



HKU
BUSINESS
SCHOOL
港大經管學院

PhD in Business Analytics:

Shape the Future of Business with Data

Business Analytics (BA) Group

Faculty of Business and Economics
The University of Hong Kong

Why HKU Business Analytics/Statistics?



1. Join a world-class faculty at the forefront of research.
2. Benefit from personalized and collaborative mentorship.
3. Combine methodology and real-world business problems.
4. Thrive in Hong Kong, a safe, convenient, and international global hub.
5. Receive competitive financial support to focus on your research.

Learn from a World-Class Faculty



➤ Global Perspective:

- All faculty hold PhDs in Statistics and related fields from top U.S. universities.
- Rigorous methodological training combined with cross-disciplinary research experience.

➤ Proven Excellence:

- Strong publication records in leading statistical, econometric and machine learning journals and conferences.

BA Group: Faculty Members



Prof. Haipeng Shen
Chair Professor



Prof. Xin Tong
Professor



Prof. Dan Yang
Associate Professor



Prof. Xinghao Qiao
Associate Professor



Prof. Weichen Wang
Assistant Professor



Prof. Zhanrui Cai
Assistant Professor



Prof. Jing Ouyang
Assistant Professor

Our Faculty Members



Prof. Haipeng Shen

Associate Dean (EMBA and IMBA)
Patrick S C Poon Professor in
Analytics and Innovation
Chair of Business Analytics and
Innovation

- **Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania**
 - Advisor: Lawrence David Brown
- **Former position:**
 - Professor of Statistics and Operations Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Research interests:**
 - Data-driven decision making in the face of uncertainty: big data
 - Business analytics
 - Healthcare analytics
 - Service engineering

Our Faculty Members



Prof. Xin Tong

Deputy Area Head of Innovation
and Information Management
Professor

- **Ph.D. Princeton University**
 - Advisor: Jianqing Fan and Philippe Rigollet
- **Former position:**
 - Tenured faculty member at Marshall Business School, University of Southern California
- **Research interests:**
 - Asymmetry in statistical learning
 - Local information in networks
 - AI ethics
 - Algorithmic market
 - Societal impact of AI development

Our Faculty Members



Prof. Dan Yang

Associate Professor

Associate Director, Institute of
Digital Economy and Innovation

- **Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania**
 - Advisor: Andreas Buja and Zongming Ma
- **Former position:**
 - Assistant Professor of Statistics, Rutgers University
- **Research interests:**
 - Business analytics in finance and healthcare
 - High-dimensional statistical inference & dimension reduction
 - Tensor data & time series analysis
 - Functional data analysis and multivariate data analysis
 - Analysis of observational studies and causal inference

Our Faculty Members



Prof. Xinghao Qiao
Associate Professor

- **Ph.D. University of Southern California**
 - Advisor: Gareth M. James
- **Former position:**
 - Tenured faculty member at London School of Economics
- **Research interests:**
 - Functional data analysis
 - Complex time series analysis
 - High-dimensional statistics/econometrics
 - Causal inference and experimental design
 - AI and machine learning with business applications

Our Faculty Members



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Prof. Weichen Wang
Assistant Professor

- **Ph.D. Princeton University**
 - Advisor: Jianqing Fan
- **Former position:**
 - Quantitative researcher at Two Sigma Investments
- **Research interests:**
 - Big data analysis
 - Machine learning
 - Econometrics and asset pricing
 - Factor model and low-rank structure
 - Semi-parametric and robust statistics

Our Faculty Members



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Prof. Zhanrui Cai
Assistant Professor

- **Ph.D. The Pennsylvania State University**
 - Advisor: Runze Li
- **Former position:**
 - Assistant Professor, Iowa State University
- **Research interests:**
 - Statistical Inference
 - Machine Learning
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Privacy Protection

Our Faculty Members



Prof. Jing Ouyang
Assistant Professor

➤ **Ph.D. University of Michigan**

- Advisor: Gongjun Xu

➤ **Research interests:**

- Latent variable models
- Psychometrics
- High-dimensional statistical inference
- Statistical machine learning

Placement of Advisees by Faculty Members

➤ Academic positions (assistant professor)

- Seonjoo Lee: Columbia University
- Gen Li: Columbia University
- Lingsong Zhang: Prudue University
- Han Ye: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Shunan Yao: Hong Kong Baptist University
- Lijia Wang: City University of Hong Kong
- Xintao Xia: Zhejiang University
- Cheng Chen: Southwestern University of Finance and Economics
- Brad Rava: University of Sydney
- Qin Fang: University of Sydney
- Xiao Han: University of Science and Technology of China

➤ Industrial positions

- Yirui Liu: JP Morgan
- Jianlong Shao: The Goldman Sachs Group
- Suxi Zheng: Union Bank of Switzerland
- ...

