# Xiaofeng Gong

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics | Department of Economics, University of Connecticut
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## Research Fields

**Primary:** Industrial Organization; Economics of Innovation; Digital Economy; Intellectual Property; Open-Source Software
**Secondary:** Political Economy; International Economics; Media Economics; Law and Economics; Industrial Policy; Economics of Crime; Strategic Technologies
**Methods:** Applied microeconomic theory; dynamic models; computational equilibrium methods; applied microeconometrics; survival and hazard analysis; LLM-assisted data construction

## Education

**University of Connecticut, Department of Economics**
Ph.D. in Economics, 2022-present; expected May 2027
Dissertation: *Zero-Price Intellectual Properties and Profit-Oriented Firms*
Advisor: Talia Bar. Dissertation committee: Talia Bar, Ling Huang, Mike Shor, and Stephen L. Ross.
Dissertation proposal approved April 2026.

**London School of Economics and Political Science**
M.Sc. in Economics, 2020-2022

**University of Connecticut**
B.S. in Mathematics and Economics, 2016-2020; double major; Honors in Economics

## Publications

Zhong, Chunping, and **Xiaofeng Gong**. 2023. "Economic and Financial Sanctions: Academic Progress and Disputes" [经济金融制裁研究的进展与争议]. *Russian, East European & Central Asian Studies*, no. 1: 12-34. DOI: 10.20018/j.cnki.reecas.2023.01.002.

Zhong, Chunping, Yuechuan Zhao, and **Xiaofeng Gong**. 2026. "Why Is It Difficult for Sanctions to Achieve Their Intended Goals? Evidence from the Global Sanctions Database" [制裁为什么难以达成预设目标？——来自全球制裁数据库的宏观经济效应证据]. *Eurasian Economy*, no. 3: 50-73.

## Job Market Paper

**Cathedrals Opening Bazaars: Placing Open-Source Software in the Patent Technology Space.** Solo-authored. Job market paper; draft available. When firms make technology public through open-source code, do they reveal the technologies they protect with patents, or a separate set? I link Compustat firms to their USPTO patents and to their GitHub accounts, and a large language model places their open-source projects in the patent classification. In the average firm-year, 35% of a firm's open-source code lies in technologies it does not patent, against 15% under a randomization benchmark built from the firm's own items. The excess of the distance between its open-source code and its patents over this benchmark rises with the count of open-source projects about as much as in simulated firms that keep one technology mix at every size. Outside its patented technologies, a firm's open-source code is less co-located with its nearest technology neighbors' patents than under the benchmark, consistent with the stated prediction that firms reveal less where rivals can use more of what is disclosed. Within a firm, however, new participants make up a larger share of projects inside its patented technologies than of its other projects, unlike the prediction that communities participate less near patented inventions.

## Working Papers

**The Ethnic Composition of Inventors in Entrepreneurial Firms.** With Talia Bar and Delia Furtado. Submitted to the *Handbook of Research on Immigration and Entrepreneurship*. Examines the representation of Chinese and Indian inventors on patents awarded to young U.S. firms and discusses how early-career visa constraints may help explain their underrepresentation.

**When Open-Source and Proprietary Innovation Suppress Each Other.** Solo-authored. Work in progress. Develops a dynamic quality-ladder model linking proprietary pricing, decentralized open-source contribution, and investment incentives.

**Strategic Ignorance in Media Markets: Unauthorized Distribution and Foreign Entry.** Solo-authored. Work in progress. Studies foreign media entry with endogenous copyright enforcement and unauthorized pre-entry distribution as an audience-building channel.

**Why Do Sanctions Persist? Rents and Endogenous Domestic Political Power.** With Yuechuan Zhao and Chunping Zhong. Submitted to *Comparative Economic Studies*. Develops a dynamic public-choice model of why comparable external sanctions generate persistent noncompliance in some target countries but not in others.

**Do Subsidies Work When Technology Access Is Restricted? A Schumpeterian Model of Strategic-Sector Industrial Policy.** With Chunping Zhong. Work in progress. Studies how restrictions on foreign technology access change the return to domestic research support in a two-country growth economy.

**Measuring Racial Disparities in Police Stops: Evidence from Telemetric Mobility Data.** With Yuling Han, Susan Parker, Matthew B. Ross, and Stephen L. Ross. Submitted to the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. NBER Economics of Crime Working Group conference paper.

## Research Experience

**Research Assistant, Telemetric Data Project, Stephen L. Ross**
Department of Economics, University of Connecticut | September 2023-present
Data cleaning, regression programming, empirical implementation, and mathematical and statistical calculations.

**Research Assistant, Connecticut Bail Bond Project, Stephen L. Ross**
Department of Economics, University of Connecticut | September 2025-present
Data cleaning, court-record construction, and regression analysis.

## Additional Experience (Undergraduate)

**Intern, China Development Bank (Headquarters, Beijing)** | June-August 2017
Participated in Belt and Road-related research; hosted visiting delegations from foreign development banks and participated in related conferences.

**Quantitative Trading Development Intern, CICC Quantitative Fund program, Renmin University of China** | July-August 2018
Participated in the development of quantitative trading systems.

## Grants and Funding

**Art Wright Fund Research Grant, University of Connecticut** | 2026 — $2,675 for *Open-Source Engagement, IP Alignment, and Investor Signals*, under the supervision of Professor Talia Bar.

**Graduate Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, University of Connecticut** | 2022-present; **Eleanor Bloom Funding, Department of Economics, University of Connecticut** | Annual award, 2022-present.

## Teaching Experience

**Instructor of Record, ECON 1201 Principles of Microeconomics, University of Connecticut** | Fall 2025
Enrollment: 60. Median student evaluation: 4.0/5.0.

**Instructor of Record, ECON 1202 Honors Principles of Macroeconomics, University of Connecticut** | Spring 2026
Enrollment: 14. Median student evaluation: 4.0/5.0 (3 of 14 students responded).

## Presentations and Conferences

**NBER Economics of Crime Working Group Meeting** | Spring 2026 — *Measuring Racial Disparities in Police Stops: Evidence from Telemetric Mobility Data* on program; coauthor presented; attended.

## Research Tools

**Programming and formal methods:** Python; Stata; R; MATLAB; Lean 4; LaTeX
**Data construction and reproducibility:** Schema-constrained LLM workflows; automated data labeling and verification; API-based data pipelines; testing, provenance, and source registries
**Research data and platforms:** WRDS (Compustat, CRSP, I/B/E/S); LSEG Workspace; GitHub API; GH Archive; USPTO; GSDB; WDI

## Languages

Mandarin Chinese; English

## References

Department of Economics, University of Connecticut.

- **Talia Bar** (Advisor)
- Ling Huang
- Owen Svalestad
- Stephen L. Ross