Name: Xiaomeng Chen

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Years of enrollment: third year PhD

Major: Applied economics and management (management track)

Fields of study: information economics, information system

Coursework: Econometrics I & II, Microeconomics I, Theoretical Industrial Organization, Empirical Industrial Organization.

Working projects:

1. "Chat more and contribute better: an empirical study on a large knowledge sharing community"
   Advisors: Prof. Chris Forman from Cornell University, Prof. Michael Kummer from University of East Anglia.
   The research project seeks to understand how the introduction of a discussion channel has affected the efficiency and quality of the knowledge exchange in knowledge sharing online community. On 2010 October 15th, a large question and answer (Q & A) community, Stack Overflow, launched a chat room function as a supportive channel to the main forum. We exploit the feed function in the chat room and use DID to identify whether the chat rooms have an impact on knowledge exchange activity in Stack Overflow. We find that the introduction of the chat rooms led to an acceleration of the speed with which answers were provided, while the quality of answers remained unchanged. Furthermore, we find that inexperienced users benefit more from the chat rooms.
2. "Price information and consideration set: evidence from a large field experiment"
   Coauthors: Prof. Jeffrey Hu from Georgia Tech, Xitong Li from HEC Paris.
   We explore how an increase in search cost for price information would affect consumers' behaviors of searching and booking hotels through a mobile app. We collaborate with one of the largest online travel search mobile apps in China and conduct a randomized field experiment involving over 1 million consumers. In the experiment, we hide the price information from the hotel search results for the treated group of consumers so that they can only see the price information after they click and browse a specific hotel. We find that when price information is hidden in the hotel search results, consumers browse more hotels not only on the first layer when they can get price information but also in later layers with detailed hotel information. However, the probability of purchasing remains the same with control group. We are still exploring the underlying mechanisms of the change in consumer's searching behavior.

General research interests:

My research interest focuses on knowledge sharing online communities and open sourced software communities such as how platform design choices can impact the growth and knowledge sharing activity

of such online communities. I am also curious about the impact of such online communities on innovation, firm productivity as well as human capital accumulation.

Committee members:

Chair: Chris Forman

Special committee: Aija Leiponen, Ben leyden, Michael Kummer