Academic Seminars and Workshops



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➤ Connect with Global Research Leaders

Statistics Seminars in Academic Year 2024-2025

Dates	Speaker	Speaker institution	Seminar Title
Jun 5, 2025	Yingying Fan	University of Southern California	High-Dimensional Network Causal Inference
Jun 5, 2025	Linbo Wang	University of Toronto	Fighting Noise with Noise: Causal Inference with Many Candidate Instruments
May 27, 2025	Chenlei Leng	University of Warwick	Mutual Links in Directed Networks: Statistical Models and Applications
May 23, 2025	Will Wei Sun	Purdue University	My Journey on Trustworthy Reinforcement Learning: From Online Decision Making to Large Language Models
May 23, 2025	Yang Feng	New York University	Adaptive and Robust Representation Multi-Task Learning
May 14, 2025	Yuqi Gu	Columbia University	Deep Discrete Encoders: Identifiable Deep Generative Models for Rich Data with Discrete Latent Layers
May 8, 2025	Qiwei Yao	The London School of Economics and Political Science	Inception of Ideas: The Legend of Cointegration
Apr 29, 2025	Mladen Kolar	University of Southern California	Confidence Sets for Causal Orderings
Apr 9, 2025	Lancelot James	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Inception of Ideas: A probabilistic view of Bayesian Nonparametrics – stickbreaking, Pitman-Yor Processes and the Poisson Calculus



See seminar list:
<https://hkubs-stat.github.io/seminars/>

Academic Seminars and Workshops



“Inception of Ideas” seminar series

Academic Seminars and Workshops

➤ Annual Summer Workshop on Statistics and Data Analytics

Dates	Speakers
June 10, 2025	Tony Cai, Rong Chen, Xi Chen, Yingying Fan, Yongmiao Hong, Gareth James, Junhui Wang
June 3, 2024	Yongtao Guan, Iain Johnstone, Runze Li, Yingying Li, Qiman Shao, Min-ge Xie, Qiwei Yao
July 5, 2023	Songxi Chen, Jiashun Jin, Regina Y. Liu, Annie Qu, Cunhui Zhang, Ji Zhu



Academic Seminars and Workshops



HKU 2025 Summer Workshop on Statistics and Data Analytics

Personalized, High-Impact Mentorship



- **Low Student-Faculty Ratio:**
 - Close-knit group: currently 7 faculty members and 14 PhD students.
 - High-quality interaction.
- **Individualized Plans:**
 - You'll get a clear roadmap with defined milestones to accelerate your research trajectory.
- **High Accessibility:**
 - Benefit from regular one-on-one meetings, research seminars, and co-supervision opportunities.

➤ Industry Collaboration:

- We partner with leaders in finance, technology, logistics, and digital platforms.
- Gain experience with high-value datasets, realistic problem settings, and potential internships or joint projects.

➤ Build Your Expertise:

- Combine methodological depth with business insight through electives in Finance, Marketing, Operations, and more.

Hong Kong: Your Global & Convenient Home



- **Safe & Diverse:**
 - Hong Kong offers a modern, vibrant, and exceptionally safe environment.
- **A Gateway to Asia:**
 - Strategically located at the heart of Asia, connecting you to research and industry in Mainland China and beyond.
- **International Hub:**
 - High English proficiency and global connectivity make it an easy place to live and work.
- **No Visa Concerns:**
 - We ensure a smooth and simple process for you to join us.

Competitive Scholarships & Resources



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- **Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS):**
 - **HK\$19,135** per month for all admitted students.
- **Entrance Scholarship (HKU Business School only):**
 - A first-year tuition waiver (**HK\$44,500** for 2025/26).
- **HKU Presidential PhD Scholarship/Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme:**
 - A competitive award for top applicants, offering **HK\$28,400** per month and a full tuition waiver.
- **Development Support:**
 - Apply for travel funding for international conferences and access workshops on writing, presentation, and career skills.

Who We Are Looking For



- **Intellectual Drive:**
 - High **curiosity, creativity, and ambition.**
- **Strong Foundation:**
 - A robust quantitative background (e.g., statistics, mathematics, CS, engineering, econometrics).
- **Technical Skills:**
 - Solid programming ability and strong written and spoken English.
- **The Right Passion:**
 - A drive to solve real business and societal problems by combining methodological rigor with practical relevance.

What We Aim to Foster in Our Students



➤ Cultivating thinkers and researchers with

- independence
- strong quantitative skills
- innovation & creativity
- great research taste
- strong work ethics

in addressing real-world challenges.

Application Information

- **Deadline:** Dec. 1, 2025
- Required materials:
 - Online application form
 - <https://extranet.hku.hk/rola/servlet/CreateUserScreen/loginForm>
 - Choose Innovation and Information Management as your area
 - When suggesting potential supervisor, choose one professor or BA
 - Academic transcripts and graduation certificates
 - **Research proposal**
 - GMAT or GRE (can be provided later)
 - TOEFL or IELTS (can be provided later)
 - **Two academic referee's reports**

Apply Now

➤ Useful Links:



PhD Programme:
<https://phd.hkubs.hku.hk/>



BA Group:
<https://hkubs-stat.github.io/>