

Michael Rubens

UCLA, Department of Economics, Bunche Hall 8345
315 Portola Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095

rubens@econ.ucla.edu
<https://michaelrubens.github.io/>

Main Professional Affiliations

University of California, Los Angeles

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

2022 – current

National Bureau of Economic Research

Faculty Research Fellow, Industrial Organization Program

2025 – current

KU Leuven

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Economics

2020 – 2022

Visiting Positions

Toulouse School of Economics

Visiting Assistant Professor

2021 – 2022

Yale University

Visiting Ph.D. Student, Department of Economics

2017 – 2018

Education

KU Leuven

Ph.D., Economics

2015 – 2020

M.A., Economics, *Magna Cum Laude*

2014 – 2015

Vrije Universiteit Brussel

B.Sc., Business Engineering ('Handelsingenieur'), *Magna Cum Laude*

2011 – 2014

Working Papers

[7] [Welfare Effects of Buyer and Seller Power](#) (with Mert Demirer)
NBER Working Paper 33371

[6] [Labor Market Power and Factor-Biased Technology Adoption](#)
NBER Working Paper 30586

Published and Accepted Papers

[5] [Estimating Factor Price Markdowns using Production Models](#) (with Yingjie Wu and Mingzhi Xu)
International Journal of International Organization (EARIE 2024 Special Issue), *Accepted*

[4] [Exploiting or Augmenting Labor?](#) (with Yingjie Wu and Mingzhi Xu)
American Economic Review: Insights, *Accepted*

- [3] [Colluding Against Workers](#) (with Vincent Delabastita)
Journal of Political Economy, 133(6), pp. 1796-1839, June 2025
- [2] [Market Structure, Oligopsony Power, and Productivity](#)
American Economic Review, 113(9), pp. 2382-2410, September 2023.
- [1] [Management, Productivity, and Technology Choices: Evidence from U.S. Mining Schools](#)
RAND Journal of Economics, 54(1), pp. 165-186, March 2023.

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

2024	Warren C. Scoville Distinguished Teaching Award, UCLA Economics Society of Hellman Fellows Award, UCLA
2023	Kramer Award for Technology and Society, Terry and Suzan Kramer Family Foundation Faculty Research Grant, UCLA Academic Senate
2022	YEEA Award, European Association for Research in Industrial Economics Faculty Research Award and Seed Grant, UCLA Burkle Center Grant from the NBER Program on Economics of Innovation in the Energy Sector
2021	Grant for Foreign Research, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
2019	Pinxten Award, KU Leuven Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. Travel Grant, Business History Conference
2017	Fulbright Scholarship McKinsey & Co. Award for Graduate Study in Business Walravens Fellow, Belgian American Educational Foundation Ph.D. Fellowship ('Aspirant Fundamenteel Onderzoek'), Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)

Teaching

UCLA:

ECON 106P Pricing and Strategy (Undergraduate) – Spring 2024, 2025
 ECON 171 Industrial Organization: Policy and Regulation (Undergraduate) – Spring 2023
 ECON 199 Directed Research in Economics (Undergraduate) – Spring 2025
 ECON 272B Topics in Industrial Organization (Graduate) – Spring 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Toulouse:

Empirical Industrial Organization (Graduate) – Fall 2022

Advising

PhD Students:

Antonio Martner Sota, Yingjie Wu, Felipe Leal, Hongyu Mou (all ongoing)

Undergraduates (Placement in Parentheses):

Tianhong Zhang (UCLA Ph.D. Economics), Fanchu Xu (University of Toronto Ph.D. Economics), Urania Li (Charles River Associates)

Talks (*scheduled)

2025	UK Competition and Markets Authority; Wayne State University (virtual), Peking University; Fudan University; KU Leuven; University of Chicago; University of Minnesota; Yale University; UC Irvine; CEPR IO, London (discussant); Stanford SITE Market Failures and Public Policy*; Belgian Competition Authority*; Rice University*; Copenhagen University (virtual)*; Duke University*
2024	ASSA (Invited speaker); UC Berkeley; Harvard University/MIT; National Bank of Belgium; Stanford University; University of Pennsylvania; Northwestern University; Caltech; Bates White; Cowles Conference on Models & Measurement (Discussant); EARIE Amsterdam (Invited speaker); University of Chicago IO+ Conference; Texas A&M University; University of Virginia; University College London; Queen's University, Christmas Meeting of Belgian Economists, University of Antwerp
2023	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; LSE Economics; LSE Management; University of Wisconsin, Madison; IIOC; Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics; Federal Trade Commission; Montreal Summer IO Conference; Stanford SITE Macro-Micro of Labor; UC Berkeley Haas; UC Berkeley Economics; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; University of Toronto; HEC Paris; Helsinki GSE, Christmas Meeting of Belgian Economists, Ghent University (Keynote speaker)
2022	Ohio State University; Arizona State University; U.S. Department of Justice; UBC Sauder IO Conference; Georgetown University; University of Rochester; NBER Conference on Innovation in the Energy Sector; IIOC; Cowles Conference on Models and Measurement; BSE Summer Forum on Applied IO; CEPR IO; NBER IO Summer Institute; EARIE; Christmas Meeting of Belgian Economists, Université Libre de Bruxelles
2021	New York University; MIT/Harvard University; University of Michigan; Toulouse School of Economics; CREST Paris; Stockholm School of Economics; SOLE Annual Conference; RIDGE IO Forum (discussant); EHA Annual Conference; FTC Microeconomics Conference
2020	Warwick University; CREST Paris; University of Chicago, Booth; Penn State University; Stanford University; UCLA; Tilburg University; Universitat Pompeu Fabra; LMU Munich; DICE Düsseldorf; Boston University; Institute for Fiscal Studies; IFN Stockholm; China Virtual IO Seminar; MaCCI Conference; IIOC; EEA Conference; China Economics Summer Institute
pre-2020	Royal Economic Society Conference; Warwick PhD Conference; IIOC; EARIE; Business History Conference; NBER Megafirms (discussant); ESWM; University of Turin PhD Workshop; University of Nottingham GEP Conference

Professional Service

Refereeing for Academic Journals:

American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Applied Economics, Economics of Innovation and New Technology, Economic Journal, Empirical Economics, International Economic Review, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Competition Law & Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Industrial Economics, Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of Political Economy, RAND Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, World Development,

Refereeing for Grants and Awards:

European Research Council, KU Leuven Research Council, Fulbright Scholarships Selection Committee (2023, 2024, 2025), U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation

Departmental Service:

Co-organizer, Laub Foundation IO Seminars, UCLA (2022-current, together with Will Rafey)
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, UCLA (2022, 2023)

Dissemination and Societal Impact:

Research featured in [Chicago Booth Review](#) (May 19 2025)
Column in [VoxDev](#) (Feb 6, 2024)
Research featured in [US Department of Justice Antitrust Division Annual Report](#) (Jan 20, 2024)
Research featured in [UK Competition and Markets Authority Strategy Statement](#) (March 8, 2023)

Personal Information

Belgian Citizen, U.S. Permanent Resident
Married with one child (°2024)