Lauren Xiaoyuan Lu is an associate professor of Operations at the Kenan-Flagler Business School of University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her research interests include global supply chain management, outsourcing and offshoring, bargaining and contracting, healthcare operations, health IT and policy. She teaches operations and supply chain management courses in the MBA and BSBA programs. She also teaches sustainable operations in the UNC-Tsinghua EMBA dual degree program.

Her research work has appeared in Management Science, Operations Research, Manufacturing & Service Operations Management, and Production & Operations Management. She is currently an Associate Editor for the MSOM journal and a Senior Editor for the POM journal. She has served as Treasury/Secretary of the MSOM society during 2012-2014. She won the first prize of the INFORMS Junior Faculty Interest Group paper competition in 2009. In 2016, she was selected as a finalist for the Pierskalla Award of the Health Applications Society. In 2012, she won the Weatherspoon Award for excellence in BSBA teaching.

She received her PhD in managerial economics and strategy from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, MS in industrial engineering from Stanford University, MA in biology from Johns Hopkins University, and BS in biochemistry from Nanjing University in China. Prior to her academic career, she worked as a senior engineer at Oracle Corporation in Silicon Valley, where she designed and developed the scheduling modules of Oracle Project Resource Management.