NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp Committee
National Bureau of Economic Research
Cambridge, MA

Dear Members of the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiasm for attending the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025. As a PhD student in innovation, entrepreneurship and strategy with a focus on innovation and institutional arrangements, I believe this boot camp will provide a unique opportunity to enhance my understanding of the economics of innovation and contribute to my research.

My research investigates how institutional policies and open-source methods incentivize scientific innovation and contribute to economic growth, inequality reduction, and labor market dynamics. My first study investigates how institutional policies, specifically publication requirements, influence the PhD journey. My second study explores how open-source organization structure serve as an alternative that supports the professional and psychological transformation of novice engineers from disadvantaged backgrounds.

My application documents prepared are listed below:

1. CV
2. Course Completed
3. Research Statement

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to contribute to the NBER community.

Sincerely,

Yacheng Yang
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Referee：
Dongbo Shi
Associate Professor
Dept. of Public Administration,
School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiaotong University
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Course Completed

Course Name	Instructor(s)	Affiliation
Big Data Analytics and Econometrics	Dongbo Shi	Department of Public Administration, Shanghai Jiaotong University
Big Data Analytics (B)	Wenwu Zhu	Department of Computer Science, Tsinghua University
Advanced Applied Mathematical Statistics	Liu Yang	Department of Management Science & Engineering, Tsinghua University
Macromanagement Theory	Yidi Guo	Department of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Tsinghua University
Micromanagement Theory	Lei Wang, Xiaoye Wang	Department of Leadership and Organization Behavior, Tsinghua University
Entrepreneurship: Theory and Empirical Study	Xibao Li	Department of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Tsinghua University
Organization, Environment & Competitive Advantage	Yi Wang	Department of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Tsinghua University
Advanced Topics in Management & Organization Research: Ambicultural Perspectives	Zhenzhen Xie	Department of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Tsinghua University
Management Research Methods I	Chen Zhang	Department of Leadership and Organization Behavior, Tsinghua University
Management Research Methods II	Zhenzhen Xie, Mingtao Xu	Department of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Tsinghua University
Current Research in Strategic Management	Mingtao Xu	Department of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Tsinghua University

Team Cooperation Learning Theory and Training	Yisi Zhan	Department of Higher Education, Tsinghua University
Research on Innovation Management	Zhengfeng Li	Department of Sociology, Tsinghua University
Sociology Theory	Henrich Greve	INSEAD
Entrepreneurship	Henrich Greve, Vissa Balagopal	INSEAD

Workshops

- ✓ Tsinghua R Club Seminars
- ✓ Tsinghua State Club Seminars
- ✓ Tsinghua Python Club Sminars
- ✓ Datawhale Open-source Coding Team-up Learning Project

My research investigates how institutional policies and open-source methods incentivize scientific innovation and contribute to economic growth, inequality reduction, and labor market dynamics.

My first study investigates how institutional policies, specifically publication requirements, influence the PhD journey. While publication requirements are a major source of pressure in PhD programs, there is little evidence on their impact. We documented the policy of canceling publication requirements at elite business schools in China and analyzed its effects. The dataset includes 461 PhD students paired with their advisors, manually collected from PhD admission lists, dissertations, and employment outcomes at three elite business schools. First, we found that removing publication requirements significantly reduced publication output in both Chinese and English journals and extended students' time to completion. Second, most of the decline in publication quantity was concentrated in predatory journals. Third, faculty members showed little sensitivity to this policy change. This research has important implications for the design of PhD programs, as it emphasizes that research quality can be enhanced by alleviating the pressure on PhD students to publish, where the focus can shift toward fostering long-term, meaningful research for early career economic PhDs.

My second study explores how open-source organization structure serve as an alternative that supports the professional and psychological transformation of novice engineers from disadvantaged backgrounds. While prior research highlights benefit for skilled contributors, less-skilled participants are often seen as free riders. Using a five-year field study and interviews with 78 open-source learners, this study finds that open-source communities foster transformation through core values—personalization, equalization, and recognition—which create a sense of unconditional acceptance. This psychological support helps individuals overcome barriers, develop self-growth goals, and engage in meaningful contributions. This research contributes to the economics of innovation by highlighting the role of organizational structures in promoting underrepresented populations into higher educational path.

My future research will continue to explore the PhD journey along two main paths. The first path will examine the time-to-completion of PhD programs, testing the limits of how program duration influences PhD knowledge production. The second path will focus on the increasing number of PhDs and investigate how this growth impacts the overall quality and quantity of PhD knowledge production.I believe that my participation in the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025 would significantly enhance my research and academic trajectory for three reasons. First, attending this bootcamp will refine my ideas in future research on PhD journey, and gain valuable insights into how my research can inform innovation policies globally. Second, I am eager to exchange ideas with fellow scholars working on similar topics, receive constructive feedback, and gain a broader perspective to strengthen my future research and policy recommendations. Third, it will provide precious opportunity for networking and future career opportunities.