

Hongyuan Xia

CONTACT

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Last update: June, 2024

EDUCATION

Cornell University

Ph.D. in Economics

2020-2026 (*expected*)

Advisors: Chris Forman (chair), Matt Marx (co-chair), Imke Reimers, Jason Greenberg

- **University of Pennsylvania**, visiting student

2024-2025

Peking University, Beijing, China

B.A. in Economics with distinction

2016-2020

- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, visiting student

2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Science of Science

WORKING PAPERS

1. [How Does Industry Shape Academic Science? Evidence from “Million Dollar Plants”](#).

Abstract: Firms rely on academic science and actively participate in the production of scientific knowledge. However, the impact of industry on academic science remains unclear. This study utilizes the site selection decisions of “Million Dollar Plants” (MDPs) to estimate the causal effects of industry on academic science. We compare the responses of scientists in counties that successfully attracted MDPs (“winners”) with those in counties that narrowly missed out on these MDPs (“runners-up”). We find that MDPs significantly shift scientific research direction without decreasing the quantity or quality of nearby scientists’ output. This shift only occurs when MDPs actively fund research or involve a high-skilled labor force. Further investigation indicates that industry not only shapes academic science through direct ties, such as funding or collaboration, but also changes scientists’ attention toward more applied and firm-relevant research. Our findings contribute to the understanding of how industry shapes academic science and how scientists react to industry opportunities.

2. Peers Matter: The Heterogeneous Effects of Female Peers on Scientists’ Research Focus (with Paul Dai).

WORK IN PROGRESS

3. Closing the Racial Gap in Entrepreneurship: The Role of Spousal Public Sector Jobs (with Qian Wang).
4. AI Adoption and Managerial Skills (with Chris Forman).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Econometrics (Ph.D. Level), Cornell University	<i>Fall 2021 and Fall 2022</i>
Digital Platform Strategy (MBA Level) , Cornell University	<i>Spring 2024</i>
Microeconomics (MBA Level) , Cornell University	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Introductory Macroeconomics, Cornell University	<i>Spring 2023 and Spring 2024</i>

GRANTS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp Funded Fellow, NBER	<i>Summer 2023</i>
NBER Digital Tutorial Funded Fellow, NBER	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Cornell Center for Social Sciences Research Grant, Cornell University	<i>Fall 2022 and Spring 2023</i>
The Howard and Abby Milstein Graduate Teaching Award, Cornell University	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Sage Fellowship, Cornell University	<i>Fall 2020 and Spring 2021</i>

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

2024: NBER Summer Institute (scheduled), International Conference on the Science of Science and Innovation (ICSSI, scheduled), Duke Strategy PhD Conference, NBER Investments in Early Career Scientists, Cornell M&O Research Camp.

2023: Cornell IET Workshop.

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent) and Mandarin (native)
Software: STATA, MATLAB, Python, and \LaTeX

Last Update: June 30, 2024