Cover letter

contact information

Ruobing Han
robinhan@stanford.edu
(650) 250 9960

recommendation letter writers

Brad Larsen
bjlarsen@stanford.edu

Susan Athey
athey@susanathey.com

My letter writer may be getting in the letter slightly late because I just barely heard about the program and just barely contacted your letter writer about it. I will email them to Brett, and also upload them to the following link.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qEy-LQTecSaBLzFNb4QL6-xib5YXKjnWpQ8rDiDqwPQ/edit?usp=shar

Statement of purpose

Why I want to attend the boot camp

I am curious about entrepreneurship, innovation and digitalization. I want to apply economic theory to better understand these problems. I already start taking and auditing 2nd year courses. I would have finished my first year by the time. I am eager to find research topics in many possible areas.

Why the boot camp interests me

1. Stanford has a large engineering and CS community, who talks about entrepreneurship and technology (innovation) everyday. It seems economists do not take part much, but there are many interdisciplinary collaboration opportunities at Silicon Valley. In a bigger environment, it seems economics research has not kept pace with the changes in innovation and entrepreneurship, at least there is a lack of attention to such things from our profession. Maybe because we

usually do post-hoc analysis. Also, there are some risks in doing such research, because things are so fast-changing, it could be totally different before any serious research is conducted.

2. The program has 4 areas: productive growth, entrepreneurship, innovation and digitalization. The later 3 are close to my current research interests, because I would like to do research in applied-micro, IO and market design. In terms of methodology, researches in such topics often uses IO perspectives. Entrepreneurship focuses on the measurement, causes and effects of new business creation, this can be a market design problem by nature. There are also many market design studies on innovations. Such as the study of ride-sharing industry and in general the gig-economy. I am attracted to market design (IO as well) because of its application on these innovative economic activities. I am currently doing RA for Pro.Athey for a "market-shaping" initiative, where we are thinking about how to incentives development of non-for-profit mobile applications. Digitization of information and interface of our economic activities changes the media and tools of economic research. This naturally fits with the development of big data. I am interested in the research that uses large scale mobile data and Internet user data. I am my classmates have a project with all the data from the biggest on-line video platform (Steam) and we are investigating whether players are rational/myopic in buying and playing video games, and it is a dynamic pricing problem from the viewpoint of the platform.

3. Although Prof.Nick Bloom's labor class at Stanford is very close to what he teaches in the program, and we have other leading researches in the areas such as Prof.Athey and you, it is still a small group even at Stanford, and there is no formal classes focus on such topics. There are many researches teaching other topics in the program, and it would be great to talk to Phd students from other institutions, especially those not in the Silicon Valley, who may take different perspectives.

What I am trying to get out of it

1. The program is the best opportunity to know the landscape of those research areas.

2. Get to know the overall literature, learn the taste and methodology of such research problems, and find research topics.

3. Learn something from other Phd students there.

RUOBING HAN

Department of Economics
Stanford University
robinhan@stanford.edu
(650)2509960

EDUCATION

B.S. Economics **2016**
Australian National University, graduated with 1st class honours & University Medal

B.S. Mathematics **2015**
Australian National University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

IO, market design, applied-micro, internet of things, cryptocurrency and blockchain

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Honours Thesis **Jan. - Oct. 2016**
ANU, under the supervision of Professor Simon Grant

- **Title:** "Two levels of preferences: a unifying approach to social choice, revisiting Diamond's critique after 50 years"
- **Overview:** Extracting ideas from a sequence of papers, we propose a unifying model for analyzing collective choice problems that accommodate Diamond's appeal for fair procedure.
- **Submitted:** Social Choice and Welfare, *Special Issue in Memory of Kenneth Arrow*

Research Projects
Stanford, with Jacob Conway **Autumn 2017**

- class project for Econ 285 matching and market design
- https://www.overleaf.com/12756499tjpdrqcqvmrj#/48676239/

ANU, under the supervision of Dr. Jose Rodgrigus Neto and Yijuan Chen **Jul. - Dec. 2014**

- **Title:** "On the regulation of the products with network externality"
- **Overview:** An international product, such as a social network system, has network externalities. We investigate consumer reactions to such externalities given by different regulations in different markets

Research Assistantships
Stanford, for Prof. Brad Larsen **Summer 2017**

- **Project:** The Effects of Legitimizing Arbitrage Across Segmented Markets: A Textbook Case with Sarah Moshary
- Web scrapped information of 2 million books on WorldCat and cleaned the data using Python

Australian National University, for Dr. Yijuan Chen **Jul. - Dec. 2014**

- Provided numerical examples and plots
- Helped research for the publication: Chen, Y, Chen, P, Hu, X and Li, S, 2015, 'Can online markets attract high-quality products?,' *Economic Modelling*, vol. 51, pp. 65-71

WORK EXPERIENCE

Tutor **Feb. - June 2015**
Australian National University

- Taught students about scientific computing, including methods for solving real world calculus and linear algebra problems
- Provided feedback on assessments

Macro Analyst Intern **Dec. 2012**

Pingan Financial Group, Shanghai

- Extracted and analyzed Bloomberg data updates for morning conference
- Studied and reported on the industry

