about as you think about coming to Northwestern? The lake!!! :)) What are you nervous about? The coursework :(

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Keigo Makino

Hi, I'm Keigo Makino. I'll study economics in the MECS PhD program at Kellogg School of Management. My research interests include empirical IO, law and economics, political economics, and other topics in empirical microeconomics. I was born in Japan and I've never been abroad, which makes me nervous about my future life in the US. When I was a high school student, I dreamed of becoming a pianist or conductor. Although I'm not a professional musician, I love playing the piano and analyzing masterpieces of classical music. These days, I'm into works by Ligeti and Xenakis. I'll live in an apartment close to the Evanston campus. Thank you.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Lisandro Andres Mendieta

Hi there! I'm Andrés from Argentina -born and raised- (and yes, I'm a big fan of Leo Messi). I'll be an incoming PhD student in Spanish & Portuguese next semester. In my free time, I enjoy going out to dinner, grabbing "mate" (our traditional drink) and going to the movies. In 2019-2020 I had the opportunity to study for two quarters at Northwestern so I'm familiarize with my Department: I already have friends there and I've met the faculty. Also, I want to say that I'm in love with Chicago which is one of the most beautiful cities in the entire world. Hope to see you all soon! :)

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Chuanfen NI

Hello everyone, nice to e-meet you. My name is Chuanfen, and I'm an incoming doctoral student in The Health Sciences Integrated Program at Feinberg School of Medicine. I grew up in Southeastern China, and I live in Hyde Park currently. I plan to move closer to the downtown campus in the summer. I'm interested in designing patient-centered techniques to develop solutions that make healthcare service delivery a more efficient, equitable, and ethical practice. Thank you, and I look forward to meeting you all in person. Here's my email address: chuanfen.ni@northwestern.edu

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Yihan Pan

Hi everyone, my name is Yihan Pan and you could call me Astrid! I study in the Industrial Engineering and Management Science department at Northwestern. I was born and grew up in Wuhan, China. I went to Shenzhen, China for my undergraduate study. My research interests lie at the intersection of machine learning and optimization. I hope to connect mathematical tools and economics to provide effective solutions in revenue management. I am excited about painting, cooking, and hunting for great restaurants, I am extremely interested in Japanese Cuisine. Feel free to contact me when you want to hang out together! My WeChat number is 18672771722.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Ziteng Pang

Hi, I'm Ziteng Pang from China and I'll be studying in the Statistics department. I spent a few years in the west coast for my undergrad before coming here. I used to do a little bit of rock climbing and photography until Covid hits when I just ended up staying at home.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Radhika Garg

My name is Radhika Garg. I was born in a small town in Rajasthan, India. I will be studying Computer Science at Northwestern. My primary field of interest is Applied Cryptography and Multiparty Computation. I was an intern for a few months at Northwestern this year, and I enjoyed walks along the beach. I am very excited to meet the people again and work with them at the office. My personal interests are cooking and sketching. I love to bake in my free time. I am looking forward to meeting new people.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Rohan Rajmohan

Hi everyone! I am Rohan - a 22 year old incoming grad student, working towards a Ph.D. in Applied Physics. I am from Kerala - a state to the south of India. I spent the first ~11 yrs of my life in Singapore before returning to India and completing my UG from IIT Madras. My primary area of research is Superconducting Qubits - under the overarching theme of Quantum Computing. Apart from my academic interests, I am an ardent football fan (Manchester United supporter), play the keyboard and watch a bunch of TV shows. I am looking forward to interacting with a very multicultural peer group at NU and working alongside my 'group-mates'. However, I am already dreading the additional difficulties that are bound to arise when moving to a new country - hopefully, those can be sorted out as soon as possible! Looking for a roommate - instagram handle : rohan_r2n :')



Ana Luiza Vedovato Rodrigues

Hello everyone! My name is Ana Luiza Vedovato, I'm an incoming PhD student in the Political Science Department at Northwestern. I'm from Brazil, born and raised. I study the relationship between conflict and state formation, and the long-term effects of these processes on state and regional development, with a regional focus on Latin America. Northwestern's Political Science department has always been my top choice, and I'm super excited about getting in! Academic rigor and faculty expertise in my area of research were some of the main reasons why I applied to Northwestern. More than that, however, Evanston/Chicago area also turned out to be one of the reasons why I have chosen to attend this program. The diverse environment and vibrant Latin American and Brazilian communities in Evanston/Chicago were super important in my decision-

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

making. They truly helped me to feel welcome and gave me confidence that this will be a great place to live and work towards my PhD degree.

