Application for NBER Tutorial on Digital Economics and AI

Shawn Sun

Contact Information

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Graduate Study Background

- Institution: Georgia State University
- Program: Ph.D. in Finance
- Enrollment: 2023 – Present
- Current Year: 3rd Year Ph.D. Student
- Relevant Coursework: Econometrics I: Statistical Foundation, Math for Economists, Econometrics II, Advanced Econometrics, Theory of Risk Sharing, Microeconomics Analysis I, Seminar in Investments, Theory of Financial Management and Financial Institutions, Seminar in Asset Pricing, Seminar in Corporate Finance, Advanced Topics in Contemporary Finance Research, Microeconomics Analysis II, FinTech Experience, EMORY: Theory in Corporate Finance and Capital Markets

Research Interests and Projects

- Broad Interests:
  - FinTech: AI in Finance, Big Data, Machine Learning
  - Corporate Finance: Corporate Innovation, Corporate Investment, Corporate Governance
  - Labor and Finance
- Current Research Projects:

– **Working Paper: AI Exposure, Financing Frictions, and Long-Term Labor Commitments: Evidence from Green Card Sponsorships** (Solo-Authored).

  Do advances in artificial intelligence (AI) change firms' willingness to make long-term commitments to talent? We use employment-based green-card sponsorships for skilled workers as a direct measure of durable human-capital investment. We find that a one–standard-deviation increase in occupational exposure to AI is associated with roughly a 10% decline in sponsorships, consistent with firms exercising the option to wait under technological uncertainty. The contraction concentrates in entry-level roles and is strongest among financially constrained firms. By contrast, R&D-intensive and AI-innovating employers keep overall commitment levels roughly unchanged by shifting sponsorships toward managerial and soft-skill–intensive positions. Taken together, these findings show how technology shocks—measured as differential task-level exposure to AI across occupations—interact with capital-market frictions and innovation capacity to shape both the level and the mix of long-term human-capital investment.

– **Committee Members:**

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