

Research project and supervisory team

Supervisory Team	Dr. Jin Chen https://research.nottingham.edu.cn/en/persons/jin-chen/ Dr. Qingxin Meng https://research.nottingham.edu.cn/en/persons/qingxin-meng/
Short introduction & description of research project	This PhD project examines how evolving inter-organizational networks influence startup outcomes under conditions of high uncertainty, with a particular focus on entrepreneurial finance contexts. The project combines entrepreneurship and network research with AI-enabled computational methods to code, integrate, and analyse complex relational data on startups, investors, and other organizational actors over time. By doing so, it seeks to develop new ways of understanding dynamic inter-organizational relationships and their implications for entrepreneurial finance outcomes. By integrating theoretical questions in entrepreneurial finance and network research with methodological development in AI-enabled computational analysis, the project contributes to both substantive and methodological scholarship. The project therefore combines theory-building with algorithm development in the study of network dynamics and entrepreneurial outcomes. We welcome applicants with strong interests in entrepreneurship, innovation, strategic management, and inter-organizational networks, especially those who are also willing to engage with computational or AI-related research approaches. Prior experience in programming, data analysis, AI algorithms, or computational modelling will be an advantage, but we also value candidates with strong theoretical interests and a willingness to develop interdisciplinary research skills. The project offers a highly supportive and attractive research environment. The successful candidate will benefit from guidance from an interdisciplinary supervisory team with complementary expertise in entrepreneurship, inter-organizational networks, and AI-enabled research methods. The project is supported by the UNNC Digital Future Lab, which provides a wide range of AI-related software and hardware resources and offers a strong platform for interdisciplinary research. In addition, the supervisory team can provide access to valuable industrial collaboration opportunities and rich research resources, enabling the student to work with large-scale, exclusive datasets, develop advanced methodological skills, and pursue high-quality publications with both academic and practical relevance. The student will also have opportunities to participate in patent applications and explore the commercialization potential of research outputs.

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