YUPENG LIU

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EDUCATION

University of Colorado Boulder, Leeds School of Business

Doctoral Student in Strategy and Entrepreneurship

Faculty advisor: Tony Tong

Rice University, Jones Graduate School of Business Doctoral Student in Strategic Management

GPA: 3.7/4.0

Research focus: Entrepreneurship; Innovation and Regulatory Environment

Research Advisor: Alessandro Piazza

Georgetown University

Master of Art in Applied Economics

GPA: 3.5/4.0

University of Birmingham Birmingham, United Kingdom Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with Honors 09/2014 - 06/2017

First Class Degree (ranked 2nd in the cohort of 200+)

Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Bachelor of Art in Management (International Business)

GPA: 3.8/4.0

EMPLOYMENT

Ernst & Young (EY)

Senior Associate, Digital Forensic Specialist

Singapore 02/2023 - present

Boulder, CO 08/2025 - Present

Houston, TX

08/2020 - 08/2022

Washington, DC

Wuhan, China

09/2012 - 06/2017

08/2017 - 08/2018

- Developed and deployed rule-based and predictive models using Python and SQL to identify suspicious transactions, focusing on procurement fraud and T&E expenses across sectors such as transportation, retail, and energy.
- Automated DeFi transaction monitoring with Python, tracking user balances and suspicious transaction flows across Ethereum, Bitcoin, and Terra to uncover fraud in a crypto-lending company linked to the 2022 Terra Luna crash.
- Utilized NLP on chat histories and OCR on graphical documents, transforming unstructured and unclean data into structured formats to uncover evidence supporting investigations.
- Conducted in-depth testing of a major port authority's sanctions screening system, using manipulated OFAC sanctioned party lists to evaluate the system's fuzzy matching algorithm.
- Presented findings through Power BI and Tableau dashboards, translating investigation reports into clear insights to support or refute custodial claims, aiding lawyers in drafting judiciary documents.

Columbia Business School

New York, NY

Full-Time Research Associate 10/2018 - 06/2020

- Research purpose: The Startup Cartography Project (link), led by Prof. Jorge Guzman (Columbia) and Prof. Scott Stern (MIT).
- Acquired, parsed and cleaned 44 million business registration data from 50 U.S. Secretary of States Offices, Merged with USPTO patents & trademarks historical data, SDC Platinum M&A data to estimate growth indicators for corresponding firms.
- Built logit regression and random-forest models to estimate entrepreneurial quality indexes, published and managed state-level, county-level and zipcode-level datasets for public use. Cleaned and geocoded firm addresses datasets for online interactive maps.
- Worked with Kentucky Secretary of State Office to perform regional entrepreneurial analysis and visualizations for officials.
- Conducted research in regional entrepreneurship and set up quality-adjusted distance measures to research on firm agglomeration.

PUBLICATIONS

Andrews, Raymond J., Catherine Fazio, Jorge Guzman, Yupeng Liu and Scott Stern. (2022). "The Startup Cartography Project: Measuring and mapping entrepreneurial ecosystems" Research Policy, 51(2), 104437. (link)

WORKING PAPERS

Fazio, Cathy, Jorge Guzman, Yupeng Liu and Scott Stern. (2021). "How is COVID Changing the Geography of Entrepreneurship? Evidence from the Startup Cartography Project" NBER Working Paper #28787.(link)

Guzman, Jorge, and Yupeng Liu. (2019). "Do Entrepreneurs Respond to Everyday Changes in Financing Costs?" (link)

ACKNOWLEDGED RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Bryan, Kevin and Jorge Guzman. (2023). "Entrepreneurial Migration". Review of Economics and Statistics, pp. 1-45 Guzman, Jorge. (2023). "The Direct Effect of Corporate Law on Entrepreneurship". The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization, ewad024

Fazio, Cathy, Jorge Guzman, and Scott Stern. (2020). "The Impact of State-Level R&D Tax Credits on the Quantity and Quality of Entrepreneurship". Economic Development Quarterly 34(2), 188-208

Guzman, Jorge, and Scott Stern. (2020). "The State of American Entrepreneurship: New Estimates of the Quantity and Quality of Entrepreneurship for 32 US States, 1988-2014." American Economic Journal: Economics Policy, 12(4), 212-243

Catalini, Christian, Jorge Guzman, and Scott Stern. (2019). "Passive Versus Active Growth: Evidence from Founder Choices and Venture Capital Investment". NBER Working Paper #26073