AWARDS

Merit Scholarship **July 2011**
Australian National University College, awarded to top 1 each year

Terrell International Undergraduate Scholarship **July 2012 - 2016**
Australian National University, awarded to top 2 first year grades among international students

Deputy Dean Commendation **2015**
Awarded to students who averaged 90% or higher in all Science subjects this year

Bob Gregory Honours Scholarship **2016**

Awarded for highest average in advanced undergraduate economics courses among Honours students

Economic Society Prize for Economics IV Honours **2016**

Awarded for the highest mark in Economics Honours Thesis

The University Medal **2016**

- The University awards medals to recognize outstanding candidates for the degree of bachelor, provided they obtain first class honours of sufficient distinction which is supported by a distinguished academic record
- The first Economics student to have been awarded a medal since 2011

OTHER SKILLS

Programming Languages: Matlab, Python (most proficient), LATEX, Mathematica, R, Stata

Leland Stanford Jr. University
Stanford, CA 94305
USA

Graduate Unofficial Transcript - Detailed

Name : Han,Ruobing
Student ID : 06187594

Print Date: 03/28/2018

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* Worksheet - For office use by authorized Stanford personnel *
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--------- Academic Program ---------

Program : Economics
09/25/2017 : Economics (PhD)
Active in Program

--------- Beginning of Academic Record ---------

2017-2018 Autumn

Course		Cmpt	Title	Attempted	Earned	Grade
ECON	210	LEC	MACROECONOMICS I Martin Schneider; Monika Piazzesi	2.00	2.00	A
ECON	285	LEC	MATCHING AND MARKET DESIGN Alvin Roth; Mohammad Akbarpour Muriel Niederle	2.00	2.00	A
MGTECON	600	CAS	MICROECONOMIC ANALYSIS I Takuo Sugaya	4.00	4.00	+

GR Term GPA	4.000	Term Totals	8.00	8.00
GR Cum GPA	4.000	Cum Totals	8.00	8.00

2017-2018 Winter

Course		Cmpt	Title	Attempted	Earned	Grade
ECON	211	LEC	MACROECONOMICS II Monika Piazzesi; Pete Klenow	5.00	5.00	B
ECON	271	LEC	INTERMEDIATE ECONOMETRICS II Frank Wolak; Thomas MaCurdy	5.00	5.00	B-

GR Term GPA	2.850	Term Totals	10.00	10.00
GR Cum GPA	3.178	Cum Totals	18.00	18.00

2017-2018 Spring

Course		Cmpt	Title	Attempted	Earned	Grade
ECON	212	LEC	MACROECONOMICS III Adrien Auclert; Pablo Kurlat	3.00	0.00	
ECON	272	LEC	INTERMEDIATE ECONOMETRICS III Guido Imbens	4.00	0.00	
ECON	293	CAS	MACHINE LEARNING AND CAUSAL INFERENCE Stefan Wager; Susan Athey	3.00	0.00	

Graduate Career Totals

Cum GPA	3.178	Cum Totals	18.00	18.00

--------- Non-Course Milestones ---------

Candidacy Qualifying Process -
Plan: ECON-PHD

Candidacy Form - Doctoral Candidacy Form
Plan: ECON-PHD

Dissertn Read Committee Approv -
Plan: ECON-PHD

University Oral Exam (doct) -
Plan: ECON-PHD

Doctoral Dissertation -
Plan: ECON-PHD

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* Worksheet - For office use by authorized Stanford personnel *
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END OF TRANSCRIPT

Information must be kept confidential and must not be disclosed to other parties without the written consent of the student.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305-6072

Brad Larsen
Assistant Professor of Economics

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Dear Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ruobing (Robin) Han for acceptance into the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp for 2018. I recommend Robin highly.

I have known Robin for one year now. We met when he visited Stanford as a prospective graduate student on the Economics Department Visiting Day in spring of 2017. He immediately impressed me with his training and his eagerness to be involved in research. I hired him as a research assistant very soon thereafter, even before he joined the Economics PhD program as a first-year student the following fall.

Robin worked for me for several months on a research project studying the impact of a recent Supreme Court decision that legitimized the arbitrage of goods produced (and intended to be sold) abroad. For this project, Robin wrote scripts to collect information on millions of books from the world's largest online library catalog, worldcat.org. The task was daunting, and had been tackled by a number of research assistants prior to Robin. He worked diligently on the project, improving the speed and accuracy of the scripts, providing a number of insights into potential problems with our procedures, and proposing valuable solutions to these problems.

Robin is now successfully engaged in his final quarter of first-year classes here in the Economics Department at Stanford. During this year he has also been auditing second-year courses, further evidence of a characteristic I have noticed of Robin: he is very eager to learn and willing to put in the work required to do so.

His interest in the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp is a prime example of this eagerness to learn. Robin is very curious about entrepreneurship, innovation, and digitization, and he is hoping that attending this program will help him learn more about these areas. He hopes to understand the research frontier and to soon be delving into his own research in these areas. He is looking forward to learning from others involved in the program, both the faculty and the other students.

I believe that Robin is a great candidate for the program, both because of his research interests, his natural aptitude, and his willingness to work hard. And I am confident he will represent the program's output well as he move on to pursue his own research.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Brad Larsen