

PhD Lunch & Learn

Students are able to invite a Wharton PhD candidate and one other Wharton undergraduate student to lunch at local restaurants compliments of the Wharton Undergraduate Division. This spring, the program will be available Tuesdays-Fridays, January 24 – April 21.

Programs of Study

PhD candidates focus their work within nine different programs of study. Undergraduate students are encouraged to consider their own academic interests and invite a candidate who is pursuing their doctorate within a similar field.

Directory

- [Accounting](#).....2
- [Applied Economics](#)2
- [Ethics & Legal Studies](#).....2
- [Finance](#).....3
- [Health Care Management & Economics](#)4
- [Management](#)4
- [Marketing](#)5
- [Operations, Information & Decisions](#)5
- [Statistics and Data Science](#)7

[» Doctoral Programs](#)

Guidelines

1. Confirm with the PhD candidate and other undergraduate student two (2) different dates/times when you are all available to go to lunch as well as your preferred restaurant choice.
2. Submit your request using the sign-up form at least one week before your desired lunch date. Your request is not guaranteed.
3. If approved, all members of your group will receive email confirmation from the Wharton Undergraduate Division, typically within one week of request submission.
4. Enjoy your lunch! There is a \$25/per person maximum including tip (alcohol may not be included in this expense). Anything past the \$75 total must be covered by your party.
5. Email a clear, high-quality image of your itemized receipt to hoehler@wharton.upenn.edu immediately after the lunch.

Programs of Study & Candidates

Accounting

Irina Luneva – iluneva@wharton.upenn.edu

Information disclosure, ESG disclosure, debt contracting.

Joe Moran – jdmoran@wharton.upenn.edu

I am a PhD student in accounting with a wide range of interests including executive compensation (why companies pay their CEOs and other managers; what the effects of CEOs' pay packages are on their actions), corporate governance (how shareholders and members of the Board of Directors oversee their companies), and management controls (how managers in companies can best motivate their employees and develop them to their full potential). In recent projects, I have used field experiments to investigate how managers communicating their appreciation for their employees affects their effort and whether certain types of pay are more effective when work teams have a stronger culture.

Applied Economics

Andelyn Russell – andelyn@wharton.upenn.edu

My research interests are gender, mental health, and labor markets in developing countries, which I study through field and lab experiments.

Dominic Kassirra – kassirra@upenn.edu

I am a first-year PhD student and my current main research interests are (theoretical and applied) Behavioral Economics and Experimental Economics.

Ilan Wolff -- ljwolff@wharton.upenn.edu

Education, school choice, mechanism design.

Ethics & Legal Studies

Michaela Lobo – mlobo@wharton.upenn.edu

Michaela Lobo's research centers on three themes: First, she is interested in investigating the question 'How should one live?', especially as the question pertains to business contexts, be it as a consumer, producer, employee, employer, or entrepreneur. Second, she is interested in the metaphysical and epistemological underpinnings of corporate responsibility. Finally, she seeks to explore which ideas in the history of moral, political and economic thought have shaped the business ethics landscape.

Finance

Alina Song – songjj@wharton.upenn.edu

Hi! I'm a 2nd year Finance PhD student working on research related to financial intermediaries. I grew up in Nanjing, China and I obtained my bachelor's degree at Notre Dame.

Felix Nockher – fnockher@wharton.upenn.edu

Corporate finance and corporate governance with a focus on hedge funds and activism.

Sergey Sarkisyan – sesar@wharton.upenn.edu

Banking, fintech, monetary policy. (ssarkisyan.com for more detailed biography).

Health Care Management & Economics

Alejandra Benitez – mбенитез@wharton.upenn.edu

I'm interested in studying the access to health care services and the barriers that prevent individuals from seeking care. I did my master's in economics in Chile, where I'm from. After my studies, I worked doing research in health policy in a think tank between 2018 and 2020, and in the social policy area Ministry of Finance between 2020 and 2021, both in Chile too.

