

Xiang Zheng

Finance Department
University of Connecticut
2100 Hillside Road
Storrs, CT 06269

Office: BUSN 452
Phone: (860)486-2774
Email: xiang.zheng@uconn.edu
Website: www.xiangzheng.info

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Finance, School of Business, University of Connecticut 2021 – present
– (1-year tenure clock extension for one child born in 2024)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Finance, Carroll School of Management, Boston College 2016 – 2021
M.A. in Economics (honors), Central University of Finance and Economics 2012 – 2015
B.Eng. in Mechanical Engineering, Zhejiang University of Technology 2008 – 2012

RESEARCH FIELDS

FinTech/Innovation, Corporate Finance, Banking, Private Markets

PUBLICATION

1. [How Can Innovation Screening Be Improved? A Machine Learning Analysis with Economic Consequences for Firm Performance](#)
 - *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, 2025, 60(8), pp.3722 - 3752.
 - *The FMA Best Paper Award in FinTech; The Kuldeep Shastri Outstanding Doctoral Student Paper*
2. [Can Small Businesses Survive Chapter 11?](#) with Edith Hotchkiss and Ben Iverson
 - *Journal of Finance*, forthcoming
 - *The House Judiciary Subcommittee Hearing: “Bankruptcy Law: Overview and Legislative Reforms”*
3. [How Does Private Firm Patenting Affect Anti-Takeover Provisions in Corporate Charters? Evidence from Initial Public Offerings](#), with Thomas Chemmanur, Manish Gupta, and Karen Simonyan
 - *Journal of Law and Economics*, forthcoming
4. [How Does Greater Bank Competition Affect Borrower Screening? Evidence from China’s WTO Entry](#), with Thomas Chemmanur, Jiaqi Qin, Yan Sun, and Qianqian Yu
 - *Journal of Corporate Finance*, 2020, 65, p.101776.

WORKING PAPERS

- * [From Competitors to Partners: Banks’ Venture Investments in Fintech](#), with Manju Puri and Yiming Qian
 - *Revise & Resubmit*, *Journal of Financial Economics*
 - *Media coverage: NBER Reporter*
- * [GSE Restrictions, Credit Supply, and Rental Market Spillovers](#), with Natee Amornsiripanitch, Philip Strahan, and Song Zhang
 - *Revise & Resubmit*, *Management Science*
 - *Media coverage: Hutchins Roundup*

- * [Do Fintech Shadow Banks Compete with Technological Advantages? Evidence from Mortgage Lending](#), with Siyi Shen and Sijie Wang
 - *Revise & Resubmit*, **Management Science**
- * [What is the Role of the Options Market? Evidence from Newly Public Companies](#), with Thomas Chemmanur and Chayawat Ornthanalai
 - *Revise & Resubmit*, **Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis**
- * [Woke or Broke? The Impact of Corporate Activism on Product Sales](#), with Meng Gao
- * [How Does VC Engagement Direct Startup Experimentation?](#), with Xuelin Li, Sijie Wang, and Jiajie Xu
 - *Media coverage: ProMarket*
- * [The Economic Impact of Insolvency Reforms Around the World](#), with James Albertus, Edith Hotchkiss, and Aurelio Gurrea-Martínez
- * [Visual Cues and Valuation: Evidence from the Housing Market](#), with Puja Bhattacharya, Sherry Li, Yu Wang, and Cedric Wu
 - *Semi-finalist for the FMA Best Paper Award in Corporate Finance*
 - *AEA RCT Registry: AEARCTR-0016398*
 - *Media coverage: National Affairs*

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

*denotes coauthor presentation

2026

AFA (Junior Faculty Mentoring Program), MFA*, NFA*, Baruch College, University of Rhode Island

2025

AFA (1 paper + 1 PhD Poster), SFS Cavalcade NA, NBER SI (Entrepreneurship)*, Bretton Woods Ski Conference, TAMU Young Scholars Finance Consortium*, Chicago-Harvard-Wharton Insolvency & Restructuring Conference*, UMass Isenberg Finance Conference*

