

# LIKUN CAO 曹立坤

Department of Sociology  
The University of Chicago, The United States  
+1 8722120599 | Email: [lkcao@uchicago.edu](mailto:lkcao@uchicago.edu) | Personal Website: <https://lkcao.github.io>

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2025 (Incoming) Assistant Professor of Sociology, Purdue University

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, 2025 (expected)

Dissertation: Combinatorial Innovation in Science, Technology, Organizations, and across Society

Committee: James Evans (Chair), John Padgett, Elisabeth Clemens, Dashun Wang

Certificates: Computational Social Sciences (2022); Advanced Quantitative Method (2021)

M.A. Department of Sociology, Tsinghua University, 2019

B.A. Department of Sociology, Tsinghua University, 2016

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2023 Ren, J., Li, X., & **Cao, L.** Manager Mobility and Private Equity Syndications from the Perspective of Coupling Networks: Evidence from China's Private Equity Industry, *Journal of Social Computing*, 4(2), 150-167.
- 2022 **Cao, L.**, Chen, Z., & Evans, J. Destructive Creation, Creative Destruction, and the Paradox of Innovation Science. *Sociology Compass*, 16(11), e13043.
- 2022 **Cao, L.** & Ren, J. Machine learning shows that the Covid-19 pandemic is impacting U.S. public companies unequally by changing risk structures, *PLOS ONE*, 17(6), e0269582.
- 2022 Zheng, L., **Cao, L.**, Ren, J., Li, X., Yin, X., & Chen, J. How venture capital firms choose syndication partners: the moderating effects of institutional uncertainty and investment preference, *Management and Organization Review*, 18(3), 463-490.

- 2018 Zheng, L., He, X., **Cao, L.**, & Xu, H. Making modernity in China: employment and entrepreneurship among the new generation of peasant workers, *International Journal of Japanese Sociology*, 27(1), 26-40.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2023 **Cao, L.**, & Mao, H. Book Review for Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence. *Journal of Intelligent Society*, 2(4): 192-206. [In Chinese]

### **In Submission**

**Cao, L.**, Zhang, L. & Evans, J. Spinning a Web in a Bottle: Networks, Organizational Structure and Career Success. *Under Review*.

**Cao, L.**, Chen, Z., & Evans, J. Modularity, Higher-Order Invention and New Venture Success. *Rej & R at Research Policy*.

**Cao, L.**, & Evans, J. Curved Embedding as Powerful Representations for Hierarchical Knowledge System. *Under Review*.

**Cao, L.**, & Evans, J. Deep versus Broad Technology Search and the Timing of Innovation Impact. *Under Review*.

**Cao, L.**, Cai, X. Decreasing Disruption and Increasing Concentration of Artificial Intelligence. *Under Review*.

### **In Preparation**

**Cao, L.**, Pan, R., & Evans, J. The Geometry of Perspective: Predicting Personal Innovation with Dynamic Models of Subjectivity.

Aceves, P., Chambers C., Alves, M., **Cao, L.** & Evans, J. Middle-Status Myopia.

**Cao, L.**, & Li, K. How were BERT Proliferated: Development, Collaboration, and Academic Influence of BERT-Family Models.

Zhong, Q., & **Cao, L.** Comparing Social Learning Strategies in Collective Search: Simulation and Empirical Evidence in Patent Data.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2024 Charles Henderson Research Fund-Final Round, University of Chicago (\$2000)
- 2024 Institute for Humane Studies Graduate Student Fellowship (\$5000)
- 2024 Summer Residency Award, UChicago Beijing Center (\$2000)
- 2023-2024 Mansueto Institute Doctoral Fellow, University of Chicago (\$1000)

2023	Charles Henderson Research Fund, University of Chicago (\$4000)
2022	Chan and Li Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, University of Chicago (\$1650)
2019-2026	Various Travel Grants from SSD and UChicago Grad Council
2019-2026	UChicago Graduate Fellowship for Ph.D. students
2018	Chinese National Scholarship for Graduate Students (top 1%) (¥20000)
2018	Data Science Research Grant, Tsinghua-Qingdao Data Science Institute (€ 4000)
2016	Comprehensive Excellence Scholarship, Tsinghua University (¥ 5000)

