KEVIN CHANDRA

PhD Student

Questrom School of Business, Boston University

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NBER Innovation Boot Camp Committee
National Bureau of Economic Research
1050 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

To whom it may concern:

I write this letter to indicate my interest in participating in the July 2025 National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Innovation Boot Camp. Its emphasis on multifaceted aspects of the economics of innovation fits very well with my profile and research interest (which relates to the influence of social movements on the rate and direction of science and innovation), and I believe this will be a highly rewarding experience.

I am currently a second-year PhD student in the Department of Strategy and Innovation (S&I) of the Boston University Questrom School of Business. My principal advisor is Professor Jeffrey L. Furman. My doctoral research investigates the impact of rare disease advocacy groups and on the rate and direction of biomedical research. I am interested in this question both because of its relevance for health and innovation and as a specific case of the general question of how social movements can affect knowledge accumulation. Professor Furman would be my recommendation letter writer in support of my application to the Innovation Boot Camp.

I am hopeful that the Boot Camp could further enrich my understanding of the economics of innovation, and its broader relevance to my research interest. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Kevin Chandra

KEVIN CHANDRA

E-mail: kchandra@bu.edu
Google Scholar | ResearchGate | LinkedIn

Education

2023-	**Questrom School of Business, Boston University** Ph.D. in Business Administration Department: Strategy and Innovation Advisor: Jeffrey Furman	**Boston, MA**
2017-2019	**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)** M.Phil. in Social Science Thesis: *Comparative analysis of innovation systems in Hong Kong and Shenzhen* Advisors: Naubahar Sharif, Xun Wu	**Hong Kong**
2013-2017	**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)** B.Sc. in Global China Studies (First Class Honors) Thesis: *Epistemology in the study of China-Africa relations* Advisor: Barry V. Sautman	**Hong Kong**

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

[1] **Chandra, K**., Wang, J., Luo, N., and Wu, X. (2022). Asymmetry in the distribution of benefits of cross-border regional innovation systems: the case of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen innovation system. *Regional Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/00343404.2022.2126450.

[2] Sharif, N., and **Chandra, K.** (2022). A comparative analysis of innovation policies in Hong Kong and Shenzhen within the Greater Bay Area initiative. *Science and Public Policy*, 49(1): 54-71.

[3] Sharif, N., **Chandra, K.**, Mansoor, A., and Sinha, K. B. (2021). A comparative analysis of research and development spending and total factor productivity growth in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Singapore. *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, 57: 108-120.

[4] Wang, J., **Chandra, K.**, Du, C., Ding, W., and Wu, X. (2021). Assessing the potential of cross-border regional innovation systems: A case study of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen region. *Technology in Society*, 65: 101557.

Works in Progress

[1] **Chandra, K.,** and Furman, J. Science, innovation, and social movements: Rare disease advocacy organizations and pharmaceutical innovation. (ongoing data collection)

[2] **Chandra, K.**, Furman, J., and Watzinger, M. Operation Paperclip: Nazi scientists and innovation in the United States. (data analysis)

[3] **Chandra, K.,** and O'Mahony, S. Social movements, mobilization strategies, and innovation: A typology of process models for rare disease advocacy organizations. (ongoing data collection)

[4] **Chandra, K.**, and Yarime, M. The digitalization of technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation: an analysis of USPTO patents (1975-2014). (under review)

Book Chapter

[1] Wang, J., **Chandra, K.**, Du, C., Ding, W., and Wu, X. (2022). Transformation of cross-border regional innovation networks: A case study of Hong Kong and Shenzhen. In K. H. Mok (eds.), *Higher education, innovation and entrepreneurship from comparative perspectives: Reengineering China through the Greater Bay economy and development* (pp. 185-210). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.

Book Review

[1] Sharif, N., and **Chandra, K**. *Innovation in China: Challenging the global science and technology system*, by R. P. Appelbaum, C. Cao, X. Han, R. Parker, and D. F. Simon. *The China Journal*, 90(1): 199-202.

