Yitong Shang (商逸彤)

Email: yitong.shang@link.cuhk.edu.hk | Web: https://yitongshang121.github.io/

Education

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Economics   Hong Kong SAR, China
MPhil-PhD Program in Economics, GPA: 3.82/4.00   2024.08 - Present
- Supervisors: Prof. Guangyu Pei & Prof. John Kuong
- Courses: Econometric Theory and Applications (A), Microeconomic Theory I (A-), Macroeconomic Theory II (A), Applied Econometrics (A), International Trade (A), Industrial Organization (A)

Nankai University, School of Finance   Tianjin, China
Bachelor of Economics (Finance Scholars Program) with Distinction   2020.09 - 2024.06
- GPA: 3.89/4.00, Cumulative Weighted Average: 92.48/100 (Top 3%)
- Honor: China National Scholarship 2021 by Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China

The University of Texas at Austin, Global Summer Institute   Austin, TX, USA
Visiting Student, GPA: 4.00/4.00   Summer 2025

Research Interests

Corporate Finance, Macro-Finance, Financial Intermediation, Banking, Financial Markets, Behavioral Finance

Research Projects

Bank Interest Rate Risk Exposures and Municipal Bond Yields
Working Paper with Prof. Jinoug Jeung (CUHK Business School) and Dr. Abinash Pati (Northeastern University)
- Banks, as marginal investors, transmit their interest rate risk exposures to bank-qualified municipal bond yields
- Develop a novel state-level panel dataset combining bank balance sheets and municipal bond issuances
- Find that heightened exposures measured by earnings-based income gaps raise yields, with effects amplifying during monetary tightening, and that deposit market power and derivatives hedging attenuate transmission

Firm-Level Idiosyncratic Uncertainty and Managerial Forecast Errors in Earnings Guidance
Work in Progress
- Developed a firm-level idiosyncratic uncertainty measure by innovatively extending Jurado et al. (2015)
- Document that increases in the firm-level idiosyncratic uncertainty are associated with reduced capital investment, higher cash holdings, lower leverage, and increased errors in managerial EPS guidance

Direction is More Important than Speed: A Comparison of Direction and Value Prediction of Stock Returns
Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis at Nankai University
Presented at Shanghai Jiao Tong University Antai College of Economics and Management (2024 Doctoral Students Forum), South China University of Technology (The 21st Chinese Finance Annual Meeting)
- Conduct a statistical and economic comparison of direction and value prediction of the S&P 500 excess returns using various models, including linear, regularized linear, machine learning, and combination models
- Find that direction prediction generates greater economic gains than value prediction, with tree model combinations achieving the best performance; the volatility mechanism plays an important role in direction prediction

Research Experience

Research Assistant for Prof. John Chi-fong Kuong | CUHK, Corporate Finance   2025.02 – Present
- Review and summarize academic papers and industry reports (e.g., Federal Reserve, IMF, BIS, ECB) on topics like OTC relationship trading, relationship banking, and open banking
- Collect 60 years of daily closing prices of the global market index of mutual funds from Morningstar Direct
- Make slides about academic papers and background information on frontier financial topics (e.g., stablecoins) to facilitate presentations and teaching

Research Assistant for Prof. Eric Wentao Zhou | Michigan State, Macro Finance   2024.01 – 2025.01
- Replicate regression results in Alfaro, Bloom, and Lin (2024); Substitute firm indebtedness for financial constraint
- Replicate local projection regression results in Deng and Fang (2022) using a self-constructed dataset
- Examine the impact of monetary shocks on firm inventory through the channel of financial constraints, finding that

financial constraints do not fully account for inventory dynamics
- Estimate firm-level total factor productivity using the residual from a regression of real sales on capital stock and employment, with firm and time fixed effects (data sources: Compustat and BEA)

Research Assistant for Prof. Lanbiao Liu | Nankai, Asset Pricing & Banking   2022.02 - 2022.12
- Develop a web scraper with group members to collect 180,000 bill records in the U.S. from 1992 to 2022. Construct a quantitative strategy to analyze whether U.S. legislation impacts stock returns in relevant Chinese sectors.
- Search online for news and annual reports of 95 Chinese small commercial banks; construct 10 variables related to the banks' party organization, such as whether the chairman of the board is also the secretary of the party committee and the number of executive officers concurrently serving as party committee members

Research Assistant for Prof. Shumeng Zhang | Nankai, Labor Economics   2024.01 - 2024.05
- Clean and merge educational data from the Educational Statistics Yearbook of China (ESYC) and the Labor Statistics Yearbook of China (LSYC) from 1949 to 2021, utilizing both PDF editions and Excel files
- Generate measures related to Chinese secondary education, including data on junior high schools, senior high schools, other types of schools, students, and teachers, while accounting for regional and gender heterogeneity

Institutional Cross-ownership, Innovation and Corporate Investment Efficiency
Term Paper of Econometrics, Instructor: Prof. Tingting Cheng at Nankai School of Finance
- Find institutional cross-ownership positively affects corporate investment efficiency using 18,542 observations of Chinese listed firms from 2009 to 2019, which is consistent with the synergy governance theory
- The synergy of cross-ownership is achieved by increasing R&D of the companies that underinvest in the industry
- The separation of ownership and management significantly strengthens the positive association mentioned above

2021 Nankai University FinTech Innovation Competition | Team Leader
- Lead a team of 4 members from different majors, standing out from up to 30 teams, and securing third prize
- In the preliminary round, use machine learning algorithms such as neural network and random forests to forecast the risk of insurance claims based on customer features, achieving an accuracy rate of over 57%
- In the final, employ a Gaussian Naive Bayes classifier to detect customer behavior at bank counters from videos

Teaching Experience

Financial Economics | Teaching Assistant for Prof. Ji Huang   Fall 2025, Fall 2024 CUHK
- Grade exams and assignments, and hold regular office hours to support students

Applied Forecasting Methods | Teaching Assistant for Prof. Merrick Zhen Li   Spring 2025, CUHK
- Led the mid-term tutorial, explaining key concepts and solutions of the exam questions to students
- Grade exams and assignments, and hold regular office hours to support students

Financial Markets and Institutions | Teaching Assistant for Prof. Xinming Li   Fall 2022, Nankai
- Assist in preparing course materials such as slides, and guided the paper presentation section in class
- Conduct an online tutorial during COVID-19, teaching basic econometrics and Stata usage

"The Shareholders are Coming" TV Program | Participant   Summer 2021, Shenzhen
- Compete in the 2021 Investor Rights Knowledge Competition held by China Securities Investor Services Center
- The program and related videos were broadcast on Shenzhen TV and Mango TV

Language, Skills & Interests

- **Languages:** Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)
- **Skills:** Stata, Python, MATLAB, R, SAS, LaTeX
- **Interests:** Chinese Zither (Grade 10), Music, Running