

Yao Li

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EDUCATION

Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Evanston, IL

Ph.D., Operations Management

2020 – Expected 2026

- Advisor: Jan A. Van Mieghem
- Committee: Lauren Xiaoyuan Lu, Itai Gurvich, Rob Bray

Claremont McKenna College

Claremont, CA

B.A., Mathematics

2016 - 2020

RESEARCH

Publications

- **An Investigation into the Probability That This is the Last Year of the Economic Expansion.** [\[link\]](#)
With: Manfred Keil, Edward Leamer
Published in Journal of Forecasting, 2023.

Working papers

- **(Job Market paper) Fulfillment by Amazon: Platform Competition and Antitrust Implications.** [\[link\]](#)
With: Lauren Xiaoyuan Lu, Jan A. Van Mieghem, Wenqiang Xiao
Under Review in Management Science, 2025
- **Appointment Interval Optimization and Type-dependent Appointment Customization.**
With: Itai Gurvich, Jan A. Van Mieghem
- **Analyzing the Failure of the Yield Curve to Forecast Economic Downturns: The Godot Recession and the Vibececession**
With: Manfred Keil, Edward Leamer
- **A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Policy Stringency During the COVID-19 Crisis Using U.S. State Data.**
With: Manfred Keil, James Symons

Work in Progress

- **Platform Logistics Competition with Third-Party Logistics (3PL).**
Follow-up to “Fulfillment by Amazon” project, extending the model to include independent 3PL providers and cross-platform logistics adoption.
- **Does AI Help or Hinder Learning? Evidence from a Field Experiment in a Supply Chain Simulation Game.**
Field experiment measuring how AI assistance affects rule comprehension, decision-making, and performance in a coffee supply chain game.
- **LLM-powered Retail Operations Management NLP Chatbot**
Developing a retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) assistant that answers operations questions from textbooks and papers, with safeguards for reliability and traceability. Explores how large language models can enhance learning and decision support in operations.
- **Digital Twin for Labor & Delivery Operations.**
Developing a simulation-based digital twin of hospital labor & delivery units to evaluate staffing policies, patient-flow interventions, and efficiency trade-offs.

Op-Ed Pieces

- **The recession of 2023: Is it a myth or a reality?** [\[link\]](#)
With: Manfred Keil
Published in The Sun, January 5, 2023.
- 1. **Think smart as we plan for job growth in the Inland Empire.** [\[link\]](#)
With: Manfred Keil
Published in The Sun, February 11, 2020.

TEACHING (TA)

OPNS 430 Operations Management MBA core

Spring 2022, Winter and Fall 2023, Winter 2024

OPNSX 430 Operations Management Executive MBA core	Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025
OPNS 454 Strategic Decisions in Operations MBA elective	Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024
OPNSX 454 Strategic Decisions in Operations Executive MBA elective	Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024
OPNS 912 Service Management and Analytics MBA elective	Winter 2022
OPNS 455 Supply Chain Management MBA elective	Spring 2023
OPNS 450 Analytical Decision Modeling MBA elective	Summer 2022
OPNS 521 Foundations of Operations Management PhD core	Fall 2022

AWARDS

Second place, 'Mining COVID-19 Testing Data: Understanding Behavior and Providing Actionable Insights' Data Science Competition , Gies College of Business, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	2023
Arndt Fellow , Lowe Institute of Political Economy, CMC, Claremont, CA	2020
Best Thesis in Economics: The Impact of Antitrust Policies that Prevent Platforms from Competing with Users: A Game-theoretic Analysis , CMC, Claremont, CA	2020

TALKS

Operations Strategies of Retail Platforms: Competing Through Logistics Service

- *Upcoming*: INFORMS Annual Meeting 2025, Atlanta GA
- *Upcoming*: Conference on Information Systems and Technology (CIST) 2025, Atlanta GA
- *Upcoming*: YinZOR Conference 2025, Pittsburgh, PA
- INFORMS Annual Meeting 2024, October 22, Seattle WA
- POMS Annual Conference 2025, May 9, Atlanta GA

Appointment Interval Optimization – Data-driven analysis at a dentistry

- INFORMS Annual Meeting 2022, October 16, Indianapolis IN
- INFORMS Healthcare 2023, July 26, Toronto Canada
- INFORMS Annual Meeting 2023, October 15, Phoenix AZ

SELECTED EXPERIENCES

<i>Analytics Intern</i>, Tencent Research Institute, Beijing, China	2019
Produced a 95-page anti-monopoly analysis defining market boundaries and benchmarking Tencent's position using segmentation methods and cross-sector financial metrics.	
<i>Student Manager</i>, Lowe Institute of Political Economy, Claremont, CA	2018 -2020
Led a student research team at a policy institute, conducting economic analysis and delivering annual reports to support faculty-led studies and regional policy discussions.	
<i>Analytics Intern</i>, Amino Capital, Palo Alto, CA	2019
Translated startup data into investor-ready dashboards and authored 22 data-driven posts to support strategic VC communications and engagement.	

REFERENCES

Jan A. Van Mieghem
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Kellogg School of Management
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