2024

AREUEA National Conference*, CFRC, CICF (2 papers), EasternFA*, EuropeanFA (2 papers)*, FDIC Bank Research Conference (2 papers)*, FIRS*, Harvard-Wharton Insolvency and Restructuring Conference, MFA (3 papers), NBER SI (Entrepreneurship)*, NFA (2 papers), Santiago Finance Workshop*, The Mortgage Market Research Conference at FRBP*, UEA*, Virtual Corporate Finance Seminars*, Wharton Financial Regulation Conference*, CEAR-CenFIS Conference (2 papers), Corporate Restructuring & Insolvency Seminar*, Telfer Conference on Corporate Finance and Banking*, University of Connecticut

2023

AEA (Poster), AFBC, ASSA-IBEF, EasternFA, FMA (2 papers), GSU-RFS Fintech Conference, MFA (2 papers), Finance Theory Group Summer School*, Northeastern University Finance Conference*, Southwest Finance Symposium*, SIF, Sydney BFRG Workshop*, Telfer Conference on Corporate Finance and Banking*, WEFI Virtual Seminar*, UConn School-wide Research Seminar

2022

AEA, AMES*, FIFI*, FIRS*, FMA, MFA, International Conference on Finance & Technology, OCC Fintech Symposium, Nankai University, University of Connecticut

2021 & before

AFA (PhD Poster), CFRC, EasternFA (2 papers), FMA (3 papers + Doctoral Consortium), Greater Boston Annual Corporate Governance Workshop*, Boston College, California State University–Fullerton, Chinese

University of Hong Kong (Shatin & Shenzhen), City University of Hong Kong, Durham University, Fudan University, Georgetown Global Virtual Seminar on FinTech, Luohan Academy, Oregon State University, Peking University, San Diego State University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, SKEMA Business School, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, University of Connecticut, University of Florida

INVITED WORKSHOPS

2026: The AFA Junior Faculty Mentoring Program (JFMP)
2021: Mitsui Center Summer School on Structural Estimation in Corporate Finance
2019: 12th NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp

TEACHING

Instructor, University of Connecticut, 2021 –

Financial Management (BA): Fall 2025 –
Introductions to Financial Models (MA): Fall 2022 –
Investments & Security Analysis (BA): Fall 2021, Spring 2022
Financial Modeling (MBA): Fall 2021

SERVICE

Referee:

Review of Financial Studies, Management Science, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Corporate Finance, Journal of Empirical Finance, Journal of Economics and Business, Journal of Financial Services Research, Global Finance Journal, Journal of Credit Risk

Conference Program Committee:

UConn Finance Conference: 2023 –

Conference Discussion:

Australasian Finance & Banking Conference: 2023
China Financial Research Conference: 2021
Eastern Finance Association Annual Meeting: 2021, 2023
Financial Management Association Annual Meeting: 2021
Midwest Finance Association Annual Meeting: 2021, 2023, 2024
The Annual Global PhD Colloquium at Fordham: 2026
UConn Finance Conference: 2022

University of Connecticut:

Seminar Organizer: 2026 –
PhD Program Committee: 2023 –
Undergraduate Faculty Advisor: 2022 –
Fintech UG Program Curriculum Committee: 2022

Doctoral Dissertation Committee (w. Initial Placements):

Chunka Tai (Ongoing)
Heonyeol Jeong (Ongoing)
Cianna Durringer (Placement: North Central College)
Ying Xing (Placement: Rochester Institute of Technology)
Sijie Wang (External letter writer, Placement: Deakin University)

GRANTS

UConn Center for Private and Entrepreneurial Capital (CPEC) Research Grant (\$9,000)	2023
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AWARDS & HONORS

Best Paper Award, UConn School of Business	2026
Semi-finalist for the FMA Best Paper Award in Corporate Finance	2023
UConn OVPR/AAUP Faculty Travel Award	2023 –
The FMA Best Paper Award in FinTech	2021
The EasternFA Kuldeep Shastri Outstanding Doctoral Student Paper	2021
Semi-finalist for the FMA Best Paper Award in Corporate Finance (×2)	2020
American Finance Association Annual Meeting Student Travel Grant	2018
Doctoral Fellowship, Carroll School of Management, Boston College	2016 – 2021
National Scholarship, Central University of Finance and Economics	2013

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

None.

PERSONAL

Married with two daughters; US Permanent Resident

Last updated: August 2026