

YAN ZHANG

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Context: Smart City Operations, AI-enabled Service Systems, Logistics, Retailing, Recommendation.

Methodologies: Data-driven Optimization, Machine Learning, Online Learning, Location Theory.

EDUCATION

McGill University <i>Ph.D. in Operations Management</i>	Montréal, QC, Canada 2021 - 2027 (<i>Expected</i>)
Tsinghua University <i>B.Eng. in Industrial Engineering</i>	Beijing, China 2017 - 2021

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Online Facility Location: Running Stores on Wheels with Spatial Demand Learning.
with Junyu Cao and Wei Qi,
Manufacturing & Service Operations Management, 28(3): 935–955, 2026.
 - **Winner**, INFORMS TSL SIG Paper Award under Urban Transportation, 2026.
 - **Runner-up**, CORS Transportation and Logistics SIG Best Student Paper Award, 2026.
- [2] Cascading Bandits: Optimizing Recommendation Frequency in Delayed Feedback Environments.
with Dairui Wang, Junyu Cao, and Wei Qi.
Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 36: 78894–78905, 2023.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

- [3] Scores Are Not Decisions: Cost-Aware Stopping for Tool Acquisition in LLM Agents.
with Yicheng Feng, Yan Cheng, and Wei Qi.
Preliminary version available at arXiv:2607.27083.
- [4] Pickup Location Partnerships for Omnichannel Retail and Last-Mile Delivery.
with Mehmet Gumus.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Paper #	Conference, Location	Year
[1]	INFORMS Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, US	2026
[1]	CORS Annual Conference, Kingston, ON, Canada	2026
[1]	CORS Annual Conference, Edmonton, AB, Canada	2025
[1]	INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, US	2024
[1]	MSOM Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, US	2024

[2]	NeurIPS, New Orleans, LA, US (Poster)	2023
[1]	INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, US	2023
[1]	MSOM Annual Meeting, Montréal, QC, Canada	2023
[1]	INFORMS Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, US	2022
[1]	INFORMS International Conference, Vancouver, BC, Canada	2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor (McGill)

- MGCR 372: Operations Management (Undergraduate core course) Winter 2026

Teaching Assistant (McGill)

- MGCR 614: Management Statistics (MBA) Fall 2024 – Fall 2025

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

CORS Conference Travel Award	2026
McGill University Graduate Mobility Award	2025
GERAD Doctoral Travel Award	2025
McGill University Doctoral Fellowship	2021–2026
Tsinghua University Academic Excellence Award	2020

RESEARCH VISIT

The University of Texas at Austin	Austin, Texas, US
Visiting Researcher, <i>McCombs School of Business</i>	2025

SERVICES

Editorial

- Referee for *Transportation Science*.
- Conference referee for *Montréal AI Symposium 2024*.

Conference Session Chair

- INFORMS Annual Meeting 2022 (Facility Location Problems)
- CORS/INFORMS International 2022 (Smart-city Operations, New-tech Enabled Market Design)