

Michael Rubens

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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

Harvard University

Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics

Spring 2026

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Visiting Scholar, Sloan School of Management

Fall 2025

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

Published and Accepted Papers

- [5] **Exploiting or Augmenting Labor?** (with Yingjie Wu and Mingzhi Xu)
American Economic Review: Insights, March 2026, Forthcoming
- [4] **Estimating Factor Price Markdowns using Production Models** (with Yingjie Wu and Mingzhi Xu)
International Journal of International Organization, 102(103177), September 2025 (*EARIE Special Issue*)
- [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.

Working Papers

- [7] [Welfare Effects of Buyer and Seller Power](#) (with Mert Demirer)
NBER Working Paper 33371
- [6] [Labor-Market Power, Deadweight Loss, and Technology Adoption](#)
NBER Working Paper 30586

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 (expected 2026), Yingjie Angela Wu (expected 2026), Felipe Leal, Hongyu Mou, Patrick Costley

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)

- 2026 *Invited Seminars:* MIT*; Washington University St Louis*; Boston University*
- 2025 *Invited Seminars:* UK Competition and Markets Authority; Wayne State University (virtual), Peking University; Fudan University; KU Leuven; University of Chicago (Becker Applied Seminar); University of Minnesota; Yale University; UC Irvine; Belgian Competition Authority; Rice University; MIT Sloan; Copenhagen University (virtual); Duke University; Boston College; Princeton University*
Conferences: CEPR IO, London (discussant); Stanford SITE Market Failures and Public Policy, Boston Conference on Markets and Competition – Harvard Business School, FTC Microeconomics Conference*
- 2024 *Invited Seminars:* UC Berkeley; Harvard University/MIT; National Bank of Belgium; Stanford University; University of Pennsylvania; Northwestern University; Caltech; ; University of Chicago IO+; Texas A&M University; University of Virginia; University College London; Queen's University
Conferences: ASSA (Invited speaker); Christmas Meeting of Belgian Economists, University of Antwerp; Bates White Antitrust Conference; Cowles Conference on Models & Measurement (Discussant); EARIE Amsterdam (Invited speaker)
- 2023 *Invited Seminars:* Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; LSE Economics; LSE Management; University of Wisconsin, Madison; Federal Trade Commission; Montreal Summer IO Conference; UC Berkeley Haas; UC Berkeley Economics; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; University of Toronto; HEC Paris; Helsinki GSE
Conferences: IIOC; Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics; Stanford SITE Macro-Micro of Labor; Christmas Meeting of Belgian Economists, Ghent University (Keynote speaker)
- 2022 *Invited Seminars:* Ohio State University; Arizona State University; U.S. Department of Justice; University of British Columbia, Sauder School; Georgetown University; University of Rochester;
Conferences: 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 *Invited Seminars:* New York University; MIT/Harvard University; University of Michigan; Toulouse School of Economics; CREST Paris; Stockholm School of Economics
Conferences: SOLE Annual Conference; RIDGE IO Forum (discussant); EHA Annual Conference; FTC Microeconomics Conference
- 2020 *Invited Seminars:* Warwick University; CREST Paris; University of Chicago Booth School of Business; 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
Conferences: MaCCI Conference; IIOC; EEA Conference; China Economics Summer Institute

Service

Departmental Service:

Co-organizer, Laub Foundation IO Seminars, UCLA (2022-current, together with Will Rafey)

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, UCLA (2022, 2023)

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

Refereeing for Academic Journals:

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economic Studies, Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, American Economic Review: Insights, 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 Labor Economics, Journal of Monetary Economics, RAND Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, World Development,

Dissemination and Societal Impact:

Research featured in [Chicago Booth Review](#) (May 19 2025)

Column in [VoxDev](#) (Feb 6, 2024)

Research featured in [Annual Report of the US Department of Justice Antitrust Division](#) (Jan 20, 2024)

Research featured in [Strategy Statement of the UK Competition and Markets Authority](#) (March 8, 2023)

Personal Information

Belgian Citizen, U.S. Permanent Resident

Married with one child (°2024)