

OLIVER KIM

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BUSINESS ADDRESS:

Department of Economics
530 Evans Hall, #3880
Berkeley, CA 94720-3880

DESIRED RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS:

PRIMARY

Development Economics

SECONDARY

Economic History

FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION:

Development, International

DISSERTATION TITLE: “Essays in Development Economics”

Expected Date of Completion: May 2024

Principal Advisor: Professor Edward Miguel

Other References: Professors Benjamin Faber, Jón Steinsson, Barry Eichengreen

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

Harvard College

Magna cum laude, high honors.

DEGREE

A.B.

DATE

2016

FIELD

Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER:

- “Reassessing China’s Miracle: Evidence from Space” (**Job Market Paper**)
with Joel Ferguson

Abstract: We study one of the central reforms in China’s economic miracle, the Household Responsibility System (HRS), which decollectivized agriculture starting in 1978. The HRS is commonly seen as having significantly boosted agricultural productivity—but this conclusion rests on unreliable official data. We use historical satellite imagery to generate new measurements of agricultural production, independent of official Chinese statistics. Using a novel staggered difference-in-discontinuities design, we find no causal evidence that provinces that adopted the HRS sooner experienced faster growth. These results challenge our conventional understanding of decollectivization, land reform, and the Chinese miracle.

WORKING PAPERS:

- “Land Reform and the Taiwanese Miracle”
with Jen Kuan Wang.
- “Decomposing Political Favoritism in Kenyan Mass Electrification”
with Catherine Wolfram, Susanna Berkouwer, Felipe Vial, Eric Hsu, and Edward Miguel.

PUBLICATIONS:

- “Money or Power? Choosing Covid-19 Aid in Kenya.” *Energy Economics*, Volume 127B, 2023, 107036,
with Susanna Berkouwer, Pierre Biscaye, Eric Hsu, Kenneth Lee, Edward Miguel, and Catherine Wolfram.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

RESEARCH:

Research Assistant (with Edward Miguel), Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley (2019-20, 2023)

Research Analyst (with Richard Crump), Federal Reserve Bank of New York (2016 - 2018).

TEACHING:

Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley (Fall 2021)

Econ 101B (Intermediate Macroeconomics, with Jón Steinsson).

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

2022	Emergent Ventures Fellowship, Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) PhD Research Grant, UC Berkeley Haas Fisher Center for Real Estate Research Grant, UC Berkeley Clausen Center Grant
2021	UC Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) Development Challenge Grant
2020	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2018	UC Berkeley Clausen Center Fellowship

OTHER INFORMATION:

Citizenship: USA, Canada