

# Ningzi (Lena) Li

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

- 2021 – University of Chicago  
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Organizations and Strategy, Booth School of Business (Winter 2022-)  
Research Professional Specialist, Data Science Institute (Winter 2022-)  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Data Science Institute (Winter 2021- Fall 2021)
- 2018 – 2020 University of Colorado Boulder  
Scholar-in-Residence, Leeds School of Business, Division of Strategy, Entrepreneurship, and Operations (Fall 2020)  
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Leeds School of Business, Division of Strategy, Entrepreneurship, and Operations (2018-2020)

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Sociology, Cornell University**, Ithaca, New York (2017)  
Dissertation: *Structure Multiplicity and Market Outcomes: Corporate Bond Issuances in China During 2009-2013*  
Committee: David Strang (Chair), Richard Swedberg, Benjamin Cornwell, Eli Friedman  
Canadian Sociological Association Economic Sociology Research Cluster Best Paper

**B.A. Sociology and Economics, Tsinghua University**, Beijing, China (2010)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Strategic Communication, Risk Management, Managerial Cognition, Behavioral Theory of Firm, Computational Social Science, Natural Language Processing, Large Language Models

## TEACHING INTERESTS

Strategic Management, Organizational Management and Theory, Entrepreneurship

## PUBLICATIONS

- Li, Ningzi**, Lai, Shiyang and Evans, James A. (2025). “Big Data and the Computational Social Science of Entrepreneurship and Innovation” In O.Sorenson and p.H. Thornton (eds.) *De Gruyter Handbook of Sociology of Innovation and Entrepreneurship* (pp.329-352).
- Li, Ningzi** and Tong, Tony. (2022). “Language Sentiments and Attentional Engagement: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from ‘Twin Tweets’.” *Academy of Management Best Paper Proceedings*, 1, 11319

**Li, Ningzi** and Qian, Yue (equal authorship). (2018). “The Impact of Educational Pairing and Urban Residency on Household Finance among China’s Urban Couples.” *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 39(4), 551-565

Shahid, Abdullah and **Li, Ningzi**. (2018). Review of *Information Overload Paradox: Drowning in Information, Starving for Knowledge* [Book Review], by L.V. Orman. *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine* 37 (1): 11-12

**Li, Ningzi** and Song, Qi. (2017). “Public-Private Partnership in Developing China: Evolution, Institutionalization, and Risks.” In João Leitão, Elsa Sarmiento and João Aleluia (Ed.), *Handbook on PPPs in Developing and Emerging Economies: Perspectives on Public Policy, Entrepreneurship and Poverty* (pp. 113-139). Emerald Publishing Limited.

**Li, Ningzi**. (2010). “The Structure of Production Markets: Empirical Research Based on Chinese Field Interviews and Industrial Survey Data.” (In Chinese) *Sociological Studies* 25(3): 29-47.

## WORKING PAPERS

**Li, Ningzi**, Chari, Mukund, and Evans, James A. [ambiguity and evaluation]

**Li, Ningzi** and Livia Markoczy. [divergence and evaluation]

Chari, Mukund and **Li, Ningzi**. [underperformance and risk-taking]

Kim, Hajin, **Li, Ningzi**, Feldman, Ronen, and Feldman, Yuval. [ESG and concreteness]

- Sponsored by Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Lai, Shiyang, **Li, Ningzi**, Mathias Qian, and Evans, James A. [Entrepreneurial Pivot]

- Sponsored by Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago

Kadambi, Partha, **Li, Ningzi**, and Evans, James A. [Toxic organizational culture]

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Strategy and Structure: Markets and Organizations      Instructor, University of Chicago Booth School of Business (case-based MBA class; Winter 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Winter & Spring 2026 )

Strategic and Entrepreneurial Thinking      Instructor, University of Colorado Boulder (Undergrad business core; Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020)

Introduction to Sociology      Guest Lecturer, University of Colorado Denver, Department of Sociology (Fall 2017)  
Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, with Kendra Bischoff (Spring 2016), Dennis Bogusz (Spring 2014),

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
|                                 | Benjamin Cornwell (Fall 2013, Spring 2012), Paromita Sanyol (Spring 2013)   |
| Evaluating Statistical Evidence | Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, with Matt Brashears (Fall 2012, Graduate Level; Fall 2011, Undergraduate Level) |

## AWARDS AND HONORS

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 2023       | Faculty Research Support Funding, Energy Policy Institute, University of Chicago (EPIC) (Co-PI with Hajin Kim; \$20K)<br>Women in Data Science (WiDS, Chicago) invited speaker  |
| 2022       | OMT Research Committee Service Award<br>Academy of Management Best Paper Proceedings  |
| 2021       | Faculty Research Support Funding, Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago (Co-PI with James Evans; \$20K)  |
| 2019       | Canadian Sociological Association Economic Sociology Research Cluster Best Paper Award for <i>Li, Ningzi and Shahid, Abdullah. "Relationship Formation in a Newly Liberalized Market."</i>  |
| 2018       | Invited to Participate in Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (partner location: University of Colorado, Boulder)<br>SASE Early Career Workshop (Kyoto, Japan; \$900 declined due to visa)<br>OMT Paper Development and Reviewing Workshop (Vancouver, Canada; CAD\$600) |
| 2017, 2015 | C.V Starr Fellowship, Cornell University (Tuition and Stipend)  |
| 2016       | OMT Doctoral Consortium (Anaheim, CA)   |
| 2015-2016  | Russell Sage Fellowship, Cornell University (Tuition and Stipend)   |
| 2015-2016  | Adam Smith Fellowship, The Mercatus Center, George Mason University (\$5000)  |
| 2015       | Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Theme Project, Seed Grant, Cornell University (\$200)  |
| 2014       | Einaudi Center, International Research Travel Grant, Cornell University (\$1000)  |
| 2011       | Center for the Study of Economy and Society, Seed Grant, Cornell University (\$1500)  |
| 2010-2011  | Russell Sage Fellowship, Cornell University (Tuition and Stipend)   |
| 2007       | Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Tsinghua University  |

