Kai L. Chan, PhD

Working in the nexus of economics, finance, innovation, and policy. Leveraging creativity, intuition and rigour to generate fresh insights into complex problems.

陳亮佳

Email: Kai.Chan@alumni.princeton.edu
Personal website: www.KaiLChan.ca
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/kailchan/
Updated: Oct 2026

EXPERIENCE

ABU DHABI DEPT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECTOR / ECONOMIC STRATEGY OFFICE) — **Abu Dhabi, UAE**
Advisor – Government & public policy (global macroeconomics) — 2021-2023, 2025-Present
- Advise leadership on the economy and global macroeconomic trends; Analyse impact of global affairs on the local economy
- Produce economic publications on Abu Dhabi economy; Drive economic research to support the economic diversification strategy

ECONOMIC CITIES & SPECIAL ZONES AUTHORITIES (CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE) — **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**
Senior director, research & studies – Government & public policy (SEZ regulator) — 2024-2025
- Assess SEZ business cases (CBA-EIA-FIA); Produce research & reports to support SEZ initiatives; Manage economic data

WHITESHIELD PARTNERS — **Dubai, UAE**
Senior manager – Consulting (strategy & public policy) — 2020-2021
- Assist governments with their development goals; Develop strategies for managing Covid-19; Develop performance indices

TECH START-UPS (AIOWALA TECHNOLOGIES | ORMUCO INC.) — **Montréal, Canada**
AIOWALA: Founder & partner – Technology (artificial intelligence) | Ormuco: Senior VP finance & legal – Technology (cloud software) — 2017-2019
- AIWOALA: Drive development of firm; Integrate firm within AI ecosystem; Business development
- Ormuco: Part of senior management team; Support CEO / founder in strategic planning; Manage the financial position of the company

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE / MINISTER OF STATE OFFICE (EMIRATES COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL) — **Dubai, UAE**
Advisor & economist – Government & public policy (competitiveness and statistics) — 2011-2017
- Perform research on economic & governmental policies; Track global performance indices; Benchmark national competitiveness
- Secondment to Expo 2020 Dubai bid team (model visitor traffic and ticketing strategy (chapter 11 of bid dossier))

FG COMPANIES, LLC — **New York, USA**
Associate & economist – Merchant banking (specialty finance) — 2007-2011
- Conduct economic analysis; Produce bespoke research on specialty finance and economics; Publish newsletter
- Help raise debt and equity capital for specialty finance companies; Sell non-performing consumer finance receivables

OLIVER WYMAN (FINANCIAL SERVICES) — **Singapore, Republic of**
Consultant – Consulting (strategy & risk) — 2005-2007
- Build models and engage in research to analyse credit and default events to support banks, hedge funds, private equity firms, etc.
- Projects: Basel II portfolio reforms (Hong Kong); Basel II credit model validation (Dublin); Bank retail lending strategy (Bangkok)

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

DUBAI FUTURE FOUNDATION — **Dubai, UAE**
Non-resident fellow – Think tank — 2021-2022

INSEAD (INNOVATION & POLICY INITIATIVE) — **Abu Dhabi, UAE**
Distinguished fellow – Academia & research — 2014-2018

SAL. OPPENHEIM JR & CIE. KGaA — **Frankfurt & Cologne, Germany**
Intern (M&A, operations) – Investment & private banking — Summer 2005 & Summer 2004

LAW & ECONOMICS CONSULTING GROUP — **Washington DC, USA & Toronto, Canada**
Intern (research analyst) – Consulting (legal & economic) — Summer 2001 & Summer 1999

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (SELECT)
- **International Government Communications Forum 2020:** "Communications treasures extracted from data piles" — **Sharjah, UAE**
- **Asia Global Institute:** "AI and inequality: How smart machines exacerbate demographic bias and inequality" — **Hong Kong, China**
- **Internationalisation of Universities and the National Language (KU Leuven):** "The Power Language Index" — **Leuven, Belgium**
- **INSEAD (International Women's Day):** "The Gender Progress Index" — **Abu Dhabi, UAE**
- **Kazakhstan Growth Forum 2016:** "The UAE's competitiveness strategy" — **Almaty, Kazakhstan**
- **Munich Economic Summit 2016 (Migration: Challenge or Opportunity?):** "Immigrating into the workforce" — **Munich, Germany**
- **Smart Data Summit 2016:** "Using robust data and modelling to win Expo 2020" (keynote) — **Dubai, UAE**
- **World Strategy Summit 2015:** "Competitiveness to transform Dubai into a global city" — **Abu Dhabi, UAE**
- **Emerging Markets Summit 2011: BRIC & Beyond:** "Economic outlook for investing in emerging markets" — **New York, USA**
- **9th Annual Canada Cup of Investment Management:** "Investing in BRICs and emerging markets" — **Toronto, Canada**

ARTICLES / RESEARCH (SELECT)

