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Dear Organizers for NBER Digitalization Tutorial,

My name is Faye. I'm currently in my third year of the PhD program at University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business, with a major in financial accounting. My main research interests lie at the intersection of digital economy, disclosure and financial accounting. In my oral qualifying paper, titled "Data Usage and Stock Valuation", I investigate to which extent non-Internet firms collect and use alternative data from digital platforms, using a novel web measurement. I find Internet data usage not only helps explain stock prices, but also helps predict future operating performance and corporate transactions (e.g. lower goodwill impairment and write-downs). I plan to use this study as the blueprint for my dissertation. My qualifying committee members are TJ Wong (chair), Tianshu Sun (Data Science and Operations), Patricia Dechow, and Regina Moerman-Wittenberg.

Regarding digitalization, I'm also interested in investigating the capital markets and firm-level consequences of data regulations, not limited to the GDPR and CCPA. I find support from annual financial reports that US firms engage in higher write-offs in the aftermath of the GDPR, the European's extra-territorial data policy. Many US firms, especially media firms, restructured their European businesses due to the high compliance costs of the GDPR. Additionally, I have research interests in policy issues such as digital tax and cross-border data transfers.

Aside from digitalization, my coauthors and I are in the writing stage for a project on the impact of political networks on manager networks in China. The project is a joint work with TJ Wong (USC), Nan Jia (USC), and Tianyu Zhang (CUHK). Another project that is more accounting-specific is on non-GAAP reporting. The paper studies to what extent firms strategically use an

alternative financial reporting framework that allows them to exclude certain items to state higher earnings, and the project is now extending the data collection to 2020 where we have drawn interesting predictions.

In past June, I have finished the curriculum for my program and passed the written comprehensive exam. These courses include econometrics, corporate finance, banking, capital markets seminar, disclosures seminar and earnings quality seminar. I have also taken economics of social networks and behavioral economics outside my department.

I aspire to continue working on research topics related to digitalization and study its implications for corporate decisions, information flow, and capital markets. To this end, this tutorial meeting would be a fascinating opportunity for me. I look forward to hearing back from you and bringing fresh perspectives to the table.

Best regards,
Fangfei (Faye) Shu