February 6, 2025

Cornell University
Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management
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NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp Selection Committee
c/o National Bureau of Economic Research
Cambridge, MA

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

My name is Weiting Wang and I am writing to express my strong interest in participating in the fourth Innovation Research Boot Camp scheduled for July 2025, in Cambridge, MA. As a second-year Ph.D. student in Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University, my research interests are innovation strategy and digital platforms.

I am particularly interested in exploring the intricate relationships between technological change, organizational behavior, and policy frameworks, and I believe that the interdisciplinary approach of NBER Boot Camp will provide an ideal environment to enhance my research skills and broaden my perspective.

I am confident that participating in this program will strengthen my theoretical and empirical methodologies, enabling me to contribute more meaningfully to innovation research. Given the limited opportunities to study the economics of innovation on my campus, the NBER Boot Camp offers a rare and invaluable chance to engage deeply with this field, from foundational concepts to frontier questions. I look forward to the instructional lectures, keynote talks, and panel discussions, each of which will enhance my understanding of the key challenges and opportunities in innovation policy.

For your reference, my recommendation letter writer is Dr. Aija Leiponen. Having closely supervised my work, Dr. Leiponen can speak to my analytical abilities, commitment, and potential to make a meaningful contribution to the ongoing discourse on innovation and policy.

Thank you for considering my application. I am enthusiastic about the prospect of contributing to and learning from the community of scholars at the Innovation Research Boot Camp.

Sincerely,

Weiting (Eden) Wang

Weiting (Eden) Wang

442 Warren Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 ww524@cornell.edu 646-549-4658

Research Interests

- **Topics**: Innovation Strategy, Digital Platforms, Platform Strategy
- **Methodologies**: Empirical study, Econometrics

Education

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY *Sept 2023 – Current*
Ph.D. in Applied Economics and Management
- GPA: 3.93/4.3

Columbia University, New York, NY *Sept 2021 – Dec 2022*
M.S. in Business Analytics
- GPA: 3.94/4.0

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA *Sept 2019 – Mar 2021*
B.S. in Applied Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude
- GPA: 3.92/4.0; Major GPA: 3.95/4.0

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA *Sept 2017 – Jun 2019*
B.S. in Applied Mathematics; Transferred to UCLA
- GPA: 3.9/4.0

Work in Progress

Does Attention to Data Protections Impact Firm Innovation? Evidence from U.S.-listed Firms
with Aija Leiponen (Cornell University) and Gurneeta Vasudeva (University of Minnesota)

This research examines how firms' responses to data protection regulations and data breaches influence their innovation behaviors, as reflected in their patenting activities. Beyond overall innovation output, we explore whether regulatory pressures drive firms to shift the direction of their innovation efforts.

The Hidden Costs of Fighting Platform Fragmentation: The Impact of Google's Target API Policy on Developers and Users
mentored by Chris Forman (Cornell University)

This research examines the trade-offs of platform policy enforcement aimed at reducing fragmentation, which imposes significant compliance costs on developers. Focusing on Google's Target API Policy, we explore how these costs can affect developers' behavior, hinder innovation and consumer welfare despite the policy's goal of creating a more unified platform.

Current and Completed PhD Courses

- Spring 2025: Empirical Strategies for Policy Research II; Local Labor Markets
- Fall 2024: Empirical Strategies for Policy Analysis (A); Macroeconomics I (A+)
- Spring 2024: Applied Microeconomics II: Game Theory (A); Applied Microeconomics III: Applied General Equilibrium Analysis (A); Econometrics II (A-)
- Fall 2023: Intermediate Mathematical Economics I (A); Econometrics I (A); Applied Microeconomics (A-); Microeconomic Theory I (A-)

Teaching Experience

Head Teaching Assistant *Spring 2025*
AEM 3205: Ethics in Business and Organizations

Head Teaching Assistant *Fall 2024*
AEM 3205: Ethics in Business and Organizations

My research interests lie in innovation strategy, digital platforms, and platform strategy. Currently, I am working on a research project with Professor Aija Leiponen (Cornell University) and Professor Gurneeta Vasudeva (University of Minnesota) to examine how firms' responses to data protection regulations and data breaches influence their innovation behaviors, as reflected in their patenting activities. Beyond overall innovation output, we explore whether regulatory pressures drive firms to shift the direction of their innovation efforts.

