

Kangkang Zhang, Ph.D., CPA

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Gies College of Business

Assistant Professor	2025 - present
Instructor of Accountancy	2025 - 2025

EDUCATION AND RELEVANT CERTIFICATIONS

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT	2025
Doctor of Philosophy – Accounting	
• Deloitte Foundation Doctoral Fellow	
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	2019
Master of Accounting	
Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China	2018
Bachelor of Management in Accounting	
Bachelor of Laws	

Certified Public Accountant (Delaware: License # CA-0014428)

RESEARCH

Interests

Regulatory scrutiny, capital markets, mandatory/voluntary disclosure, public finance, and information intermediaries.

Publications:

- Lerman, A., T. Steffen, and K. Zhang. 2026. Earnings Conference Calls and the SEC Comment Letter Process. *Management Science*, forthcoming.
- Weber, D. P., N. Xu, and K. Zhang. 2026. SEC Scrutiny and Corporate Risk-Taking. *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 81 (1).

Working Papers:

- Zhang, K. SEC Investigations of Public Pensions. (Solo-authored, University of Connecticut dissertation).
 - Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Accounting Research*
 - AAA GNP Annual Meeting Best Paper Award, 2024
 - Rutgers Accounting Doctoral Symposium Best Paper Award, 2024
- Baloria, V., and K. Zhang. The Effect of Newspaper Entry and Exit on Firm Behavior.
 - Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Accounting and Economics*

- Thompson, A., D. Williams, K. Zhang, and W. Zhu. Minority Auditors, Female Auditors, and Municipal Bond Prices.
 - Revise and Resubmit at *The Accounting Review*
- Qian, Y., L. Wang, and K. Zhang. Local Newspapers and Public Pensions' Private Equity Investment.
- Brown, N., H. Wang, K. Zhang, and L. Zhang. When the SEC Calls: Determinants and Consequences of Verbal Regulatory Communication.

Selected Work-in-Progress:

- Yan, C., and K. Zhang. Online Communities and Municipal Financial Reporting.
 - Recipient of Gies Research Funding Grant, \$3,800.

RESEARCH MENTIONS

- [How the SEC Uses Information Disclosed on Earnings Conference Calls?](#)
Columbia Law School Blue Sky Blog. July 24, 2023.
- [When the SEC Watches More Closely, Do Companies Take Fewer Risks?](#)
Columbia Law School Blue Sky Blog. Jan 5, 2026.
- [Study: SEC Reorganization, Scrutiny May Reduce Corporate Risk-Taking?](#)
Gies College of Business. Feb 18, 2026.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Data Analytics Applications in Accounting 2025 – present

University of Connecticut

- SAS/Stata/Python Ph.D. Coding Course 2023-2024
- Principles of Managerial Accounting 2023

INVITED WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 2025
- INSEAD 2025
- Indiana University 2025
- Pennsylvania State University 2025
- University of Kentucky 2025
- University of Hong Kong 2024
- Singapore Management University 2024
- National University of Singapore 2024
- University of Virginia, Darden 2024

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Presenter: ^P; Discussant: ^D

- AAA New Faculty Consortium Jan 2026
- Hawaii Accounting Research Conference ^{P*2, D} Jan 2026
- Yale SOM Municipal Research Conference Nov 2025
- UConn Alumni Conference Oct 2025
- AAA Annual Meeting ^P Aug 2025

• MRS International Risk Forum ^{P, D}	July 2025
• AAA Spark Conference ^P	June 2025
• Illinois Young Scholar Symposium	Apr 2025
• Kellogg Accounting Conference	Aug 2024
• AAA Annual Meeting ^P	Aug 2024
• Rutgers Accounting Doctoral Symposium ^P	Apr 2024
• Bentley Research Conference	Mar 2024
• AAA GNP Midyear Meeting ^D	Mar 2024
• AAA FARS Midyear Meeting	Jan 2024
• Hawaii Accounting Research Conference ^{D*2}	Jan 2024
• Boston Accounting Students Symposium	Sept 2023
• Yale SOM Municipal Research Conference	Jun 2023
• AAA/Deloitte/J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium ^P	Jun 2023
• AAA FARS Midyear Meeting ^P	Jan 2023
• AAA Auditing Midyear Meeting ^D	Jan 2023
• AAA Annual Meeting ^{P, D}	Aug 2022
• AAA FARS Midyear Meeting ^P	Jan 2022
• AAA Auditing Section Midyear Meeting	Jan 2021
• AAA FARS Midyear Meeting	Jan 2021

ACADEMIC SERVICE

• Ad-hoc Reviewer: <i>Contemporary Accounting Research</i>	2026
• Ad-hoc Reviewer: <i>Journal of Banking and Finance</i>	2026
• Ad-hoc Reviewer: <i>The International Journal of Accounting</i>	2026
• AAA MAS Midyear Meeting, Reviewer	2026
• Ad-hoc Reviewer: <i>Asian Review of Accounting</i>	2024
• AAA GNP Midyear Meeting, Reviewer	2024
• AAA FARS Midyear Meeting, Reviewer	2021-2023
• UNT Accounting Research Conference, Reviewer	2022
• AAA Annual Meeting, Reviewer	2022, 2024, 2026

PERSONAL HONORS AND AWARDS

• University of Connecticut School of Business Hall of Fame Fellow	2025
• Deloitte Foundation Doctoral Fellowship Award	2024-2025
- \$25,000 grants to 10 top accounting Ph.D. candidates across the U.S.	
• AAA GNP Annual Meeting Best Paper Award	2024
• Rutgers Accounting Doctoral Symposium Best Presenter Award	2024
• Rutgers Accounting Doctoral Symposium Best Paper Award	2024
• National Fellowships Incentive Program Scholarship	2024
• AAA/Deloitte Foundation/J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium Fellow	2023
• Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship	2023
• Dean's Summer Fellowship	2021-2024
• John D. Phillips Doctoral Scholarship	2020
• Honors Graduates Award	2017
• Sun Yat-sen University Scholarship	2014-2017

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Accounting Association (AAA)	Current
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)	Current