Moreover, I'm a huge fan of movies, music, and books, and Chicago has great concerts, independent movie theaters, libraries and bookstores that hopefully will help me have a good work-life balance during my PhD. As for some of my concerns, the most difficult part will definitely be being away from my family and friends (and food!) in Brazil. I'm also a little worried about the weather, especially when I think about getting out of bed early in the morning during the winter. Although I come from a very cold region in South Brazil, snow is not common here, and our winters are usually very sunny. I'm a big fan of cold weather, but people have warned me that Chicago's weather is the worst, so I'm slightly nervous about that. But in general, I'm super excited, because I'm confident that even with the cold, I'll be living my best life and attending my dream PhD program! If you want to connect outside the course, you can find me on Twitter at @ALVedovato :)



Jose Luis Lara Sánchez

My name is José Luis Lara Sánchez and I am a Mexican student that will be enrolling in the Ph.D. in Economics this Fall. I am very excited of having the chance to contribute to NU's community and to collaborate with my peers and professors. I was born in México City, and I have lived here all my life. Thus, I am eager of having the chance of sharing Mexico's culture with your community. Regarding my research interests, I am fascinated by how economics provides us with the chance of elucidating, through data and models, the interactions between economic agents and how it helps us to construct valid counterfactuals that allow the examination of alternative economic realities in order to propose feasible solutions to economic issues. Particularly, my current areas of interest are econometrics, macro-finance and banking. I consider econometrics to be a powerful tool to assess and contrast the implications of economic models. With respect to macro-finance, I am fascinated by the interrelation between asset prices and business cycles, whereas in banking, I am mostly intrigued about banks' impact on the real economy and their role on monetary policy and systemic risk. Finally, on a personal note I like to listen to music, to read, go to the movies and watch TV series.



Kazuaki Sano

Hello! My name is Kazuaki Sano. I am an incoming Ph.D. student in Managerial Economics and Strategy at Kellogg School of Management. I was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. I studied health policy in a Japanese graduate school after I graduated from medical school and worked as a resident physician. I also worked as a primary care physician in a home-care setting and as an occupational health physician while studying in the graduate school. I want to evaluate health policies or understand the behaviors of patients, physicians, and hospitals in terms of economics. I am looking forward to watching Cubs games because I like watching baseball games and Seiya Suzuki, a Japanese baseball player, began playing in the team this year. In addition, I want to go to the stadiums if Shohei Ohtani, who won the 2021 American League MVP, comes to Chicago.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Diptendu Sen

Hi, my name is Diptendu Sen and I am an incoming graduate student in the department of Mechanical Engineering at Northwestern University for the Fall 2022 session. I am from India and I was born and brought up in a small town in the state of West Bengal. My research interests lie broadly in the areas of heat transfer and fluid mechanics. My current research work as an MS student in India focuses on bioheat transfer.

Besides research, I enjoy playing badminton. I am also an avid reader and enjoy books across various genres, including thriller, horror, detective, romance and sci-fi. Some of my all time favorites include “The Kite Runner”, “A Thousand Splendid Suns”, “A Man called Ove” and “Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo”. Needless to mention, I am a big Potterhead and have read all the Harry Potter books several times over. Being a foodie, I am so excited to try out some wonderful new cuisines of

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

the USA in general, and Evanston in particular. I am also an amateur photographer and can't wait to click pictures of the beautiful Evanston campus by the lake Michigan. I am also very much interested in technology and like to stay updated with the latest developments. This will be my first time traveling abroad, and I am a bit nervous about settling in as an international student. However, I am really excited to join Northwestern and hope to meet a lot of people and make a ton of new friends. I look forward to spending the most important and memorable years of my professional and personal life there.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Shima Shahabfar

I'm Shima, and I was born and raised in Tehran, Iran. I will be joining the Materials Science and Engineering department at Northwestern University to continue my research and dive deeper into the vast field of materials design. I studied chemistry for my undergraduate studies. Chemistry might not be my graduate field of study, but it helped me gain chemical bonding insights that I now use for designing materials. I'm not particularly eager to spend my time in laboratories; however, I enjoy using computers to simulate materials' characteristics and behavior. I enjoy clearing my mind over weekends by using fresh air while hiking and spending time with my friends. I am excited about starting a whole new life at Northwestern as a scholar, and I am looking forward to finding new friends. I am also enthusiastic about starting my independent research and collaborative projects with NU's numerous resources. Ironically, I spend so many hours on my laptop, yet I do not have any social media account other than my Twitter account. Here's my ID: @Shima__Sh. Looking forward to meeting you all!

