

## Undergraduate Research Awards

Name	Department	Contact Information	Description of Research
Dr. Yifan Wei	Business Administration	<a href="mailto:Yifan.Wei@umanitoba.ca">Yifan.Wei@umanitoba.ca</a>	<p>How does corruption in a country affect entrepreneurship? The question has gained rapidly increasing attention from scholars studying entrepreneurship. Corruption—which is defined as the misuse of public authority for private gain—is a critical informal institution for entrepreneurs and reflects the overall quality of an institutional environment. However, the extant literature has provided conflicting views on the effect of corruption on entrepreneurship (the so-called “sand the wheels” versus “grease the wheels” debate). On the one hand, the “sand the wheels” argument suggests that corruption is detrimental to entrepreneurship. On the other hand, the “grease the wheels” argument contends that corruption may actually promote entrepreneurship. I suggest that these conflicting findings exist mainly because the literature fails to account for the fact that the risks and returns of being an entrepreneur vary with the level of corruption and simultaneously influence individuals’ intentions to become entrepreneurs. Moreover, prior studies rarely take into consideration the complexity of the institutional environment where entrepreneurs emerge. The effect of corruption on entrepreneurship is not independent from, but contingent upon, other institutional influences. In this study, I try to reconcile this tension by re-examining the relationship between corruption and entrepreneurship from a more dynamic perspective by looking at how individuals simultaneously weight the expected returns and risks associated with the level of corruption. I will also examine how the level of market development and culture moderate the effect of corruption. By doing so, my study reconciles the tension that currently exists in the literature and generates policy implications related to entrepreneurship.</p>
Dr. Yik Au	Accounting & Finance	<a href="mailto:Yik.Au@umanitoba.ca">Yik.Au@umanitoba.ca</a>	<p>A maxim in the business world is that people are what matter most in business. Consequently, Yik’s research focuses on the impact of intangibles, such as corporate culture, innovation and ethics, on corporate outcomes. Yik’s research shows that a business is much more than the sum of its debt and equity.</p> <p>Current projects Yik is working on include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measuring the impact of sexual harassment and racism on firm value</li> <li>• Estimating whether patent litigation impacts partner firm outcomes</li> <li>• Identifying effects from disclosing risk on real firm actions</li> <li>• Determining whether employee empowerment can positively affect firm value</li> </ul>
Dr. Yuvraj Gajpal	Supply Chain Management	<a href="mailto:yuvraj.gajpal@umanitoba.ca">yuvraj.gajpal@umanitoba.ca</a>	<p>This project will consider the logistics distribution for home health care services. In home healthcare services home healthcare professionals (licensed practical nurses, therapists, home health aides, etc.) visits to patients (veterans and old patients with chronic, disabling disease, etc.) at their homes across various geographical locations. This project will try to build an overall logistic structure for home health care delivery services. Students will use literature review and new paper articles view to create the existing logistics distribution system. Once the existing system is built, project will try to design alternative and effective structure of home health care logistics distribution system.</p>
Dr. Mingzhi Liu	Accounting & Finance	<a href="mailto:Mingzhi.Liu@umanitoba.ca">Mingzhi.Liu@umanitoba.ca</a>	<p>Board of directors and executive officers are responsible for overseeing corporate operations and governance. Due to the public exposure, corporate directors and officers (D&amp;Os) face a variety of risks that can often result in lawsuits, some of which may lead to financial losses for D&amp;Os. In practice, therefore, many corporations purchase D&amp;Os liability insurance in order to protect them from personal liability and financial losses incurred by business decisions. In the U.S., the total corporate D&amp;Os liability insurance premiums written amounted to about \$2.91 billion dollars per year (SNL Financial, 2014). However, insuring D&amp;Os against allegations of “misbehaviors” is controversial due to its effect on accountability. In other words, it can cause unintended moral hazard problems, as purchasing corporate D&amp;Os liability insurance reduces the disciplining effect of shareholder litigation and decreases corporate reporting transparency, which in turn encourages corporate risk-taking behaviors.</p> <p>My main objective of this project is to investigate how the corporate board structures, as corporate governance mechanisms, (e.g., board independence and diversity, dual CEO and Chairman, board expertise) would affect the decision of purchasing corporate D&amp;Os liability insurance (e.g., insurance premium and coverage). Under my guidance, the Undergraduate Research Award recipient is expected to collect information about corporate board structure information for Canadian public companies in the S&amp;P/TSX Composite Index from a publicly available source: the System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval (SEDAR). At the end of the project, the recipient is encouraged to display the work in the poster competition for undergraduate student researchers.</p>
Dr. Bruno Dyck	Business Administration	<a href="mailto:Bruno.Dyck@umanitoba.ca">Bruno.Dyck@umanitoba.ca</a>	<p>There is widespread recognition that businesses have an important role to play in addressing serious social and ecological issues facing humankind (e.g., climate change, economic inequality). According to the literature on sustainable management, it is helpful to think of three different approaches to business, ranging from least to most sustainable: 1) a Financial Bottom Line (FBL) approach places primary emphasis on maximizing profits and leaves caring for social and ecological well-being to other stakeholders (e.g., government); 2) a Triple Bottom Line (TBL) approach seeks to maximize profits by reducing negative social and ecological externalities (e.g., reduced packaging reduces ecological footprint and financial costs; daycares at workplace reduces stress and turnover costs); 3) a Social and Ecological Thought (SET) approach seeks to optimize social and ecological well-being while remaining financially viable (i.e., a SET approach does not seek to maximize profits). This research project aims to contribute to an already-begun study of SET businesses in Winnipeg. The student will collaborate with the research team in the following activities (which may be modified based on the interests of the student). 1) Identify and add new businesses to the existing sample of local firms that operate according to SET management practices and principles; 2) Arrange, undertake, record, and transcribe interviews with managers from SET businesses. Note that depending on the interests of the student, these interviews may focus on a particular industry (e.g., baked goods, slow fashion, or organic agriculture) and/or on a specific discipline (e.g., marketing, finance, accounting, public policy); 3) Help to analyze interview data (under guidance of researcher); 4) If appropriate, help to develop and distribute a follow-up questionnaire for businesses; 5) Participate in writing a scholarly paper, research report, and/or teaching case based on the findings. The student will work with Bruno Dyck (and possibly other faculty members involved in this research project).</p>