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

- 2024 Hyperbolic Embedding as a Machine Learning Representation for Knowledge Systems, 3rd International Conference on Science of Science and Innovation (ICSSI), Washington, DC, July 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 2024 Hyperbolic Embedding as a Machine Learning Representation for Knowledge Systems, 84th AOM Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.
- 2024 Hyperbolic Embedding as a Machine Learning Representation for Knowledge Systems 10th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2), Philadelphia, PA, July 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.
- 2024 Comparing Social Learning Strategies in Collective Search: Simulation and Empirical Evidence in Technology and Culture Data, 74th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, Austrilia, June 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>.
- 2024 Comparing Social Learning Strategies in Collective Search: Simulation and Empirical Evidence in Technology and Culture Data, 16th Annual INAS Conference, Germany, May 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.
- 2023 Hyperbolic Embedding as a Machine Learning Representation for Knowledge Systems, 118th ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.
- 2023 Hyperbolic Embedding as a Machine Learning Representation for Knowledge Systems, 2nd International Conference on Science of Science and Innovation (ICSSI), Chicago, IL, June 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.
- 2023 The Geometry of Perspective: Predicting Personal Innovation with Dynamic Models of Subjectivity, 118th ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.
- 2023 Comparing Social Learning Strategies in Collective Search: Simulation and Empirical Evidence in Technology and Culture Data, 9th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2), Copenhagen, DK, July 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

- 2023   Modularity, Higher-Order Invention and New Venture Success, 83rd AOM Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, August 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.
- 2022   Modularity, Higher-Order Invention and New Venture Success, 1st International Conference on Science of Science and Innovation (ICSSI), Washington, DC, June 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.
- 2022   Modularity, Higher-Order Invention and New Venture Success, 8th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2), Chicago, IL, July 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2021   Modularity, Higher-Order Invention and New Venture Success, 116th ASA Annual Meeting, Virtual, August 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.
- 2021   Modularity, Higher-Order Invention and New Venture Success, 7th International Conference on Computational Social Science, Virtual, July 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.
- 2018   Choice of Co-investment Partners of Chinese Venture Capital Firms, ICSA Annual Conference, Princeton, NJ, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **INVITED TALKS**

- 2023   The Geometry of Perspective: Predicting Personal Innovation with Dynamic Models of Subjectivity, Computational Social Science Workshop, The University of Chicago, December.
- 2022   Higher-Order Invention and New Venture Success, Santa Fe Institute Graduate Workshop in Computational Social Science (GWCSS), June.
- 2022   Higher-Order Invention and New Venture Success, University of Pittsburgh, School of Computing and Information, November.
- 2021   Modeling Social Contexts and Economic Landscape by Text Analysis, ProQuest's 3rd Annual Fall Faculty Webinar, Virtual, October.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant**

Computational Content Analysis (fall 2024)

Deep Learning for Complex Social and Cultural Data Analysis (winter 2021, winter 2022)

Statistical Methods of Research (winter 2022)

Innovators (winter 2020)

### **Tsinghua University, Teaching Assistant**

Financial Sociology (spring 2019)

Social Network Analysis (spring 2018)

Big Data Analytics (autumn 2018)

China's Rise in Comparative Perspective (autumn 2018)

## **OTHER TRAINING**

### **Summer School/Workshop/Reading Camp**

The Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science (SICSS Chicago), 2024

Carnegie School of Organizational Learning Summer School, 2023

HBS Summer School in Computational Organization Science, 2023

Santa Fe Institute Graduate Workshop in Computational Social Science, 2022

Swarna-Kaifeng Foundation Reading Camp for Complex System, 2020

Sun Yat-sen Workshop on Artificial and Computational Social Sciences, 2017

### **Online Courses and Tutorials**

*Coursera*: Applied Data Science with Python Specialization, Deep Learning Specialization

*Complexity Explorer*: Introduction to Complexity, Introduction to Renormalization

## **SERVICE**

### **Editorial Work**

*American Journal of Sociology* Associate Editor, 2022-2023

*American Journal of Sociology* Manuscript Board Member, 2021-2022

### **Academic Translator and Proofreader**

Social Science Academic Press: Social Network Analysis: Methods and Examples, 2019

### **Reviewer**

**Journal:** American Journal of Sociology, Strategic Management Journal, Technovation, The Journal of Mathematical Sociology, Chinese Journal of Sociology, Journal of Social Computing, Journal of Computational Social Science, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications

**Conference:** AOM Annual Meeting, SMS Annual Conference, IC2S2

### **Workshop/Conference Organizer**

ICSSI Best Student Talk Award Committee, 2024

UChicago SSD B.A. thesis award committee, 2022-2023

Tsinghua social science seminar discussant, 2023

Program committee member for IC2S2, 2023

Swarma CSS reading group moderator, 2022

## **REFERENCES**

### **James Evans**

Max Palevsky Professor (teaching reference)  
Social Science Division, University of Chicago  
Email: [jevans@uchicago.edu](mailto:jevans@uchicago.edu)

### **Elisabeth Clemens**

William Rainey Harper Professor  
Social Science Division, University of Chicago  
Email: [clemens@uchicago.edu](mailto:clemens@uchicago.edu)

### **John Levi Martin**

Florence Borchert Bartling Professor  
Social Science Division, University of Chicago  
Email: [jlmartin@uchicago.edu](mailto:jlmartin@uchicago.edu)

### **Dashun Wang**

Professor of Management & Organizations  
Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University  
Email: [dashunwang@gmail.com](mailto:dashunwang@gmail.com)