

Charles E. (Chuck) Eesley

Professor of Management Science & Engineering, Stanford University
W.M. Keck Foundation Faculty Scholar · Co-Director for International Entrepreneurship, Stanford
Technology Ventures Program (STVP)
475 Via Ortega, Stanford, CA 94305 · profiles.stanford.edu/charles-eesley · chuckeesley.com

ABOUT

Professor of Management Science & Engineering at Stanford University, Co-Director for International Entrepreneurship at the Stanford Technology Ventures Program (STVP), and W.M. Keck Foundation Faculty Scholar.

Research examines how institutional environments, industrial policy, export controls, and platform design shape entrepreneurial outcomes. Recent and ongoing work spans U.S. export controls and the global reallocation of venture capital, the effects of the Inflation Reduction Act on cleantech entrepreneurship, China's industrial subsidies and prefecture-level entrepreneurship, the algorithmic financing of online misinformation (published in *Nature*), and a long-running collaboration with Bill Miller estimating the global economic impact of Stanford alumni-founded companies. Methods range from quasi-experimental causal inference to LLM-based text analysis of regulatory and policy corpora. Research cited 6,800+ times across management, economics, and information systems.

Through STVP's global programs, has taught and run field research across six continents, reaching more than 200,000 students. Teaches MS&E 272 (*Entrepreneurship Without Borders*, co-taught with Vimbayi Kajese) and MS&E 379 (a PhD-level course on causal inference), and serves as faculty advisor to BASES, Stanford's largest entrepreneurship student organization.

Beyond Stanford: independent non-executive director and Remuneration Committee chair at Vobile Group (HKEX: 3738), Venture Partner and LP at Brave Capital, active angel investor. Co-founded NovoEd (acquired by Devonshire Investors/Fidelity), founded and ran Refuge Advisors, LLC (2016–2023), and co-founded the Zhou & Eesley Family Foundation with Lijie Zhou, supporting computer science training, entrepreneurship training, and mission-related investments for underserved communities globally.

EDUCATION

PhD, Management | MIT Sloan School of Management, Cambridge, MA | 2009
Advisor: Edward B. Roberts

BS, Neuroscience | Duke University, Durham, NC | 2002

HONORS

- Stanford Social Impact Labs Design Fellowship, Stanford Social Impact Labs (2024)
- Stanford Teagle Fellow in Liberal Education, Stanford University (2022)
- Third Annual IACMR–RRBM Responsible Research in Management Award (2020)
- Institute for Advanced Studies Visiting Fellowship, Technical University of Munich (2019)
- TUM Research Excellence Award, Technical University of Munich (2018)
- W.M. Keck Foundation Faculty Scholar (2017)
- Undergraduate Teaching Award, Stanford MS&E (2017)
- Richard Schulze Inaugural Distinguished Professorship Award, Richard Schulze Foundation (2015)
- Kauffman–Nesta Research Grant Winner — Randomized Controlled Trials in Entrepreneurship (2014)
- Batten Institute Fellow, University of Virginia Darden School of Business (2012)

- Research Fund for International Young Scientists, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) (2012)
- Technology and Innovation Management Award, IEEE International (2011)
- Best Dissertation Award (Business Policy and Strategy Division), Academy of Management (2010)
- Kauffman Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (2007)

NATIONAL SERVICE

- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine — GUIPRR Workshop participant, presenter on macroeconomics of research investment (April 2026)
- Joint Economic Committee Republicans — congressional briefing on industrial policy and U.S.–China technology competition
- National Science Foundation — Advisor, Enhancing NSF's Impact on STEM Translation and Commercialization Success (Award #2337688) (2023–2026)
- National Science Foundation — I-Corps Pre- and Post-Program Trainer (2023–2026)
- National Science Foundation — Reviewer, I-Corps Program Special Project, Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (2024)
- National Science Foundation — Grant Review Panel Member, Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier (2020)

EDITORIAL SERVICE

- Editorial Board, *Strategic Management Journal* (2014–present)
- Editorial Board, *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal* (2021–present)

SELECTED ROLES

Professor of Management Science & Engineering

Stanford University · 2009–present

Tenured faculty member, Stanford School of Engineering. W.M. Keck Foundation Faculty Scholar. Co-Director for International Entrepreneurship at STVP. Faculty advisor to BASES.

Independent Non-Executive Director, Remuneration Committee Chair

Vobile Group (HKEX: 3738) · 2018–present

Independent board director at a Hong Kong-listed technology company specializing in digital content protection and monetization.

Venture Partner & LP

Brave Capital · 2023–present

Venture partner and limited partner. Active angel investor across approximately two dozen early-stage technology companies.

Co-Founder

Zhou & Eesley Family Foundation · 2021–present

Co-founded with Lijie Zhou. Private operating foundation supporting computer science training, entrepreneurship training, and mission-related investments for underserved communities globally. zhoueesleyfoundation.com.

Co-Founder

NovoEd (acquired by Devonshire Investors / Fidelity) · founded 2013

Co-founded the online learning platform spun out of Stanford research, later acquired by Devonshire Investors, the private equity arm of Fidelity.

Academic Director

ITRI-Stanford Platform — Advancing Technology Ventures Program · 2013–present

Academic Director of the Stanford Engineering program developed in partnership with Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), in collaboration with DOIT and MOEA of Taiwan.

Faculty Director

Stanford BOSP Shenzhen Global Seminar · August 2026

Faculty director for Stanford's Bing Overseas Studies Program seminar based at InnoX Academy in Shenzhen.

Steering Committee Member

Stanford King Center on Global Development · 2024–present

Steering committee at Stanford's hub for research on poverty alleviation and global development through entrepreneurship and policy.

Advisory Board

Stanford Center at Peking University (SCPKU) · 2024–present

Advisory board member at Stanford's center in Beijing, supporting research, education, and exchange.

