

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: The overuse of open-access resources is a classic example of externalities. Inefficiencies arise not only from resource use by existing participants but also from their investment in capacity and the entry of new firms. Standard models of externalities, however, typically abstract from firms' entry, exit, and capital accumulation. This paper develops a model of strategic firm dynamics with production externalities, in which firms interact through stock depletion and congestion. I estimate the model using firm-level panel data from the American whaling industry (1804–1909), an unregulated global commons. Using the estimated model, I quantify the shadow prices of externalities and propose a tractable framework for optimal policy design. The results show that per-unit Pigouvian taxes alone cannot achieve the long-run social optimum, as they correct stock externalities but leave persistent overcapacity and congestion undressed. Optimal regulation combines per-unit taxes with state-dependent lump-sum taxes that vary with vessel capacity and productivity to internalize firms' dynamic interactions. The welfare effects of these policies depend critically on technology, demand, and resource regeneration, underscoring the importance of adaptive policy design.

WORKING PAPERS

Water Investment and Pricing (with Will Rafey)

The Road to Ascension: Exams, Lineages and Civil Servants of the Joseon Dynasty (with Sok Chul Hong and Christopher Paik)

Small-Scale Rural Water Supply, Typhoid Eradication, and Human Capital Development (with Sok Chul Hong)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

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

Public Liquidity and Interbank Markets: Evidence from New Jersey Bank Networks, 1926-1932 (with Haelim Anderson)

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)

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