Amusing Ourselves to Death?

A THEORY OF EDUCATION-MEDIA-TECHNOLOGY NEXUS AND ANTI-INTELLECTUAL INFLUENCE (Jointly with Siguang Li)

The speaker will introduce digital economics and FinTech research, followed by an in-depth discussion of Cong and Li's study (2024). The presentation will share a paper about the study of individual decisions on education pursuit, influence acquisition, and economic production, in the presence of the increasingly ubiquitous digital social media that are entertaining but orthogonal to productive activities. Also, do not miss the highlighted point of this paper on regulatory interventions directly targeting influencers or reducing search friction in the labor market may backfire, but taxing both influencers and followers can mitigate inefficiency.

📅 **05 March 2024 (Tuesday)**
🕐 **10:30am – 12:00pm**
📍 **SEK106, 1/F, Simon & Eleanor Kwok Building**
🌐 **English**

GUEST SPEAKER:

Professor CONG Lin, William
Rudd Family Professor of Management
Professor of Finance
The founding director of FinTech Initiative
Cornell University

Prof. Cong is the Rudd Family Professor of Management, a tenured Professor of Finance, and the founding director of FinTech Initiative at Cornell University. He is also a Finance editor at the Management Science, faculty scientist at the Initiative for Cryptocurrencies & Contracts (IC3), Research Associate at the NBER, founder of multiple international research forums, and a former Kauffman Junior Fellow, Poets & Quants World Best Business School Professor, and 2022 Top 10 Quant Professor. He was previously a faculty member at the University of Chicago after earning his Ph.D. in Finance and MS in Statistics from Stanford University, and A.M. in Physics jointly with A.B. in Math and Physics from Harvard University.

Professor Cong's research spans financial economics, information economics, FinTech, digital economy, and entrepreneurship. He and his coauthors have pioneered the introduction of goal-oriented search and interpretable AI for finance, laid the foundations of tokenomics (covering categorization of tokens, cryptocurrency pricing, central bank digital currencies/payment systems, and optimal token monetary policy design), analyzed centralization issues and dynamic incentives in blockchains and DeFi, and developed data analytics for detecting market manipulation and better FinTech regulation, among others. He has won numerous best paper prizes and research grants and was invited to deliver keynote speeches at numerous international conferences and world-renowned institutions. He advises industrial leaders in FinTech and quantitative investment, as well as various government and regulatory agencies.