

Jiayu Kamessi Zhao

MIT Operations Research Center (ORC)
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APPOINTMENTS Assistant Professor

Operations, Information, and Technology Area, Graduate School of Business
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

July 2026 (Expected)

Postdoctoral Researcher
Supply Optimization Team
Waymo, Mountain View, CA

July 2025 - May 2026

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA 2020 - 2025
PhD in Operations Research
GPA: 5.0/5.0 Advisor: Daniel Freund

Columbia University, New York, NY 2016 - 2020
B.S. in Operations Research
Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research studies how two-sided service platforms, via algorithm and market designs, incentivize agents' flexibility to enhance operational efficiency. Through the lens of flexibility designs, I aim to (i) manage incentives across both supply and demand sides of platforms to improve matching efficiency, and (ii) align agents' incentives to adopt new technologies, such as deploying autonomous vehicles on mobility platforms. In tackling these challenges, I apply tools from game theory and stochastic decision-making to transportation, e-commerce, and other platform applications.

PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

"*Two-sided Flexibility in Platforms*," with Daniel Freund and Sébastien Martin.
Major Revision at **Operations Research**, 2025. Available at Arxiv 2404.04709.

- **MIT ORC Best Student Paper Award**, 2024
- Accepted for presentation at 2024 MSOM Conference
- Accepted for presentation at 2024 Revenue Management & Pricing Conference
- Accepted for presentation at 2024 Marketplace Innovation Workshop

"*On the Supply of Autonomous Vehicles in Platforms*," with Daniel Freund and Ilan Lobel. Accepted by **Manufacturing & Service Operations Management**.

- **Twenty-Fifth ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC'24)**
- Accepted for presentation at **2024 MSOM Supply Chain Management SIG**
- Accepted for presentation at 2023 Revenue Management & Pricing Conference
- Accepted for presentation at 2023 Marketplace Innovation Workshop

"*On the Power of Delayed Flexibility: Balls, Bins, and a Few Opaque Promotions*," with Daniel Freund and Chamsi Hssaine.

Under Review at **Operations Research**, 2025. Available at Arxiv 2306.01968.

- Accepted for presentation at 2025 Marketplace Innovation Workshop

"*Overbooking with Bounded Loss*," with Daniel Freund. 2022.
Mathematics of Operations Research 48(3): 1344-1363.

- **Twenty-Second ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC'21)**
- Accepted for presentation at 2021 Marketplace Innovation Workshop

WORK IN PROGRESS	<i>"The Value of a Little Flexibility in Stable Matching,"</i> with Daniel Freund and Sébastien Martin.	
	<i>"Incentivizing Driver Commitment through Priority Dispatch,"</i> with Daniel Freund.	
EXPERIENCES	Uber Technologies, Inc. , San Francisco, CA <i>Applied Scientist Intern</i> Supervisors: Ali Sadighian, Shaiza Qayyum, AJ Friend	Summer 2023 & 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uber Eats Eater Realtime Pricing Team (ERTP) • Improved the convex optimization program for Uber Eats' real-time pricing and incentive design; enhanced the real-time acceptance rate model and the chained supply model for mitigating surge demand 	
	MIT ORC , Cambridge, MA <i>Research Assistant</i> Supervisor: Daniel Freund	2020 - 2025
	Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing , UC Berkeley, CA Participant of the Data-Driven Decision Processes Program	Fall 2022
	Columbia IEOR Department , New York, NY <i>Research Assistant</i> Supervisors: Jay Sethuraman, Soulaymane Kachani.	2018 - 2020
TEACHING	UC Berkeley , Berkeley, CA Guest Lecture for <i>INDENG 150: Production Systems</i> (Undergrad) Guest Lecture for <i>INDENG 250: Production and Logistics Models</i> (PhD)	Fall 2025 Fall 2025
	MIT , Cambridge, MA TA for <i>15.761 Operations Management</i> (MBA) TA for <i>15.S25 Experience in Operations Research</i> (PhD)	Spring 2022, 2023, 2024 Summer 2022
	Columbia University , New York, NY TA for <i>Math 2030 Ordinary Differential Equations</i> (Undergrad) TA for <i>IEOR E3658 Probability for Engineers</i> (Undergrad)	Fall 2018 Fall 2018
SELECTED TALKS	<p><i>"The Value of a Little Flexibility in Stable Matching"</i> - INFORMS APS Conference, Jul 2025, Atlanta GA</p> <p><i>"On the Power of Delayed Flexibility: Balls, Bins, and a Few Opaque Promotions"</i> - Marketplace Innovation Workshop, May 2025, Virtual</p> <p><i>"Two-sided Flexibility in Platforms"</i> - INFORMS APS Conference, Jul 2025, Atlanta GA - University of British Columbia, Imperial College, London Business School, University College London, National University of Singapore, New York University, University of Toronto, Duke University, Stanford University, Columbia University - INFORMS Annual Meeting, Oct 2024, Seattle WA - Inaugural OM Rookiepalooza at Kellogg, Oct 2024, Evanston IL - MIT ORC Fall Seminar Series, Nov 2024, Cambridge MA - RMP Conference, Jul 2024, Los Angeles CA - MSOM Conference, Jul 2024, Minneapolis MN - Marketplace Innovation Workshop, May 2024, Virtual </p>	

- MIT LIDS Student Conference, Feb 2024, Cambridge MA
- Xi'an Jiaotong University, Jan 2024, Xi'an, China
- Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Dec 2023, Shanghai, China

“On the Supply of Autonomous Vehicles in Platforms”

- MIT Operations Management Seminar, Oct 2024, Cambridge MA
- MSOM Conference Supply Chain Management SIG, Jun 2024, Minneapolis MN
- INFORMS Annual Meeting, Oct 2023, Phoenix AZ
- Cornell Young Researchers Workshop, Oct 2023, Ithaca NY
- MSOM Conference, Jun 2023, Montreal
- INFORMS Annual Meeting, Oct 2022, Indianapolis IN
- Marketplace Innovation Workshop, May 2023, Virtual

“Overbooking with Bounded Loss”

- EC'21, Jul 2021, Virtual
- INFORMS Annual Meeting, Oct 2021, Virtual
- ORC Student Seminar, Apr 2022, Cambridge MA

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	Reviewer for <i>Management Science, Operations Research</i>	2025 - Present
	Reviewer for ACM EC Conference, MSOM Conference	2025
	MIT ORC Seminar Series student coordinator	Fall 2023
	MIT Operations Management Seminar student co-organizer	2021 - 2023
HONORS AND AWARDS	MIT ORC Best Student Paper Award,	2024
	The Sebastian B. Littauer Award, Columbia University	2020
	Tau Beta Pi Honor Society, Columbia University (NY Chapter)	2018 - 2020
	The Dean's List, Columbia University,	2016 - 2020
	C.P. Davis Scholar, Columbia University	2016