Stanford



Fiona X. Li

Winter 2027 CSP Instructor TECH 85, Continuing Studies

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Fiona Li is an Instructor in Stanford Continuing Studies, where she teaches TECH 85, Vibe Coding: Build Real-World Tools with AI. She is a Senior Business Intelligence Engineer at Amazon Web Services, where she builds analytics and AI systems that help specialist technology and go-to-market teams measure what works and decide what to do next. She has spent about 15 years in data and analytics, across consulting at PwC, startups, and large-scale tech. Her teaching focuses on helping professionals without engineering backgrounds use AI to build working tools for their own problems.

Outside Stanford, she founded The Little Owl Guide, an independent education resource that helps Bay Area families find classes, camps, and learning paths for their children.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Winter 2027 CSP Instructor TECH 85, Continuing Studies

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science, Peking Union Medical College
- Master of Science, Carnegie Mellon University

LINKS

- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/fionaxli/
- Independent Project: https://the-little-owl-guide.onrender.com/

Research & Scholarship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Artificial intelligence (AI)
- Data Science
- Leadership
- Learning Technologies
- Qualitative Methods
- STEM Education

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Fiona's work sits where AI, data, and human decision-making meet. In industry, she builds measurement systems that connect what AI agents and people do to the outcomes that follow, and much of that work depends on careful causal reasoning: knowing whether a program, message, or model actually changed a result, or just showed up next to it.

Her current interests include:

1. Evaluating AI agents: how to tell whether an agent is trustworthy and useful in real-world settings, not just on benchmarks.
2. Causal inference for decisions: practical methods for estimating impact when clean experiments aren't possible.
3. Decision-making and behavior: how psychology, incentives, supply and demand, and negotiation shape the choices people and organizations make.
4. AI-assisted building: how people without programming backgrounds can use AI tools to create software that solves their own problems, the focus of her course TECH 85.

Publications

PRESENTATIONS

- DataCon LA 2019 - Know Your Customer by Fiona Li - DataCon
- From AI to Advanced Diagnostics - The Summit of Laboratory & Medicine Innovations (1/12/2027 - 1/16/2027)