As firms increasingly rely on data-driven strategies, data protection has emerged as both a regulatory challenge and a strategic consideration. On one hand, data protection efforts may encourage the development of privacy-enhancing technologies and secure data-driven innovations. On the other hand, compliance requirements could impose constraints that hinder the efficiency of research and development (R&D). Furthermore, regulatory pressures may reshape firms' innovation priorities, leading them to focus on other areas rather than technologies that enhance data security and privacy. By linking regulatory compliance to firms' innovation strategies, our study will provide valuable insights into whether data protection regulations serve as a catalyst for technological advancement, an impediment to innovation, or a driver of strategic shifts in firms' innovation trajectories.

Looking ahead, I intend to continue exploring the intersection of regulation and digital innovation. I am particularly interested in two key aspects of innovation: digital platform fragmentation and complementary innovation, especially in the context of online platforms like Android. Understanding how regulatory policies shape platform ecosystems and influence the incentives for third-party developers is central to my research. Additionally, as I deepen my knowledge of local labor markets through coursework, I aim to investigate the relationship between IT innovation and local labor dynamics. In particular, I am interested in how technological advancements affect job creation, skill demand, and wage disparities across different regions.

I am excited to apply for the NBER Innovation Boot Camp because it offers a unique opportunity to deepen my understanding of the economics of innovation and engage with a community of scholars who are pushing the boundaries of the field. The opportunity to interact with renowned experts would be invaluable as I refine my own research and gain new perspectives. I am looking forward to engaging with scholars like Professor Kevin Bryan and Professor Ina Ganguli. Professor Bryan's expertise in the economics of innovation, especially his focus on how firms generate and commercialize new ideas, aligns closely with my interest in understanding the mechanisms that drive innovation within organizations. Additionally, as I aim to investigate the relationship between IT innovation and local labor dynamics, I believe that Professor Ganguli's extensive research in labor economics and the economics of science and innovation makes her an ideal person to consult. Her work on the migration of high-skill workers and gender disparities in the labor market provides valuable insights that could inform my research on how IT innovation influences local labor markets. Interacting with these professors would provide invaluable guidance as I develop my research in these areas.

I believe the boot camp will not only help me build stronger theoretical and empirical skills but also connect me with a network of like-minded researchers. This immersive experience would provide me with the tools and insights necessary to make meaningful contributions to the field of innovation economics.

Dyson
Cornell
SC Johnson College of Business

February 5, 2025

Recommendation for Eden Wang

Ms. Weiting (Eden) Wang has asked me to send a note supporting her application to the NBER Innovation Bootcamp. Eden is a strong second-year PhD student in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. She is close to completing her required economics and econometrics courses, with an emphasis on micro, IO, and empirical methods.

Eden is working with me on a project related to data protection regulation and innovation that she has described in her essay. The project is joint with Gurneeta Vasudeva and Farzam Boroomand of University of Minnesota. We have just started this work in November, but I can already tell Eden works hard and has a strong conceptual mind. She quickly understood the goals of the project and studied the underlying literature on her own to learn the foundations. Eden is currently also conceptualizing her second-year paper. This will explore how changes in the app updating requirements on Android Play Store influence app innovation but also contribute to platform fragmentation. Eden works closely with Ben Leyden who knows these data very well. Eden's primary supervisor is Chris Forman.

I think Eden is an excellent candidate for the Innovation Research Bootcamp. She has strong economics and econometrics training at Cornell, she is bright and motivated, and she is very interested in digital innovation questions. I strongly recommend her for the bootcamp. Please let me know if you have any questions about her skills, work, or character.

Sincerely,

Aija Leiponen
Professor, Strategy and Business Economics
Senior Director of Programs
Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management
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Cornell University
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