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Nalin Shani

Hello everyone! My name is Nalin Shani, and I was born and raised in Delhi, India. I am 21 years old. I completed my bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. I'll be enrolling in the PhD in Operations Management program at the Kellogg School of Management. As part of my research, I intend to create data-driven algorithms to assist in analysing and designing service systems. In addition, I plan to investigate how machine learning approaches might enhance the study of complex stochastic systems. I was also offered a position as a Data Scientist in an IT firm in India (on-campus placement) due to my proficiency in Data Science. I enjoy playing cricket and am a decent spin bowler. I also like to watch anime. I will have a new experience this winter when I move to Evanston, one that I am looking forward to because it will involve living in the snow and experiencing the cold weather. You can connect with me on Instagram. My Instagram handle is _nixon_z.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Maulikraj Shrimali

My name is Maulikraj Shrimali, I am a Doctoral Candidate in Performance Studies. I am born and brought up in India. I am a theatre director-playwright and founder of India-based 'Whistle Blower Theatre Group'. My major interest of research is Caste, Race and performance. I would like to explore theatre performances, street performances, and protest performances in Chicago- Evanston and around. I would love to meet new people, understand the new culture, problems and performance practices. Hope the diverse community of Northwestern would help me to explore. See you! Thank you.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Donghyun Sohn

Hi everyone. My name is Donghyun Sohn, and my major is computer science. I am specifically interested in a privacy-preserving database that uses database and cryptography techniques. For example, our lab recently conducted research with a Chicago hospital, analyzing patient data without revealing private information by using some cryptographic methods. I am excited to do research like this. I was born in South Korea, and I grew up in Seoul, which is the capital of South Korea. When I was 12, I visited Canada for a few months, and at that time, many people did not know much about my country. However, over time, I am glad that many people have come to know Korea, as Korean food and music have become widely known.

Except for my research field, I have two big personal interests. The first one is sports. I love to play sports and watch sports games. I usually play soccer, and recently I started to learn tennis. I hope I

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

can keep playing tennis at Northwestern too. During my break time, I watched sports games, especially soccer and the NBA. When I watched the NBA in Korea, I always dreamed of watching the NBA player in front of my eye. I am excited to go to the United Center and watch some Chicago bulls players. I am also interested in fashion. I admire some people who dress well. Therefore, I followed some fashion people on Instagram and got inspiration. I prefer to wear clothes neatly with balanced color. I'm a little worried because the winter weather in Chicago is super cold, and it's hard to get dressed, but I'm also looking forward to living in a new city. I love meeting new people, so I am adding my social media accounts. Feel free to contact me.

Linkedin : <https://www.linkedin.com/in/bulelion37>

Instagram : @bule_de

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Lirika Sola

Hello! My name is Lirika Sola and I am an incoming PhD student at McCormick School of Engineering. Over the course of the next couple of years I will be continuing my studies in Computer Science with a concentration in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. I was born and raised in Albania however, I spent the majority of my life traveling back and forth between Albania and Greece, in my parents' quest to help me become better acquainted with both of my nationalities. After graduating high school, I decided to move to Thessaloniki, Greece to pursue an undergraduate degree in Computer Science. It was during the last year of my studies that I discovered a new-found interest in the intersection of Machine Learning and Social Network Analysis, which I hope to develop more through my research. In my free time I enjoy catching up with friends and family, reading, and traveling. I am looking forward to exploring Evanston and trying out the different local cuisines that its restaurants offer. I am aware that coming to Northwestern will be as challenging as exciting, but I am determined to make the most out of this experience. Instagram handle: _er1ka_

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Vsevolod Suschevskiy

Department of Study: Something in-between school of Engineering and Communication

