

Tong Chen

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Profile

Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA). Research covers public corruption, nonprofit's social media engagement, and AI governance. Specializing in machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI). Proficient in programming and data visualization tools, including Python, R, Stata, and Tableau. Previously worked as a senior associate in the investment bank division in Acuity Knowledge Partners (formerly known as Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services) Beijing Branch. Involved in research on the market, government policy, and companies across various industries.

Education

PhD in Public Administration

August 2021 – Expected May 2026

Rutgers University, Newark, NJ GPA: 4.0

Specialization: Public Corruption, Data Analysis, Machine Learning

- Awarded the 2024–2025 Dean's Dissertation Fellowship from Rutgers Graduate School-Newark
- Served as a research assistant in the Advancing Health Literacy project, responsible for the survey, data analysis, and report writing
- Hold workshops introducing the application of machine learning and AI in academic research

Master of Finance

August 2013 – August 2014

Hult International Business School, San Francisco, CA

Main courses: Corporate Finance, Financial Modeling, Internal Control, Company Valuation

- Student tutor, helped classmates who faced difficulty with courses
- Dean list due to over 3.6 GPA by the end of the semester
- School project: Investment Analysis of Electronic Arts. Analyzed EA's financial status and operation by investigating financial reports, meeting the company's investor relations representative, and modeling

Bachelor of Science -- Finance

August 2011 – May 2013

Iowa State University—Ames, IA

Main courses: Macroeconomics, Supply Chain Management, Risk Management, Time Series Management

- Member of Enactus (Student in Free Enterprise) Club. Participated in Sandwich sale group, assisted with promotion, negotiation with campus food department (ISU Dining) and supply chain and management

Bachelor of Science -- Statistics

September 2008 – June 2012

Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

Main courses: Numerical Statistics, Probability Theory, Accounting, Data Structures

Research Project

"Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19, Evaluation for City of Newark"

Research Assistant, Advisor: Dr. Gregg Van Ryzin, Rutgers University

Apr 2022 – May 2024

- Responsible for the implementation and analysis of the Newark Community Health Survey 2022 & 2023

- Constructed report data briefs for the Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness

Manuscripts for Publications

Chen, Tong. "How Far Can Emotion Reach? The Impact of Emotional Donation Appeals on Viewers' Reactions", *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. Status: R & R.

Chen, Tong, and Yahong Zhang. "Unpacking Public Corruption in the U.S.: An Actor-Action-Target Analysis", *International Public Management Journal*. Status: Conditional Acceptance (Minor Revisions Required).

Chen, Tong, and Yahong Zhang. "Decompose the Scale of Corruption: An Examination of Monetary Gain and Group Size in Public Corruptions". *Public Integrity*. Status: Under Review.

Menifield, Charles; Damas, Kasny; **Chen, Tong;** Hudson, Shawna; Van Ryzin, Gregg; Song, Miyeon; Hill, Diane; Harris-Neal, Nikeysha; Alsbroom, Ketlen. "Health Literacy and Patient Compliance: Implications for Public Health Interventions from a COVID-19 Study", *Journal of Health and Human Services Administration*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/10793739241303043>.

Menifield, Charles; Damas, Kasny; **Chen, Tong;** Hudson, Shawna; Van Ryzin, Gregg; Song, Miyeon; Hill, Diane. "Social Media's Diverse Voices: A Promising Strategy to Counter Health-Related Myths", *Public Administration*. Status: Under Review.

Working Papers

Chen, Tong. "How Long Can Corruption Hide? Determinants of Public Corruption Duration in the United States". Status: Working In Progress.

Chen, Yiyang, and **Chen, Tong.** "The Grammar of Diffusion: How Policy Formality Shapes the Spread of AI Governance Across U.S. States". Status: To be presented in *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Fall Research Conference*. Seattle, WA. November 13-15, 2025.

Chen, Tong; Wu, Chengzhang; Sun, Jiaqi. "Evolution of Social Media Use by Nonprofit: from Facebook to Tiktok". Status: Working In Progress.

Teaching Experience

Instructor — School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA), Rutgers University	Summer 2025
Data Analysis For Decision Making - 20:834:561:K5, Graduate	

Professional Experience

Acuity Knowledge Partners — Beijing, China January 2016 - July 2021
Leading provider of high-value business intelligence to worldwide financial institutions
Senior Associate, Investment Bank Division

Served Morgan Stanley's Investment Banking Division, covering Technology, Industry, Real Estate, etc.

- Team Leader, in charge of project management, workflow assignment, and managerial report
- Participated in preparing materials for multiple stock and bond issuances