Alex Moehring
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am extremely excited to apply for the 2019 Economics of AI graduate student workshop. As a brief introduction, I am a PhD student in Information Technologies at MIT Sloan advised by Erik Brynjolfsson and just completed my first year in the program. My interests are centered on the economics of news consumption and social media, in particular how these relate to political polarization. Artificial Intelligence plays a key role in this realm, as news personalization and news-feed algorithms are currently making decisions about what articles are served to users in a number of contexts in the digital economy.

In addition, I was introduced to the use of machine learning for policy-learning and estimating heterogeneous treatment effects during a course on experimental design and analysis this past year. Continuing to understand these methods will be an important tool in my research moving forward in graduate school. The areas I mentioned above—social media and digital news—are particularly well-suited in the use of these methods, as many news outlets and social media feeds use similar policy-learning algorithms in their personalization to drive engagement.

Based on the eminent speakers from last year's conference, I am confident this workshop and conference would be incredibly helpful in connecting me with leaders working in these fields and to gain more insight into their current work. Moreover, the graduate student workshop encouraging interactions with likeminded students to discuss research ideas would help form meaningful relationships and potential collaborations.

Sincerely,

Alex Moehring

# Alex Moehring

www.alexmoehring.com

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**Contact Information**
Phone: (919) 606-3475
Email: moehring@mit.edu

**Education**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology** 9/18-Present
*Ph.D. Management Science, Information Technology (In Progress)*
*Relevant Coursework:*

- Microeconomics: Microeconomic Theory, Game Theory, Decision Theory, Contract Theory/Information Economics
- Econometrics & Statistics: Statistical Methods in Economics, Econometrics, Introduction to Machine Learning, Experimental Design & Analysis
- Macroeconomics: Dynamic Optimization Methods, Economic Growth

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** 9/10-5/14
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Investments Concentration)*
*Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Minor in Mathematics*

**Academic Honors**

**MIT**
DuWayne J. Peterson, Jr. (1955) Fellowship

**UNC-Chapel Hill**
Highest Honors & Highest Distinction; Dean's List
Phi Beta Kappa & Omicron Delta Epsilon

**Employment**

**Research Assistant,** Microsoft Research New England 7/16-7/18

**Economic Analyst,** Wells Fargo Securities 6/14-6/16

**Research**

**Work in Progress**:

- *Effectiveness of Content Moderation on Social Media*
- *Advertising, Subscriptions and the Market for Digital News* with Erik Brynjolfsson

**Prior to PhD**:

- *Should Investors Forecast Macroeconomic News Events?* Undergraduate honors thesis advised by Dr. Mike Aguilar
- *Fed Funds Surprises & Financial Markets* with John Silvia and Azhar Iqbal. Business Economics (2016)

**Computer Skills**

Python, C#, R, Matlab, Stata, SQL, and LaTeX