Angela Chen – chenang@wharton.upenn.edu

Angela Chen is an MD/PhD candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. Her doctoral training will be in Wharton's Department of Health Care Management and Economics. Chen's research interests include access to care/health equity, surgery, and care delivery innovation. She studied Global Affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China as a member of the first class of Schwarzman Scholars. Prior to returning to Penn for graduate studies, Chen worked in research in Orthopedics at Brigham and Women's Hospital and collaborated with the China Health Partnership at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Jackson Reimer – reimerj@wharton.upenn.edu

Research interests lie in the intersection between health economics, regulatory policy, and applied industrial organization, particularly with regard to provider incentives and patient health outcomes. Prior research has focused on health behavior with regard to (illicit) drug use as well as lead poisoning. Before joining Wharton, I worked as a researcher at the Urban Labs at the University of Chicago and at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT.

Mei-Lynn Hua – lynnhua@wharton.upenn.edu

I study health economics, and my research interests lie in studying the design and regulation of health insurance markets and how to use incentives to promote quality and value in healthcare.

Seyoun Kim – seyoun@wharton.upenn.edu

My research interests revolve on the various effects of Medicare payment and quality monitoring policies, focusing on the post-acute care space. Before my PhD, I worked at a government consulting firm on CMS projects on quality measurement and provider payment.

Management

Christopher Bruno – cbruno@wharton.upenn.edu

Christopher (Chris) is a PhD Student in Strategy & Multinational Management at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is interested in research connecting the activities of corporations to ESG, political, and local community outcomes.

Prior to starting doctoral studies, he conducted research on ESG investing at NYU and worked for a global cybersecurity startup. He started his career in management consulting, focused on the international investment management industry. Chris received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Applied & Resource Economics from the University of Connecticut.

Through Chris' research and professional experiences, he developed a simple framework for analyzing an organization's ESG risks and opportunities. Congruence between an organization's objective, socially evaluated, and self described ESG performance are the core pillars of the framework. His most recent research relates to differentiating objective ESG from socially evaluated performance, often operationalized as community outcomes (e.g., toxic emissions) in the locations where organizations operate as opposed to third party ESG measures (e.g., a firm's "E" rating).

Katie Chen – ktchen@wharton.upenn.edu

Hi! I'm a first-year student in the Organizational Behavior subgroup of the Management Department. I'm interested in studying race, gender, and social class inequality at work. I'm currently working on several projects including the intersectionality of gender and social class in women leaders' career narratives, the perceived psychological risks of speaking up about diversity at work, and the impacts of social movements like #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter on organizations' board composition. I took five years between undergrad and grad school to figure out what I'd like to pursue and totally get that the

prospect of grad school can be daunting! Outside of research I love traveling and spending time outdoors. I'm happy to chat about grad programs or general advice!

Marketing

Anya Schetkina – annashch@wharton.upenn.edu

I went to PhD straight after my undergrad, so I know how expectations change. Right now, I'm working on projects related to causal inference, online advertising, and dating apps.

Ruigi Lin – ruiqilin@upenn.edu

Hi! My name is Ruiqi and I am a first year PhD student in Marketing. I am from mainland China and completed my master's program at Sciences Po Paris after studying in Hong Kong for undergrad. I am interested in influencer marketing and pricing for novel products like NFTs. Methodology wise, I use machine learning tools and discrete choice modelling.

Operations, Information & Decisions

Beidi Hu – beidihu@wharton.upenn.edu

Beidi Hu is a 4th year PhD student in the OID Department (Decision Processes Group) at Wharton. Drawing on insights from judgment and decision-making and consumer behavior, she studies people's perceptions of risk and uncertainty and their belief distributions around uncertain outcomes. Her research has been published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology: General and has been presented at leading academic conferences. Prior to starting the PhD, she received B.A. summa cum laude in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from the University of Pennsylvania. Visit her personal website to learn more: www.beidihu.com

Christian Kaps – ckaps@upenn.edu

My research focuses on emerging topics in sustainable electricity generation and storage - notably how new technologies, sustainability behavior, and policies shape the energy market of the future. Depending on the research question and problem at hand, I have done modelling work, employed structural estimation or utilized machine learning tools. --><https://christiankaps.com/>

Emily Hu – xehu@wharton.upenn.edu

I use technology-mediated interactions and computational tools to study the dynamics of groups and teams. An important theme of my research is using experiments to discover insights about group behavior. In doing so, I also leverage advances in computational techniques to improve our methodological toolkit, thus making experiments more robust. A second theme is partnering with a variety of organizations



to test theories in the wild. A key goal of my research is producing actionable knowledge for team members, managers, and designers of online platforms.

