

YANGKEUN YUN

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DOCTORAL STUDIES

UCLA Anderson School of Management, 2021 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Expected Completion Date: June 2026

References:

Professor John Asker
UCLA Department of Economics
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Professor Nico Voigtländer
UCLA Anderson School of Management
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Professor Will Rafey
UCLA Department of Economics
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Professor Romain Wacziarg
UCLA Anderson School of Management
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PRIOR EDUCATION

M.A. Economics, Seoul National University, 2019
B.A. Economics & Public Administration, Kyunghee University, 2015

FIELDS

Industrial Organization, Environmental Economics, Economic History

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Winter, Summer 2025 Teaching assistant for MBA Global Trends, UCLA
Winter 2024 Teaching assistant for MBA Managerial Economics, UCLA
Spring 2023 Teaching assistant for MBA Macroeconomics, UCLA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024-2025 Research assistant for Prof. Romain Wacziarg
2023-2024 Research assistant for Prof. Paola Giuliano
2022-2025 Research assistant for Prof. Nico Voigtländer
2022-2023 Research assistant for Prof. Will Rafey

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025-2026 Price Center Research Grant, UCLA
2025-2026 Dissertation Year Award, UCLA
2023-2025 Global Research Award, Center for Global Management, UCLA
2023-2024 Societal Impact Research Grant, Center for Impact, UCLA
2023 Best Presentation Award, Proseminar in Economic History, UCLA
2022 Diversity Fellowship, Environmental & Energy Economics Summer School, UC Berkeley
2021-2026 Anderson Fellowship, UCLA
2020 Second Prize in Student Paper Award, iHEA

2019 Best Thesis Award, Seoul National University

JOB MARKET PAPER

Navigating the Commons

Abstract: Open-access commons attract excessive entry and investment, generating persistent inefficiencies. Existing models emphasize resource-use dynamics but abstract from firms' entry, exit, and capital accumulation. This paper develops a model of strategic firm dynamics in which firms interact through congestion and stock depletion. I estimate the model using data from the 19th-century American whaling industry, an unregulated global commons. Building on the estimated model, I quantify shadow prices—the marginal external costs of firm behavior—and introduce a tractable framework for optimal policy design. The results show that Pigouvian per-unit taxes alone cannot achieve the long-run social optimum, as externalities arising from firms' dynamic actions remain uncontrolled. When combined with state-dependent lump-sum fees, regulation directly targets the dynamic forces that distort resource allocation across firms and over time. The welfare effects of these policies vary substantially with technology, demand, and resource regeneration, underscoring the need for adaptive regulation.

WORKING PAPER

Water Investment and Pricing (with Will Rafey)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Public Liquidity and Interbank Markets (with Haelim Anderson)

Exporting and Innovation in a Dynamic Oligopoly (with Han Yang)

PRESENTATIONS

2025-2026 Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting; KIF-KAEA Conference; All-California Economic History Job Market Conference; CU Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop; Econometric Society World Congress

2024-2025 European Association of Young Economists; Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting; Lewis Lab Graduate Student Workshop (University of Manchester)

2023-2024 Society for Economic Dynamics Annual Meeting; Econometric Society North American Summer Meeting; International Industrial Organization Conference; Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting; Royal Economic Society Annual Conference; Northeastern Universities Development Consortium; Economics Graduate Student Conference (Washington University in St. Louis)

2022-2023 LSE Environment Day; Mountain West Economic History Conference (Utah State University)

Last updated: October 2025