



Channing Network Science Seminar

July 27 (Thursday), 2017, 2pm @ 4th floor conference room



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Exploring Gender Gap in Academia

Abstract: The gender gap in academia has been well documented for over 30 years that female scientists are underrepresented in publications, citations and credit. Uncovering the cause of the underrepresentation is critical to design interventions against gender inequality, while unfortunately little is known whether there is a single reason that explains the ubiquitous gender gap. The major challenge lies in the interplay between scientists' performance and career: publications, citations, and positions are closely related, and therefore difficult to statistically reliably decouple with existent small data. We aim at revealing the reason of gender gap on a large dataset of over 300,000 scientists, finding that career length of female scientists plays a critical role explaining up to 89% of the gender gap in career performance. This finding highlights the importance of interventions to help female scientists stay in academia, which may result in significant effect in reducing gender inequality.

Bio: Junming Huang is a postdoctoral research associate in Center for Complex Network Research at Northeastern University. His research interests lie in science of science and social network analysis. Before joining Northeastern University, he was an assistant researcher in CompleX Lab at University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. He received his PhD in Computer Science at the Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2014, and Bachelor of Science in Physics at Tsinghua University in 2007.

Hosted by Yang-Yu Liu and Amitabh Sharma