## INVITED TALKS

“CEO Language and Stakeholder Engagement”

University of Notre Dame, Department of Management and Organization, June 2025

University of Illinois Chicago, Department of Management Studies, Feb 2024  
Illinois Institute of Technology, Stuart School of Business, Mar 2024  
University of Chicago, Department of Political Science, Applied Quantitative Methods  
Workshop, Chicago, IL, Feb 2023  
Women in Data Science (WiDS) event, Chicago, IL, Mar 2023

“Relationship Formation in a Newly Liberalized Market”

University of Colorado Denver, Department of Management, Denver, CO, Feb 2019  
University of Colorado Boulder, Program on International Development, Boulder, CO, Oct  
2017  
University of Washington, China & Inter-Area Workshop, Seattle, WA, June 2017

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

### **Panels Organized**

“Strategic Communication: Discourse and Framing Strategy for Collective Cognition and  
Performance” (Presenter Symposium Organized with James Evans)  
Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark, July 2025  
“Information Overload: Challenges and Opportunities for Valuation in the Information Economy”  
(Presenter Symposium Organized with Abdullah Shahid)  
Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, Aug 2017

### **Papers Presented**

“Are sustainability disclosures any good?”

Online Workshop on the Computational Analysis of Law, Jan 2024 (by Hajin Kim)

“Strategic Ambiguity Aligns Stakeholder Attention”

Organization Science Winter Conference, Zurich, Switzerland, Feb 2024  
Strategic Management Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON Canada, Sep 2023 (by Mukund  
Chari)  
Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, Aug 2023

“Language Sentiments and Attention Engagement”

Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, Aug 2022  
Knowledge Lab at University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Jan 2021  
Noise Lab at University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Mar 2021  
The Strategy Department’s Proseminar at University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO,  
Nov 2019

“Relationship Formation in a Newly Liberalized Market”

Organization Science Winter Conference, Phoenix, AZ, Feb 2019  
Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, Aug 2019  
University of Colorado Boulder Strategy Division Seminar, Boulder, CO, Dec 2018  
“Fellow Travelers on Different Roads” ES OOW mini-conference, Montreal, Quebec, Aug  
2017

“Educational Pairing and Urban Residency in Household Finance”

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Aug 2017

“Bond Issues: Political Relations and Financing Capacities of China’s Large Corporations”

Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, Aug 2016

Western Economic Association International Annual Conference, Portland, OR, July 2016

East Asia Program Graduate Student Colloquium, Ithaca, NY, Apr 2016

Institute for Humane Studies Fall Graduate Research Colloquium, Arlington, VA, Oct 2016

Eastern Sociological Society, New York, NY, Feb 2015

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, Aug 2014

“Local Government Initiative and Industrial Development”

North American Chinese Sociologists Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, Aug 2015

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, Aug 2013

Graduate Student Mini-Conference, Ithaca, NY, Mar 2013

“Dynamic Inter-Organizational Structures”

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, Aug 2012

“The Structure of Production Market”

Inter-Ivy and Sorensen Memorial Sociology Conference, Economic Sociology Session, Harvard University, Boston, MA, Apr 2011

Eastern Sociological Society, Mini-Conference Session, Philadelphia, PA, Feb 2011

**Discussant**

China & Inter-Area Workshop, University of Washington, Seattle, WA Apr 2017

Western Economic Association International Annual Conference, Portland, OR July 2016

Cornell Contemporary China Initiative & Cornell Institute for China Economic Research Symposium, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Apr 2016

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Reviewer for *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *AOM annual conference*, *Chinese Journal of Sociology*, *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development*, *SMS annual conference*, *Socius*, *Work and Occupations*

2025            Program Committee, AI for Computational Social Science Workshop (AI4CSS) at IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM)

2022            Panelist, AOM New Doctoral Student Consortium

2018-2022     OMT Research Committee, Best Paper Award Subcommittee

2017            Program Committee, “Fellow Travelers on Different Roads” ES OOW mini conference

2015-2016     Student Library Advisory Council, Cornell University

2011-2013     Co-chair of Sociology Brown-Bag Presentation Series, Cornell University

**RESEARCH SKILLS**

Python, Stata, R, UCINet, SPSS, Gephi, LaTeX

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Chinese (Native), English (Fluent), French (Basic)

**MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATIONS**

Academy of Management, Strategic Management Society, American Sociological Association