

**Faculty Member Contact Information**

<b>Name</b>	Dr. Yohan Choi
<b>Contact Info</b>	
SIUE Email	ychoi@siue.edu
Campus Box	1100
<b>Department</b>	Management and Marketing

**1 Funded, 1 Unfunded URCA Assistant**

	This position is <b>ONLY</b> open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	<b>M</b>
<b>X</b>	This project deals with social justice issues.	
	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
	This project deals with community outreach.	
<b>X</b>	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	<b>I</b>

**Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?**

- Yes, sociology; social networks; network analysis; diversity and inclusion

**How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?**

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 9 hours

**Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?**

- No

**Location of research/creative activities:**

- The research assistant's work will be done primarily remotely. He/she will learn the skills of communicating with the research team virtually (via emails and online meetings) in a professional and timely manner.

**Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?**

## Research Question

Does the similarity in personal characteristics, including gender, ethnicity, educational and career background, between a lead angel investor and a potential follower increase the likelihood of co-investment in a startup? How does the status difference between a lead angel investor and a potential follower influence the impact of ascribed and achieved homophily on co-investment decisions? This study draws on the existing literature that recognizes the prevalence of homophily in entrepreneurial activities. It acknowledges that both ascribed homophily (based on demographic characteristics) and achieved homophily (based on education and career background) play significant roles in co-investment ties. However, the study seeks to further investigate when and why one form of homophily might be stronger than the other and how the status difference between investors affects these dynamics.

## Background

The field of entrepreneurship has widely recognized the concept of homophily, which refers to the human inclination to associate with individuals who share similar characteristics. Homophily has been observed in various aspects of entrepreneurial activities, including forming startup founding teams, building relationships with key partners, and securing investments from venture capitalists. However, there is a gap in our understanding of whether homophily extends to angel investors' co-investment ties. This study aims to address this gap by investigating how the similarity in personal characteristics, including gender, ethnicity, educational and career backgrounds, influences co-investment decisions among angel investors.

**Brief description of student responsibilities?**

This research project offers an opportunity for a student to actively participate in data collection and cleaning. The student will be responsible for collecting data on angel investors using online sources such as LinkedIn and angel investors' personal websites. For most of the sample, we already have angel investors' LinkedIn addresses, and coding the founder information (e.g., education or working experience) does not require going beyond the LinkedIn webpage. The student will have weekly meetings with the research team.

**URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?**

By participating in this research project, the student will:

1. Gain practical experience in data collection and analysis.
2. Learn about the dynamics of angel investor networks and the concept of homophily in the entrepreneurial context.
3. Learn how to collaborate and communicate remotely with other team members. The research assistant's work will be done primarily remotely. He/she will learn the skills of communicating with the research team virtually (via emails and online meetings) in a professional and timely manner. This should help the student enhance written and oral communication skills as well as develop the ability to complete tasks without being closely monitored.

### **Requirements of Students**

**If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:**

- N/A

**If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?**

- The research assistant's work will be done primarily remotely. He/she will learn the skills of communicating with the research team virtually (via emails and online meetings) in a professional and timely manner.

**Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:**

- N/A

**Other requirements or notes to applicants:**

- N/A