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EDUCATION

Columbia Business School, Columbia University, New York, NY
Ph.D. in Management, Expected 2019

Yale University, New Haven, CT
Bachelor of Arts, Economics, 2010

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- (1) Firm strategy, entrepreneurship and innovation in developing economies
- (2) Computational social science and text as data

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Microeconomics (Columbia Business School)
Econometrics (NYU Stern)
Strategy (NYU Stern)
Machine Learning and Computational Statistics (NYU Data Science)
Foundations of Graphical Models (Columbia Statistics)
Natural Language Processing (Columbia Computer Science)
Text As Data (NYU Data Science)
Computational Models of Social Meaning (independent study)
Data Visualization (independent study)

RESEARCH AGENDA

The independent research I've pursued so far in my graduate career has focused on entrepreneurial strategy, particularly high-technology entrepreneurs in sub-Saharan Africa. I'm especially interested in the boundaries of what constitutes "social" entrepreneurship and what doesn't, particularly in a developing country context, and how that positioning may affect funding outcomes. To that end, I've done some early work using computational methods of text analysis on a large sample of African firms from Crunchbase. Using both supervised and unsupervised methods, I created measures of the degree to which each firm is oriented towards social impact based on their marketing language. I then examined the relationship between this orientation and funding outcomes (I found, as was my intuition based on fieldwork, that firms that effectively span the boundary between being perceived as purely social or purely commercial are more successful than those at the extremes). I'm planning to build on this work for my dissertation, bringing in new sources of text data as well as surveys of early-stage entrepreneurs in Zimbabwe.