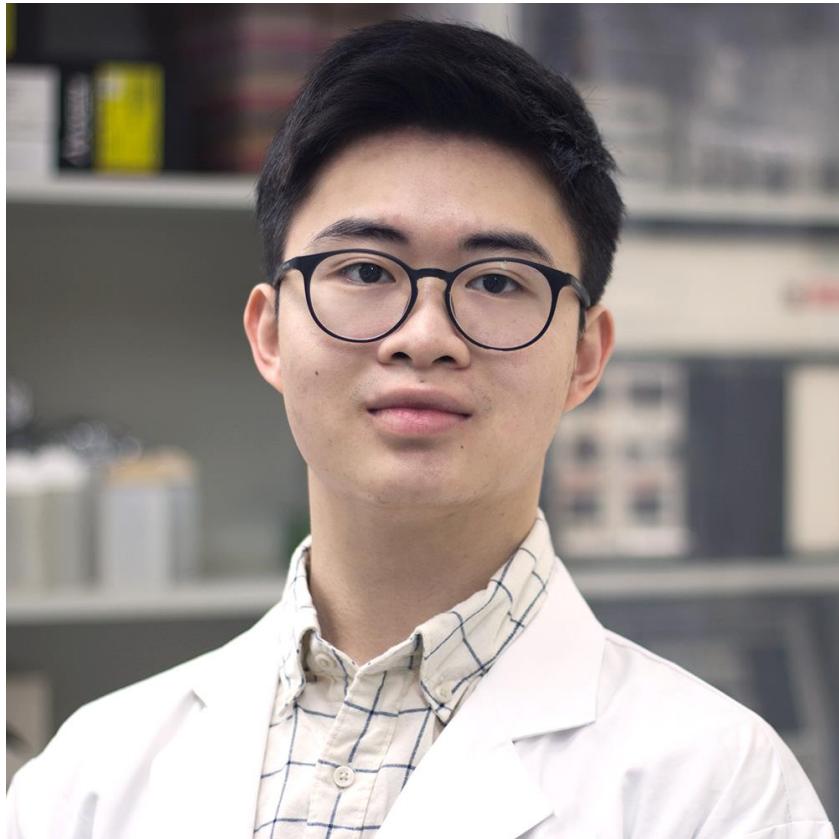
Country of Origin: Russia, St. Petersburg

I used to like Computational Social Science as a field, but currently I am slightly lost. I really hope that Evanston will be less rainy and cold than my hometown, but my hopes are not that high. Also, I have no idea how expensive is to live in Evanston, and I am moderately scared that after a few months in USA i will be classified as traitor by Russian government and will never be able to see my friends and family. I hope that NW is a place with lots of expertise at least in my tiny field, and I will have a chance to learn from the greatest. That is me in somewhere in Kazakhstan.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations





Le Trung Tran

I was born and brought up in a small highland town of Vietnam. I moved to Ho Chi Minh city (formerly known as Saigon) for college, then joined a laboratory in Yonsei University, South Korea for more than 3 years. Now I am excited to be a part of the Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience (NUIN) Ph.D. program. Even though my undergraduate major was Medical Laboratory Science (which heavily focuses on the clinical aspect of laboratories), basic biological research appeals to me more. Outside of the lab life, I am interested in photography. These days I am experimenting with film photography. I am looking forward to the reputable education system that Northwestern has to offer. Chicago and Evanston also seem to be fascinating cities with tons of things to do. However, I do sometimes concern about the American academia culture, as well as the safety of everyday life (all the news I saw on reddit really did not help with my anxiety).

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Xiaoman Wang

Department of Study: Mechanical Engineering

Country of Origin: China

My research interests focus on contact/interfacial mechanics, energy conservation and sustainability. I am a big sports fan, love watching basketball and soccer games. I usually play basketball or hang out with my friends in my spare time. One thing that I am really looking forward to about living in Chicago area is to watch BULLS play NBA games in person. It is very exciting to explore unknowns with many distinguished people at Northwestern. I believe I will have a great time in my life, even though I am a little nervous about my ability to adapt to a whole new environment.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Zhanpeng Wang

My name is Zhanpeng Wang. I was born in Nanchang, Jiangxi province in China, and grew up there. I am going to pursue my Ph.D. degree in the department of Materials Science and Engineering and my major is Materials Engineering. For my research orientation, I am interested in exploring some novel functional materials and their potential applications to versatile electronic devices, such as biosensors and memory devices. With regard to my personal interests, during my spare time, I would like to travel around with my friends, play table tennis, and watch some science fiction or suspense films. I am excited about studying and living in a world-famous university and getting along with worldwide excellent faculty members and students, since it is my first time studying abroad. Although I am a little bit nervous about whether I can adapt to the exotic environment and culture quickly, I still look forward to starting my new life at Northwestern University and sincerely hope to make friends with you. Finally, I wish all of us can make great achievements in the future.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Dinglin Xia

Hi everyone, my name is Dinglin Xia (夏丁林), and I am a new Ph.D. student from Industrial Engineering and Management Science department. I was born in the middle part of China and spent 18 years there. Then I lived in Shenzhen for 5 years (4 years for undergraduate study and 1 year for work). I'm interested in all genres of music (pop, jazz, classics, etc.), movies, and playing console games. I recently fell in love with board games, so please call me if there is a game night!



Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Tong Xu

Department of Study: Industrial Engineering and Management Science

Country of Origin: China

I'm broadly interested in optimization because I find it enjoyable to get the optimal solution to a real-life problem using math. I like workout. As a sports guy, I like any kinds of ball games, even though I may not be good at some of them. My favorite dish and also my specialty is braised ribs with potato.

I'm looking forward to making new friends in Evanston. My WeChat account: tongxu__0519

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Zheng Yu

Hello, everyone. My name is Zheng Yu. I'm a PhD student in the department of computer science, my research interest is software security. I was born in China, grew up in Hunan Province, and attended university in Shanghai. This will be my first time in the US and I am looking forward to interacting with people from different places and learning about different ideas. I am also happy to introduce China to everyone, for example, Mahjong I am very good at it. But I am also worried that my speaking skills are sufficient. I love the stories written by Tolkien or Martin, so I've recently been playing Elden Ring, which has an exciting plot. My WeChat account: dataisland99

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Chen-wei Yu

I will study at the Human Development and Social Policy PhD program at the School of Education and Social Policy. I was born in Taitung, Taiwan, and I spent my childhood there. I have moved to Taipei, Taiwan for college and spent my late teens and half of my twenties here. My research interests revolve around self- and emotion regulation, and I take a motivational approach to studying how issues relate to individuals' personal and interpersonal well-being. Beyond research, I enjoy working out and listening to podcasts, and I am also a big sitcom fan!

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Pietro Zanin

Hi everyone, looking forward to meet you all.

Department of Study: Physics

Country of Origin: I was born in Italy, but I lived most of my life in Brazil, in Jundiaí, a city in the Southeast part of Brazil, close to São Paulo

I am interested mainly in complex systems, in particular I have worked with neural networks using physics's techniques before. Recently, I am interested in complex networks and some biophysics problems related to learning. In my free time, I usually practice sports (long-distance runs and soccer), watch movies, play chess, listen to or play music. I am very excited to work with top groups in my research area and try to make good and relevant research; in relation to Evanston I am curious to how is to live in the US and what cultural differences there are in relation to Brazil. I am not really nervous about anything in particular, as everything about Northwestern seems very good.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Wenhao Zhang

Hi everyone, my name is Wenhao Zhang and I am an incoming PhD student at the department of computer science. I was born and grew up in Hefei, a city in China. My research interest lies in applied cryptography, and I have a broad interest in hiking, skating and badminton. I am also a fan of public transportation. I can't wait to come to Northwestern to enjoy the beauty of Lake Michigan and exciting many sports like surfing, tubing and diving. You can reach me by WeChat ID: zwh-2000.



Jinglan Zhang

Hi everyone! My name is Jinglan Zhang and I'm a newly admitted student in the 2022 NUIN (Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience) program. I'm from China and expect to get my bachelor's degree in a few weeks. I currently focus on the role of a kind of interneuron in regulating the excitatory-inhibitory synaptic transmissions. With the help of some powerful techniques, I found that these interneurons may mediate the correlation between excitation-inhibition changes. In other words, this kind of interneuron functions like a bridge over the gap between two opposite signals in our brain. Currently I can not understand the physiological significance of my results, neither can I figure out the microcircuits organizations underlying such regulations, but it's really fun when you get some unexpected result from experiments, I think my research experience in undergraduate school has really motivated me to pursue a doctoral training in the neuroscience.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations

Outside of the lab, I'm a super fan of Nintendo games. I've been playing Animal Crossing and Monster Hunter Rise for hundreds of hours, if you are looking for a mate to build the island or hunt monsters, please feel free to friend me on your switch, my code is SW-2818-2241-8317. Besides, I've practiced painting for nearly 20 years, so I'm looking forward to meeting someone who also enjoys fine art and would like to visit art museums when available. Here is my WeChat QR code.



Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Zheyang Zhang

Hi all, I am Zheyang Zhang from the Industrial Engineering and Management Science program, at McCormick School of Engineering. I was born in China and grew up in Beijing. I am an adventurous person, so I like going on vacations and getting to meet new friends. And this is one of the reasons that I joined this program! In terms of my research interest, I am obsessed with optimization in engineering and might choose this track in the future. I am glad to join you all and can't wait to meet you all on campus.

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



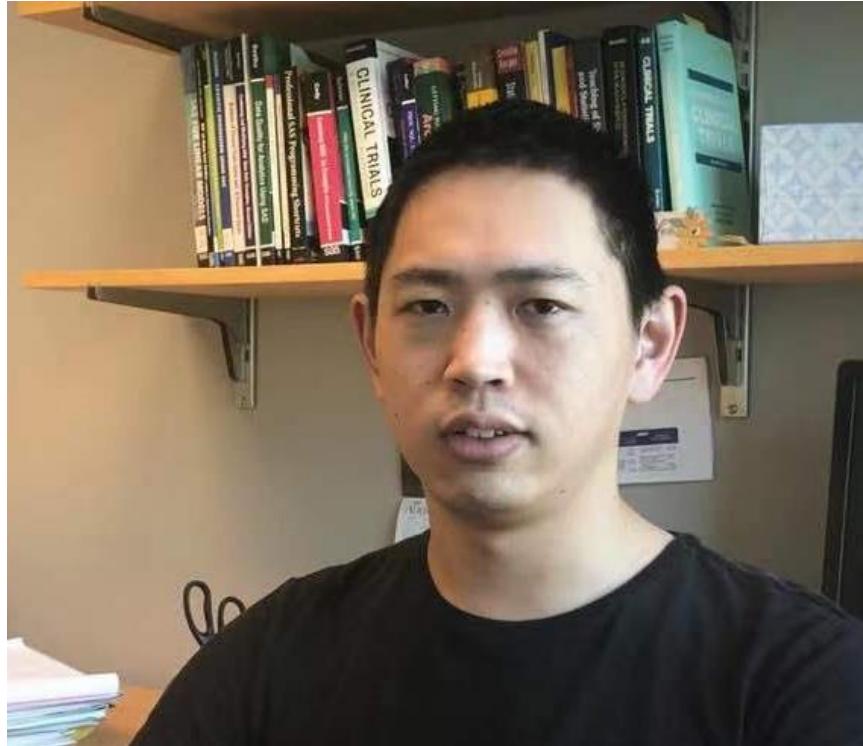
Tingyu Zhao

Hello everyone! My name's Mark Zhao and I'm an incoming PhD student in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences. I was born in Xiamen, China and had lived there for 18 years until I moved to California for my undergraduate study in 2017. I attended UC Santa Barbara, majoring in Physics and Statistics, and enjoyed the chill vibe there a lot. After graduating and before committing to my PhD study at Northwestern, I decided to take a gap year, where I've spent my time exploring several cities in China while doing internships in the field of quantitative finance. I have a wide range of personal interests. I enjoy gastronomy and all that defines it, including preparing food, studying food culture, and dining experiences. I play the piano and guitar, with the sole purpose of self-enjoyment. I love films, theaters, and books that pull me out from reality and allow me to live a different life, even just momentarily. I love traveling, or even just wandering around the streets, by myself, or together with loved ones. Several things I'm looking forward to the most at Evanston/Chicago: the gorgeous Lake Michigan, the Jazz bars, the musicals, and food. If anyone wants to connect, I can be found on Facebook (Mark Zhao) and WeChat (GemuetlicherReisball).

Looking forward to meeting everyone!

Northwestern

TGS-509: ELP Foundations



Jiafeng Zhu

This is Jiafeng Zhu. You can simply call me Jay. I am first-year Biostatistics PhD student in the school of Medicine, and is literally the first generation of this track. I was born and grew in China. I worked as a Research Associate for three years and plan to start a new chapter in my life. I am interested in learning new statistical methods and playing with data. I like to play basketball and video games and watch all kinds of sports. I am looking forward to enjoying the view of Michigan lake and watching games of Chicago Bulls and Northwestern Wildcat football/basketball games in the arena. I have been hearing about the high quality of education at Northwestern and I cannot wait to meet those talent professors and classmates in the classroom. It is also a bit nervous that I am not sure if I can perfectly complete the study. Uncertainty can be painful but also fascinating!