# Yi-Chun Akchen, formerly Yi-Chun Chen

yi-chun.akchen@ucl.ac.uk | http://yi-chun-akchen.github.io
(Last updated: Nov 2025)

## Employment

**University College London (UCL) School of Management**          Aug 2023 – Present
Assistant Professor of Operations and Technology

## Education

**UCLA Anderson School of Management**          Sep 2017 – Jun 2023
Ph.D. in Management (advisor: Velibor Mišić) and Postdoctoral Fellow (mentor: Felipe Caro)

**Stanford University**          Sep 2014 – Apr 2017
M.S. in Computational and Mathematical Engineering (advisor: Mykel Kochenderfer)

**National Taiwan University**          Sep 2009 – Jun 2013
B.S. in Physics

## Publications

### Working Papers

*"Assortment Optimization Under The Decision Forest Model"*
with Velibor Mišić
Minor revision in **Manufacturing & Service Operations Management**

### Refereed Journal Papers

*"Consider or Choose? The Role and Power of Consideration Sets"*
with Dmitry Mitrofanov
**Management Science** (forthcoming)

  — Finalist, Service Science Best Cluster Paper Competition, INFORMS, 2024.

*"On Size Substitution and Its Role in Assortment and Inventory Planning"*
with Felipe Caro
**Manufacturing & Service Operations Management** (forthcoming)

*"Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications"*
with Velibor Mišić
**Operations Research** (2025), 73(3): 1366-1383.

*"Decision Forest: A Nonparametric Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice"*
with Velibor Mišić
**Management Science** (2022), 68(10): 7090-7111

  — Honorable Mention, George E. Nicholson Student Paper Prize, INFORMS, 2020.
  — Winner, Decision Analysis Society Student Paper Competition, INFORMS, 2019.
  — 2nd Place, Revenue Management and Pricing Student Paper Competition, INFORMS, 2019.
  — Finalist, Service Science Section Best Paper Competition, INFORMS, 2019.
  — Spotlight Presentation, INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference, 2019.

*"Deep Reinforcement Learning for Event-Driven Multi-Agent Decision Processes"*
with Kunal Menda, Justin Grana, James Bono, Brendan Tracey, Mykel Kochenderfer, and David Wolpert
**IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems** (2019), 20(4): 1259-1268

*"Learning Discrete Bayesian Networks from Continuous Data"*
with Tim Wheeler and Mykel Kochenderfer
**Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research** (2017), 59: 103-132.

*"Improving Offline Value-Function Approximations for POMDPs by Reducing Discount Factors"*
   with Mykel Kochenderfer and Matthijs Spaan
   **IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems** (2018)

*"Clustering Our Challenger Tour"*
   with Onesun Steve Yoo and Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)
   **ATP 2023 Sustainability Report** (2024), Page 22

## Teaching

**UCL School of Management**

| | |
|---|---|
| Decision Science, BSc in Management Science. | 2026 |
| Statistics for Business Research, MSc in Management. | 2023, 2024 |

## Awards and Honors

| | |
|---|---|
| Finalist, INFORMS Service Science Best Cluster Paper Award. | 2024 |
| Dreze Dissertation Award, UCLA Anderson. | 2022 |
| Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA. | 2021 |
| Honorable Mention, INFORMS George E. Nicholson Student Paper Prize. | 2020 |
| Winner, INFORMS Decision Analysis Student Paper Award. | 2019 |
| Second Place, INFORMS Jeff McGill Revenue Management and Pricing Student Paper Award. | 2019 |
| Finalist, INFORMS Service Science Best Cluster Paper Award. | 2019 |
| Spotlight Presentation, INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference. | 2019 |
| Ph.D. Fellowship, UCLA Anderson. | 2017 |
| Presidential Awards, National Taiwan University. | 2012, 2013 |

## Talks

### Seminars

| | |
|---|---|
| Erasmus University Rotterdam (Rotterdam School of Management), Rotterdam, Netherlands | 2025 |
| Tilburg University (School of Economics and Management), Tilburg, Netherlands | 2025 |
| City St George's, University of London (Bayes Business School), London, United Kingdom | 2025 |
| National Chengchi University (College of Commerce), Taipei, Taiwan | 2025 |
| Imperial College London (Control and Optimisation Seminar), London, United Kingdom | 2025 |

### Conferences and Workshops

| | |
|---|---|
| Durham Early Career Scholars Workshop | 2025 |
| INFORMS Annual Meeting | 2018 − 2025 |
| MSOM Conference | 2021, 2024, 2025 |
| INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference | 2019, 2021, 2024 |
| European Technology and Operations Management Day | 2024 |
| INFORMS Optimization Conference | 2022 |
| POMS Conference | 2019 |
| Southern California OR/OM Day | 2019 |

## Professional Activities

**Peer Review and Judging Activities**

Journal reviewer, *Management Science*, *Operations Research*, *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management*, *Production and Operations Management*, *Computational Management Science*, and *Naval Research Logistics*.

| | |
|---|---|
| Review Panelist, INFORMS Harvey J. Greenberg Research Award. | 2025 |
| Reviewer, MSOM Student Paper Competition. | 2023 − 2025 |

#### Professional Society Roles

| | |
|---|---|
| Co-organizer, London Operations Research Day (LORD). | 2025 – Present |
| Council member, INFORMS Decision Analysis Society. | 2024, 2025 |

## Research Supervision

#### PhD Supervisor

| | |
|---|---|
| Sena Aslı Bozkurt, UCL School of Management (co-advised by Ersin Körpeoğlu). | 2025 – Present |
| Kaan Çakıroğlu, UCL School of Management (co-advised by Kenan Arifoğlu). | 2025 – Present |

#### PhD Dissertation Examiner

| | |
|---|---|
| Xihan Li, UCL Computer Science. | 2025 (scheduled) |
| Asimina Marousi, UCL Chemical Engineering. | 2025 |

## Languages

Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Turkish (beginner).