Technical Report

[1] Xun, W., Sharif, N., Mok, K. H., Cheung, A., Yang, R., Yarime, M., Lai, E., Xie, B., Tremewan, C., **Chandra, K.**, Hung, H., Lee, J., Trunina, A., and Jin, M. (2023). *Accelerating the Development of a Global Innovation and Technology Hub in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Bay Area: the Roles of Public Research Universities* (Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme – S2018.A7.006.18S). Hong Kong: Chief Executive's Policy Unit of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Conference Presentations

2022	'Choosing the right one: university-industry collaboration and impacts on scientific and technological advances' with Xun Wu. 6th Geography of Innovation (GEOINNO) Conference (Milan, Italy)
2021	'A patent analysis of digitalization in climate change-related technologies: Innovation, corporate strategies, and policy implications' with Masaru Yarime. 8th European Conference on Corporate R&D and Innovation (CONCORDi) (virtual)
2020	'Comparative analysis of innovation systems in Hong Kong and Shenzhen'. 5th Geography of Innovation (GEOINNO) Conference (Stavanger, Norway)
2019	'Government policies and impact of R&D on productivity: The cases of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Singapore' with Athar Mansoor, Kirti B. Sinha, and Naubahar Sharif. 4th Annual Conference of Asia-Pacific Public Policy Network (AP-PPN) (Hong Kong SAR, China)
2019	'So close, but so distant: Comparative analysis of innovation policies in Hong Kong and Shenzhen' with Naubahar Sharif. 4th Annual Conference of Asia-Pacific Public Policy Network (AP-PPN) (Hong Kong SAR, China)
2018	'Growth and evolution of regional innovation system in Shenzhen: Firm-level perspectives'. 16th Triple Helix Conference (Manchester, UK)

2018	'Becoming a smart city: Best practices, failures, and practical challenges' with Athar Mansoor. Conference for E-Democracy and Open Government (CeDEM) Asia 2018 (Yokohama, Japan)
2018	'Comparative analysis of R&D and TFP growth in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Singapore' with Athar Mansoor, Kirti B. Sinha, and Naubahar Sharif. 17th International Schumpeter Society (ISS) Conference (Seoul, South Korea)

Honors and Awards

2017-2019	Postgraduate Studentship (PGS), HKUST
2015-2016	Academic Excellence Award, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, HKUST
2014-2016	Scholarship Scheme for Continuing Undergraduate Students, HKUST

Research and Professional Experience

2022-2023	Assistant Officer, Division of Public Policy, HKUST
2019-2022	Research Assistant, Division of Public Policy, HKUST

Academic Service

Ad hoc reviewer for *European Planning Studies; Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation; Singapore Economic Review; Humanities and Social Sciences Communications; DRUID 2023 Conference; Politics and Policy*

Technical Skills and Language

Data and statistical analysis: R and Stata
Language: Indonesian (native), English (fluent), Mandarin (conversational), Cantonese (basic)

Last Updated: January 26, 2025

Boston University Unofficial Transcript

Boston University Office of the University Registrar

881 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

DATE PRINTED: 01/26/2025

STUDENT NAME	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH
Kevin Chandra	**XXXX**	**January 8**

Academic Program History

Program: Questrom School of Business
Sep 5, 2023: Active in Program
Sep 5, 2023: PH.D. Business Administration and Management Major

Beginning of Graduate Record

Fall 2023

Course	Title	Credits	Grade	Grade Points
GRSEC 701	MICROECON THRY	4.0	B	12.0
GRSEC 705	INTRO MATH ECON	4.0	B+	13.2
GRSEC 707	ADV STATISTICS	4.0	B	12.0
QSTDS 906	PHIL SCI RESRCH	4.0	A	16.0

			Cumulative Credit Earned	Cumulative Grade Points
Term GPA	3.33	Term Totals	16.0	53.20
Cum GPA	3.33	Cum Totals	16.0	53.20

Spring 2024

Course	Title	Credits	Grade	Grade Points
GRSEC 703	ADV MICR THEORY	4.0	B	12.0
GRSEC 708	ADV ECNMETRIC 1	4.0	B-	10.8
QSTMO 923	FIELD STDY SEMN	4.0	A	16.0
QSTSI 999	DS: STRAT&INNOV	4.0	A	16.0

