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NBER Digitization Tutorial Selection Committee
Cambridge, Massachusetts, US

Dear Selection Committee Members

I am writing to express my interest in attending the NBER Digitization Tutorial 2016 at the Stanford University. Before starting my PhD in Strategic Management at the Rotman School of Management, I finished my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto with focuses on mathematics and economics and sat in several graduate economics courses at the Department of Economics. In the following, I briefly introduce my major and minor focuses of study, and provide an overview of my research interests.

After spending one year working on a research project with Professor Ajay Agrawal, I officially started my PhD journey this fall under the academic supervision of Professor Agrawal. Courses in progress for my first year include PhD level Mathematics, Microeconomics, Econometrics, Strategy (Game Theory) and Industrial Organization. While I would like to build a robust economic and econometric background by continuing to take doctoral level courses at the Department of Economics, my major interest remains in economics of innovation, commercialization of university technologies and entrepreneurship research. I would like to refine these interests by taking the remainder of my PhD courses in related areas. Having attended the Roundtable for Engineering Entrepreneurship Research (REER) November of last year at the Georgia Institute of Technology, I had a unique chance to expose myself to the latest research done in entrepreneurship, crowdfunding and copyright policy. Apart from the opportunity to meet research leaders in the above topics, the most valuable aspect of this conference for me was the opportunity to build relationships with higher year PhD presenters whose works are related to mine in certain aspects.

Currently I am focused on the labor market for Artificial Intelligence scientists, for which I have collected citation data of several thousand Deep Learning journal publications and theses, identified thousands of AI scientists from around the world and tracked almost one decade worth of their geographic movements and organizational affiliations. My main questions pertain to factors leading to and resulting from the accumulation of knowledge and concentration of scientists in certain geographic areas. Preliminary results of this research were presented in a high profile meeting on the 3rd of January 2015 at Future of Life Institute. In the next phase of my research, with the help of my supervisor, Professor Ajay Agrawal, and expert Machine Learning scientists that I

have in my network, I would like to build a substantive database of Artificial Intelligence scientists over more than 3 decades of research and publication to further study whether knowledge accumulates as technology advances, and how this knowledge accumulation may make it harder for future generations of innovators to innovate, and scientists to publish. This fast evolving field is now poised to become a valuable research setting for the study of the market for skilled labor, private-sector competition over public-sector science, and commercialization of university technologies. Professor Agrawal, Professor Avi Goldfarb and I have discussed further steps of this research and I plan to complete the first draft of the paper by the end of summer 2016.

My research involves contacting and interacting with world-class computer scientists, most of whom leaders in data analytics and machine learning, which in turn fuels my curiosity in big data and causes and consequences of digitization. I believe this tutorial is on my critical path to deepen my knowledge and increase my preparedness to conduct research in this young frontier area of research. In addition, I see my participation as an opportunity to make valuable and lasting connections with other PhD student participants, who are likely to become future co-authors and academic peers of the research career ahead of me.