Jose Cervantez – josecerv@wharton.upenn.edu

My research focuses on equity, access and inclusion within organizations. I am interested in how we can leverage insights from judgment and decision-making to reduce bias and make organizations more inclusive. I am primarily interested in launching large-scale field experiments to generate insights from real-world populations.

Katie Mehr – kmehr@wharton.upenn.edu

My research falls in the area of consumer psychology. In my primary stream of research, I explore how consumers evaluate products and experiences (e.g., how the way we ask consumers to rate a restaurant experience affects the ratings they then give). I am also interested in how existing ratings of a product affect consumers' perceptions of that product and in how different factors affect consumers' likelihood of providing a rating to a product. In my secondary stream of research, I explore interventions to help consumers achieve their goals.

Linnea Gandhi – lgandhi@upenn.edu

Hi! I am currently a Lecturer and PhD candidate at Wharton. As a PhD candidate, I conduct research on debiasing, nudging, research methods, and behavioral science at scale in field settings. I am fascinated by mega-studies and meta-analyses and their combination, and run a project on the topic called Nudge Cartography, alongside a team of super-RAs (www.nudgecartography.com) in the CSSLab at Wharton. My work has been published in outlets such as HBR, PNAS and Nature Human Behavior.

This Spring I will be teaching an applied behavioral science lab course for Wharton MBAs, called Choice Architecture in Practice. I taught a version of that class as an adjunct prof at Chicago Booth for several years, and am excited to bring it to Wharton.

Prior to Wharton, I taught decision science to students across the MBA, EMBA, and Executive Education programs at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. (Occasionally I still do a little teaching there.) I also ran my own small business in behavioral science consulting, helping organizations improve decisions and behaviors using concepts from psychology and experimentation. And prior to that, I worked at other consulting firms, both behavioral (ideas42, TGG Group) and general (BCG), and I got my MBA at Chicago Booth.

I'm looking forward to meeting you and learning about your career interests!



Robert Kuan – rkuan@wharton.upenn.edu

Rob's general research interest is how to help others change behavior and make better decisions. Domains that he is particularly interested in are 1) improving financial decision-making (e.g., household budgeting) and 2) addressing self-control problems (e.g., internet/technology usage, exercise, etc.). He is primarily interested in running large field experiments.

Vishrut Rana – vishrut@wharton.upenn.edu

Vishrut Rana is a first-year Operations doctoral student at The Wharton School. His research interests lie broadly in the field of sustainable operations with a primary interest in renewable energy. He is currently exploring topics around improving the efficiency of electricity markets with an increasing penetration of renewable energy generation and energy storage technologies. Prior to Wharton, Vishrut graduated magna cum laude from UC Berkeley with a BS in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research. He spent his undergraduate summers working at Tesla Energy and EDF, which piqued his interest in the clean energy revolution.

Xinyu Ma – xinyuma@wharton.upenn.edu

Technology strategy, digitalization, and the managerial implications of artificial intelligence

Xufei Liu – xufei@wharton.upenn.edu

Using neural net machine learning models to analyze large sets of data. Also designing and applying stochastic models to empirical work.

Statistics and Data Science

Katherine Brumberg – kbrum@wharton.upenn.edu

My research is in the field of causal inference, in particular looking at covariate balance in observational studies.

Xiaomeng Wang – xwang1@wharton.upenn.edu

I'm Xiaomeng Wang, a first year PhD student at Wharton Stats. I did my undergrad in Computational and Applied math and Masters in Statistics at UChicago before joining Penn. I have previously worked with Prof. Rina Barber at UChicago on knockoff stuff. I'm largely interested in selective inference and machine learning, and I'm still exploring as to what I'll be working on for the next several years. Happy to chat with anyone that are interested!

Yachong Yang – yachong@wharton.upenn.edu

My research spans across machine learning and causal inference, proposing methods that adapt to different patterns of data, such that when the underlying data doesn't look



iid, they could come from multiple sources and has a distribution shift. I then apply the newly proposed method to real life data applications.

Yangxinyu Xie – xinyux@wharton.upenn.edu

I am a first year Ph.D. candidate studying at the Department of Statistics and Data Science at the University of Pennsylvania. I finished my bachelor's in mathematics and master's degree in computer science at the University of Texas at Austin in 2021.

