

Cheng Lu

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Education

Olin Business School, Washington University in St. Louis Ph.D. Student in Marketing Science	2023 – Present
London Business School M.A. in Management	2022 – 2023
Tsinghua University B.S. in Economics and Finance	2018 – 2022

Research Interest

Substantive: User-Generated Content (UGC) Platforms, Social Networks

Methodological: Causal Inference, Field Experiment, Econometrics, Machine Learning

Research

Working Papers

- Guangying Chen, Cheng Lu, Tat Y. Chan, Zhengling Qi, Dennis J. Zhang, and Industry Collaborators. “A New Estimator for Encouragement Design in Randomized Controlled Trials When the Exclusion Restriction Is Violated” [\[Link\]](#)
Runner-up for the 2024 INFORMS Information Systems Cluster Best Paper Award (Top 5%)
- Meng Liu, Cheng Lu, Xiang Hui, and Dennis J. Zhang. “Referrers vs. Referees: How Do Reactivation Referral Programs Work on Social Media?” [\[Link\]](#)

Conference Presentations

“A New Estimator for Encouragement Design in Field Experiments When the Exclusion Restriction Is Violated”

INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA	2024
Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Business Analytics, New Haven, CT	2024

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant - Washington University in St. Louis

Applied Marketing Research (Undergraduate)	FL 2024
Marketing Research (Master)	FL 2024
Understanding & Conducting Business Experiments (Undergraduate)	SP 2025
A/B Testing in Business and Social Science (Master)	SP 2025

Honors and Awards

Runner-up for the 2024 INFORMS Information Systems Cluster Best Paper Award (Top 5%)	2024
Doctoral Fellowship, Olin Business School, Washington University in St. Louis	2023
Outstanding Student Scholarship, Tsinghua University	2018

Programming Skills

Python, R, SQL, C, MATLAB, L^AT_EX