

CHINA CROSSROADS

Sunday, June 6th, 2021, 15:30 – 17:00

Can AI Make Irrational Decisions?

Grace Haaf

Assistant Professor of Business Analytics
NYU Shanghai

Wooden Box | 9 Qinghai Lu close to Nanjing Xi Lu
150 rmb including drink ticket | FREE for members
RSVP to Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org



Will algorithms as decision-makers (robots) exhibit the patterns of behavior that economists term “irrational” for human decision-makers? Humans and algorithms are increasingly acting in joint decision-making contexts, e.g. automated stock trading and self-driving cars. Part of the way we make decisions when interacting with other humans depends on our interpretation of their motives and the implications of those assessments on our predictions of their future behavior. As humans interact with algorithms, we need to develop new models of behavior forecasting when dealing with decision-making entities that don’t have intrinsic motivators like fairness, kindness, fear, ego, etc. that we unconsciously or consciously presume must exist in any decision-making process.

Grace Haaf is an Assistant Professor Faculty Fellow of Business Analytics at NYU Shanghai. She comes from industry as a practicing analytics consultant and data scientist, and is an analytics program strategy and implementation expert with 10+ years of experience across startups and large multinationals, specializing in designing research programs, operationalizing analytical models, and structuring analytics organizations. Her current research applies decision theory to the characterization, detection, and response-prediction of agents operating within mixed human/algorithm environments (game theory for robots). She draws on doctoral research focused on decision-making under statistical modeling uncertainty and industry experience integrating statistical models into business decision-making environments. She holds a MS and PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University.

China Crossroads hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a “crossroads” of the world and itself at a “crossroads” in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.