Faculty Affiliate

Stanford Center for International Development (SCID) · 2014–present

Long-running faculty affiliation at Stanford's hub for development economics research and policy engagement.

Faculty Affiliate

Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI) · 2026–present

Faculty affiliate at Stanford HAI.

Faculty Affiliate

Stanford Center for AI Safety (SAFE) · 2024–present

Faculty affiliate at SAFE, developing techniques for safe and trustworthy AI systems.

Advisory Board

Stanford MS in Clinical Informatics Management (MCIM) · 2020–present

Advisory board member for Stanford's cross-disciplinary master's program combining medicine, business, and technology.

Advisor

TSVC (fka TEEC Angel Fund) · 2020–present

Advisor to a leading early-stage Silicon Valley venture capital fund focused on deep tech.

Investor

Vectors Capital · 2022–present

Investor in a climate-focused venture firm aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Advisor & Investor

Empo Health · 2020–present

Advisor and investor in a digital health company whose smart scale detects diabetic foot complications early.

Faculty in Residence

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) · Aug–Dec 2023

Faculty in Residence at CUHK through Stanford's Bing Overseas Studies Program (BOSP).

Advisor

Nexa AI (acquired by Qualcomm, 2026)

Advised the on-device multimodal AI startup. Acquired by Qualcomm in 2026.

Advisory Board

Start-Up Chile · 2013–2017

Advisory board member for the Chilean government's flagship initiative attracting high-potential foreign entrepreneurs.

Speaker & Mentor

U.S. Department of State — GIST Entrepreneurship Bootcamps · 2013–2017

Spoke at and mentored international entrepreneurs through the GIST program.

Board Member

Blackbird Technologies (acquired by Etsy, 2016) · 2013–2016

Board member of the AI/ML search and recommendation startup; acquired by Etsy in 2016.

Founder & Portfolio Manager

Refuge Advisors, LLC · 2016–2023

Founded and ran an independent investment advisory firm managing client portfolios on a discretionary basis. Approach grounded in fundamental, bottom-up analysis and value investing principles.

Associate

Flagship Ventures, Cambridge, MA · 2007–2009

Associate at the early-stage biotech and sustainability venture capital firm, while completing PhD at MIT Sloan.

Associate

Lux Capital · 2006–2007

Associate at the deep-tech venture firm. Worked on Lux's investment in Genocea Biosciences; Genocea later went public on NASDAQ (GNCA).

Founder

Lobby 10 Consulting · 2006–2009

Founded Lobby 10, a strategy consulting practice, while a PhD student at MIT Sloan.

Early Employee

NeuroCog Trials / VeraSci (acquired by WCG, 2021)

Joined as an early employee of the cognitive assessment company founded in 2004 by Duke psychiatry professor Richard Keefe. The company developed standardized cognitive measures for clinical trials; acquired by WCG in July 2021.

CONSULTING & ADVISORY ENGAGEMENTS

Evaluation & Benchmarking of the World Food Programme Accelerator

United Nations World Food Programme · 2024–2025

Independent evaluation and competitive benchmarking of the UN WFP's accelerator for food-systems and humanitarian-context startups. Engagement managed by a Big Four advisory firm.

SELECTED SPEAKING & CONVENINGS (RECENT)

- Invited Seminar — Ross School of Business, University of Michigan (November 2026, host: Cheng Gao)
- Session Organizer — *Empirical Research on Engineering Entrepreneurship, Policy, and Capital Allocation*, INFORMS Annual Meeting, San Francisco (November 2026; MSOM-TIE and TIMES co-sponsorship)
- Invited Seminar — Guanghua School of Management, Peking University (September 2026)
- Lightning Talk — *Four Paradigms for AI-Enabled Social Science Research*, FDS Workshop on AI for Social Science Research Methods, Yale University (May 2026)
- Paper Presentation — 14th Annual Strategy Symposium on Emerging Markets, Rice Business (May 2026)
- National Academies — GUIPRR Workshop, Washington, DC (April 2026)
- Nanyang Technological University — Singapore (January 2026)

- UNLV Troesh Research Conference (2026)
- Aramco Lab7 Corporate Innovation Program — multi-session keynote series

DOCTORAL STUDENTS & ADVISING

Current PhD students (2). Yikai Cao (anticipated 2029, semiconductors / export controls / technology entrepreneurship); Xilan Zhang (anticipated 2029, randomized field experiments / entrepreneurship).

Incoming postdoctoral researcher. Tess Lallemand (Cornell Dyson, King Center sponsored, Fall 2026).

Former PhD students (11). Placements include Columbia Business School (Wajeeha Ahmad, 2026), Oxford Saïd (Daniel Armanios, 2015), Carnegie Mellon Tepper (Carrington Motley, 2022), Johns Hopkins Carey (Wesley Koo, 2018), National University of Singapore (Jamber Li, 2017), CUHK Business School (Willow Wu, 2021), University of Oregon Lundquist (Khonika Gope, 2023), University of San Diego (Robert Eberhart, 2013), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Michael Leatherbee, 2015) — alongside leadership roles at the AMENA Center for Entrepreneurship and Development (Zahra Hejrati, 2025) and Project Eleven (Tyler Whittle, 2021). 9 of 11 hold tenure-track faculty positions.

Former postdoctoral researcher. Zhuoxuan (Fanny) Li (February 2020 – July 2025).

Current and past research assistants listed at chuckeesley.com/advising.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Entrepreneurship & innovation
- Institutional environments
- Industrial policy
- Export controls
- Venture capital
- Platform design
- Causal inference
- LLM-based text analysis
- U.S.–China comparative analysis
- Higher education & entrepreneurship

Full publication list: [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/). Last updated May 2026.