Katarzyna (Kasia) Swiech

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Education

Georgia Institute of Technology, Scheller College of Business 2023 - present
Ph.D. in Management, Area: Strategy and Innovation

The University of Edinburgh 2017 - 2021
MA Business with Decision Analytics

The University of Texas at Austin 2019 - 2020
BBA Business Exchange

Research experience

Graduate Research Assistant - GT Scheller College of Business 2023 - present

Research Collaborator 2022 - 2023
Work with Professor Greg Fisher (Kelley Business School, Indiana University); research project on entrepreneurial entry

Research Assistant 2021 - 2022
Work with Professor Ilya Strebulaev (Stanford GSB); data collection for a project on the backgrounds of unicorn startups' founders

Research Assistant 2021 - 2022
Work with Dr. Fumi Kitagawa (Edinburgh Business School); literature review, survey preparation, and data collection in a project about entrepreneurial propensity among business Ph.D. candidates

Research

Working paper - Time Zone Penalty or Premium? - The Impact of Temporal Distance on Collaboration

Awards and Fellowships

GT Center for International Business Education and Research - Research Summer 2024 Award 2024
Graduate Research Assistantship Stipend 2023 - present

Other Activities

Volunteer reviewer for AOM Copenhagen 2025 2025

Research experience

SEO & Growth consultant, The Growth Place Studio | *remote* 2020 - 2023

Analyst - SMOK Ventures | *Warsaw, Poland* 2023

SEO & Growth Analyst - Simpler Trading | *remote & Austin, TX* 2020 - 2022

May 2020-July 2020 - Marketing Intern

Student Communications Fellow - OnRamps, UT Austin | *Austin, TX* 2019

Intern - Limitless | *Warsaw, Poland* 2019

Relevant coursework

Georgia Institute of Technology
Econometrics I & II, Microeconomic Theory I, Math for Economists, Organization Theory, Theory Construction, Strategic Entrepreneurship Management (MBA level), Public Policy Research Seminar, Strategic Management Research, Machine Learning for Economics, Economics of AI & ML, Research in Entrepreneurship, Economic Data Analysis (Applied Econometrics), Empirical Research Methods, Responsible Research Conduct
UT Austin MBA level: Predictive Analytics and Data Mining, Business Analytics and Decision Modeling, Statistics

Skills

Languages Polish (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), German (basic)

Cover Letter

Katarzyna Swiech
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Georgia Institute of Technology
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Recommendation letter writer:

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Essay

I am a second-year PhD student in Strategy and Innovation at Georgia Institute of Technology. My first research project explores how time zone differences influence collaborative innovation. I was inspired by a rich body of scholarship on the role of distance in cooperative knowledge production and flows, which prompted my question of whether the effects of distance should be attributed to spatial separation, as measured in miles, or perhaps to differences in time zones that affect synchronous communication. I use USPTO patent data to compare inventors' moves made within or across time zones and measure the likelihood of future collaborations. My preliminary findings reveal that collaborations decline after a move, as expected, with the largest drop occurring when an individual relocates across time zones even when the move is relatively short in terms of miles[1]. I plan to extend this analysis by including a regression discontinuity design, exploring heterogeneity in these effects, and investigating the mechanisms that underlie these patterns. I am also considering switching my focus from collaboration to knowledge flows, with a keen interest in understanding how temporal distance and resource constraints shape the direction, quality, quantity, and speed of knowledge production. More broadly, I am interested in how resource constraints affect the direction, quality, quantity, and speed of new knowledge production, and whether under certain conditions these effects can be positive.

I am applying to the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp because I consider it an opportunity to fill the gaps in my knowledge of innovation research and complement my formal PhD training. While I have taken courses related to strategy and entrepreneurship, I have not had the chance to participate in a research seminar on innovation. By the summer of 2025, I will have completed my required coursework, making it a good time to further my learning and apply these insights to my research. In my first paper project, I drew from the works of Pierre Azoulay, Heidi Williams or Ben Jones. I believe that listening to, learning from, and consulting with others outside my regular circle will provide valuable insights and open my eyes to new perspectives and approaches to innovation research. In addition to the content, the boot camp's format is particularly appealing to me. I believe that in-person lectures and face-to-face interactions offer the best learning environment through real-time discussions and follow-up questions. Furthermore, coming from a small PhD program, I view the boot camp as a unique setting to connect with other PhD students and early-career researchers working on similar topics.

[1]Short is defined as less than the median value of all move distances