			Cumulative Credit Earned	Cumulative Grade Points
Term GPA	3.43	Term Totals	16.0	54.80
Cum GPA	3.38	Cum Totals	32.0	108.00

Fall 2024

Course	Title	Credits	Grade	Grade Points
CASSO 890	S:GLOBAL HEALTH	4.0	A	16.0
ENGEK 800	ETHICS & RCR	1.0	P	0.0
QSTDS 925	Causal Inference in Strategy	4.0	A	16.0
QSTSI 998	DS: Strategy and Innovation	4.0	A	16.0
QSTSI 998	DS: Strategy and Innovation	4.0	B	12.0

			Cumulative Credit Earned	Cumulative Grade Points
Term GPA	3.75	Term Totals	17.0	60.00
Cum GPA	3.50	Cum Totals	49.0	168.00

Spring 2025

Course	Title	Credits	Grade	Grade Points
QSTMO 917	Craft of Theorizing Research	4.0		0.0
QSTSI 917	TECH/INNOV	4.0		0.0
QSTSI 920	ORGS IN STR&ECO	4.0		0.0

			Cumulative Credit Earned	Cumulative Grade Points
Term GPA	0.00	Term Totals	0.0	0.00
Cum GPA	3.50	Cum Totals	49.0	168.00

Graduate Career Totals

Cumulative Credits Earned:	49.0
Cumulative Grade Points:	168.00

End of Graduate Record

Unofficial

This transcript is not valid without the authorized signature and seal of the University.

Can social movements influence the rate and direction of science and innovation? This question has animated the discussions among social scientists from decades, at least since the seminal NBER volume in 1962 ("The Rate and Direction of Inventive Activity"). While much of the work has been focused on factors affecting investments in and the rate of science and innovation, scholars are increasingly interested in understanding the factors that determine their direction (e.g. Acemoglu and Johnson, 2023; Bryan and Lemus, 2017; Myers, 2020). At present, current works on the direction of innovation emphasizes the role of government policies (Bloom, Van Reenen, and Williams, 2019), market structure (Bryan and Lemus, 2017), technological shocks (Furman and Teodoridis, 2020), and funding priorities (Furman, Murray, and Stern, 2012). In recent years, however, social movements have also emerged as a potentially important driver in shaping the direction of science and innovation (e.g. Acemoglu and Johnson, 2023; Best, 2012; Elnio, Feng, and Jaravel, 2019; Hegde and Sampat, 2015).

My current research seeks to explore how social movements can affect the direction of biomedical research. Specifically, I investigate the impacts of rare disease advocacy groups on the allocation of resources, the production of scientific knowledge, and the types of knowledge produced, extending the works by Best (2012) and Hegde and Sampat (2015) in which they examined the influence of patient advocacy organizations on the amount of disease-specific NIH funding. At present, my focus would be on analyzing scientific publications, as well as the extent to which these publications are either in basic science or clinical research.

As I continue in my PhD Program, I plan to expand my research agenda in two ways. First, I plan to study the influence of social movements on the innovation 'race', as proxied by patents and the types of technologies invented (Bryan, Lemus, and Marshall, 2022), on clinical trials (Budish, Roin, and Williams, 2015), and on FDA drug authorizations. With respect to the latter, I will investigate whether advocacy groups direct innovators to niche markets instead of large patient populations and the social welfare implications of such tradeoffs (Acemoglu and Linn, 2004; Yin, 2008). Second, I plan to explore whether social movements may obstruct the rate and direction of science and innovation (Weber, Rao, and Thomas, 2009), such as the influence of anti-abortion movements on research related to reproductive health, or boycotting of country-specific scientists due to political tensions (e.g. Ganguli and Waldinger, 2024).

By participating in the NBER Innovation Boot Camp, I hope to gain substantial insights into the latest state of research on the economics of innovation, especially on topics pertaining to the role of science and innovation policy (specifically on whether, and how, the government responds to social movements' demands), human resources (such as the entry and exit of scientists and innovators), innovation race, and the dynamics of scientific collaboration across national borders. I look forward to attending the Boot Camp and exchanging knowledge with other aspiring innovation scholars.