- *Internationalisation of Universities and the National Language (KU Leuven)*: "The Power Language Index" (Jun 2020)
- *INSEAD Knowledge:* "The world's smartest countries" (Jul 2017)
- *WEF Agenda:* "Which countries provide their citizens with the best higher education?" (May 2017)
- *INSEAD Knowledge:* "A new global measure of gender progress" (Mar 2017)
- *WEF Agenda:* "These are the most powerful languages in the world" (Dec 2016)
- *Working Paper:* "Canada's governing class: Who rules the country?" (Sep 2014)

ACADEMICS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY — **Princeton, USA**

PhD, MA (economics, "Three essays on monetary policy in small open economies") — 1999-2005

- **Dissertation committee:** Paul Krugman (main advisor), Alan Blinder, Hyun Song Shin, Gene Grossman (external)
- **Research:** Research assistant in international trade for Prof. Gene Grossman
- **Scholarships:** International Finance Section Fellowship; Graduate School summer fellowship; Assistant Master Fellowship
- **Administration:** Assistant Master at Butler College (2002-2003)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (TRINITY COLLEGE) — **Toronto, Canada**

Hon BSc (economics & mathematics) — 1995-1999

- **Research:** Research assistant on impact of FDI on Canadian economy for Prof A. Edward Safarian
- **Scholarships:** Safarian Scholarship in Economics; Charles Stephenson MacInnes Scholarship; Mary Child Scholarship; Lorne T. Morgan Gold Medal in Economics; Trinity College Scholar

TEACHING

- **University of Hong Kong (SPACE):** Guest lecturer (managing public services in the transitional nature of Bangladesh) — **Hong Kong, China**
- **Princeton University:** Lecturer (MPA math); Preceptor (development, macroecon, microecon, public finance) — **Princeton, USA**
- **Concordia University:** Lecturer (microeconomics, statistics for economics) — **Montréal, Canada**
- **University of Toronto:** Lecturer (microeconomics); Teaching assistant (introductory economics, urban economics) — **Toronto, Canada**

COURSES & CERTIFICATIONS

CONTINUING STUDIES & PROFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Harvard University (Harvard Kennedy School):** Innovation for Economic Development — **Boston, USA**
- **University of Pennsylvania (The Wharton School):** Leading and Managing People — **Philadelphia, USA**
- **Kiel Institute for the World Economy:** Kiel Institute Summer School on Economic Policy — **Kiel, Germany**
- **Barcelona Graduate School of Economics:** Barcelona Banking Summer School — **Barcelona, Spain**
- **Universitat Pompeu Fabra:** Barcelona Macroeconomics Summer School — **Barcelona, Spain**
- **Institute for Cultural Diplomacy:** Canada-Meets-Germany — **Berlin, Germany**

LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMMES

- **Chinese (Mandarin):** Mandarin House — **Shanghai, China**
- **French:** École Québec Monde; Institut de Français**;** ACCORD — **Québec City; Villefranche-sur-Mer (France); Paris**
- **German:** Deutsch-Institut Tirol, Goethe-Institut — **Kitzbühel (Austria); Frankfurt; Berlin**
- **Russian:** Liden & Denz — **Saint Petersburg, Russia**

SECURITIES & FINANCE LICENCES & ACCREDITATIONS

- **Series 7, 63, 79:** General securities rep; Securities sales agent; Investment banking rep — **New York, USA**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Interests: Gastronomy (rednote ID 26778131128)**;** horology (BM, BP, Hublot, and VC); ice hockey (Dubai Mighty Camels men's league champions 2012, ADHL men's league champions 2022); martial arts (13+ years Muay Thai; jiu-jitsu purple belt); running (high school cross-country MVP and Ontario finals; Dubai Vertical Marathon x4); travel (www.naturalbornvagabond.com: visited > 50 countries and 37 of 49 alpha cities); trekking (summited Mt Kilimanjaro (5,895m), Mt Toubkal (4,167m), and Mt Fuji (3,776m)).

Positions: University of Toronto Alumni Association (ex-board member); Princeton Association of New York City (ex-board member); ASC interviewer for Princeton University; Canada-Meets-Germany (member).

Languages: English (native), Cantonese (native), French (B2), Mandarin Chinese (L3), German (B1), and Russian (A1).

About me: (i) Born on the streets of rural China to peasant parents. (ii) Previous jobs include six years as a busboy and waiter (The Organ Grinder), one year as a stock boy in a supermarket (Loblaws), and three years as a bartender (Harbourfront Centre). (iii) Ben Bernanke gave me his fish tank when he left Princeton to become the Chairman of the Federal Reserve. (iv) Had a chance to join Google in 2003, but missed the boat. (v) Paul Krugman (2008 Nobel laureate) gave me his copy of Robert Mundell's (1999 Nobel laureate) original 1960s edition textbook on international economics. (vi) My landlady when I lived in New York's Flatiron District was a Sports Illustrated swimsuit model, and a neighbour was a supermodel.