

ERIC B. ZHOU

U.S. Citizen

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Education

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| 2023 – 2026 (Expected) | Boston University Questrom School of Business <i>Doctoral Candidate in Information Systems</i> Advisor: Dokyun “DK” Lee | Boston, MA |
| 2021 – 2023 | Washington University in St. Louis Olin Business School <i>Master of Science in Business Administration</i> | St. Louis, MO |
| 2019 – 2021 | Carnegie Mellon University Tepper School of Business <i>Master of Business Administration</i> Business Analytics Track Concentrations in Business Technologies and Operations Research | Pittsburgh, PA |
| 2014 – 2018 | Washington University in St. Louis Olin Business School <i>Bachelor of Science in Business Administration</i> Majors in Marketing and Finance | St. Louis, MO |

Research Interests

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| Topics | Societal consequences of generative AI Computational creativity Human-AI collaboration Economics of image data |
| Methods | Computer vision Natural language processing Multimodal feature extraction Causal inference |

Research

Publications

1. **Zhou, Eric**; Lee, Dokyun. “Generative Artificial Intelligence, Human Creativity, and Art.”

Published at Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Nexus.

Available at [[SSRN](#)] and [[PNAS Nexus](#)].

“Recent artificial intelligence (AI) tools have demonstrated their ability to produce outputs traditionally considered creative. One such system is text-to-image generative AI, which automates humans' execution to generate high-quality digital artworks. Utilizing a dataset of over 4 million artworks from more than 50,000 unique users, our research shows that text-to-image AI substantially enhances human creative productivity by 25% and increases the likelihood of receiving a favorite per view by a similar percentage. While peak artwork content novelty (focal objects and object relationships) increases over time, average content novelty declines, suggesting an expanding but inefficient creative space. Additionally, there is a consistent reduction in visual novelty (pixel-level stylistic elements). Importantly, AI-assisted artists who can produce more novel ideas, regardless of overall novelty prior to adoption, produce artworks that their peers evaluate more favorably. The results imply that ideation and likely filtering are necessary skills in the text-to-image process, thus giving rise

to “generative synesthesia” - the harmonious blending of human senses and AI mechanics to discover new creative workflow.”

Works in Progress

1. **Zhou, Eric**; Lee, Dokyun; Gu, Bin. Who Expands the Creative Frontier with Generative AI? *Analysis*.
2. **Zhou, Eric**; Lee, Dokyun; Burtch, Gordon. “Human Incumbents vs. Generative Entrants: Strategic Responses to Generative AI in Creative Labor Markets.” *Data preparation*.
3. **Zhou, Eric**; Hui, Xiang; Lee, Dokyun. “Economic Value of Image-Based Seller Quality Signals.”
Workshop on Information Systems and Economics (WISE) 2022 Best Student Paper Finalist
“In online marketplaces, sellers can rely on alternative mechanisms to signal their quality when they lack rich transaction histories. Using scraped data on GPU sales from eBay, we find that certain image signals can substitute for reputation to increase conversion rates amongst sellers with less than 100% positive reputation, and conditional on making a sale, can realize a 5% price premium on average. However, the effects are only significant for less reputable sellers.”

Invited Talks

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| Apr. 2024 | Zhou, Eric ; Lee, Dokyun. “Generative Artificial Intelligence, Human Creativity, and Art.” Cornell Information Science Seminar (virtual) |
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Conference & Workshop Presentations

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| Aug. 2024 | Zhou, Eric ; Lee, Dokyun; Gu, Bin. “Who Expands the Creative Frontier with Generative AI?” <i>Academy of Management Annual Meeting</i> at Chicago, IL |
| May 2024 | Zhou, Eric ; Lee, Dokyun; Gu, Bin. “Who Expands the Creative Frontier with Generative AI?” <i>Wharton AI and the Future of Work</i> at Philadelphia, PA |
| Oct. 2023 | Zhou, Eric ; Lee, Dokyun. “Generative Artificial Intelligence, Human Creativity, and Art.” <i>INFORMS Annual Meeting</i> at Phoenix, AZ |
| Oct. 2023 | Zhou, Eric ; Lee, Dokyun. “Generative Artificial Intelligence, Human Creativity, and Art.” <i>INFORMS Workshop on Data Science</i> at Phoenix, AZ |
| Sep. 2023 | Zhou, Eric ; Lee, Dokyun. “Generative Artificial Intelligence, Human Creativity, and Art.” <i>Wharton Business and Generative AI Workshop</i> at San Francisco, CA |
| Dec. 2022 | Zhou, Eric ; Hui, Xiang; Lee, Dokyun. “Economics of Image-Based Seller Quality Signals.” <i>Workshop on Information Systems and Economics (WISE)</i> at Copenhagen, DK Best Student Paper Finalist |
| Aug. 2020 | Lee, Dokyun; Zhou, Eric ; Mao, Chengfeng; Kane, Gerald. “Interpretable Machine Learning for Theory Building.” <i>MISQ Author Workshop</i> , virtual |

Professional Service

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| Reviewer | <i>Management Science</i> <i>Information Systems Research</i> <i>Harvard Data Science Review</i> <i>Internet Research</i> |
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Teaching Experience

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| Spring 2023 | DAT 500W: A/B Testing in Business Heading Teaching Assistant Taught by Xiang Hui and Christopher Mondy |
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Industry Experience

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| 2021 – Present | Machine Learning Contractor <i>Angel Flights West</i> | Santa Monica, CA (Remote) |
| 2018 – 2019 | Research Analyst, Product Innovation Analytics <i>Nielsen BASES</i> | Wilton, CT |

Skills

Python, PyTorch, HuggingFace, AutoGen, R, LaTeX, SQL, web scraping

Coursework

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| Fall 2020 | Seminar in Business Technologies (neural language models, philosophy & economics of AI) |
| Fall 2021 | Microeconomics I Empirical Methods in Business: Part B (Advanced Econometrics) Seminar in Marketing |
| Spring 2022 | Microeconomics II Causal Inference Analytical Modeling in Marketing: Part A Empirical Methods in Structural Modeling |
| Fall 2022 | Empirical Methods in Business: Part A Seminar in Strategy & Organization Experimental and Behavioral Research Methods: Part A |
| Spring 2023 | Seminar in Strategic Management of Innovation & Technology Seminar in Strategy Independent Study in Strategy: Creativity |
| Fall 2023 | Applied Machine Learning Seminar in Generative AI and Causal Inference with Text |
| Spring 2024 | Seminar in Economics of Information Systems |

Awards

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| May 2024 | Questrom Outstanding Research Award |
| Feb. 2024 | Nominated: Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year in Art & Science |
| Oct. 2023 | INFORMS Gold Student Scholarship |
| Sep. 2023 | Questrom School of Business Doctoral Fellowship |
| Dec. 2022 | WISE 2022 Best Student Paper Finalist |

Aug. 2021
Feb. 2019

Olin Business School Doctoral Fellowship
Nielsen BASES Client Service Superstar Award