

Youn Baek

Department of Economics, NYU Stern
Kaufman Management Center, 7th floor
44 West 4th Street
New York, NY 10012

Phone: +1 (551) 689-0075
Email: syb262@nyu.edu
Website: <https://younbaek.github.io>

EDUCATION

New York University Stern School of Business Ph.D. in Economics	2019 - 2025 (<i>Expected</i>)
Korea University M.A. in Economics	2018
Korea University B.B.A. in Business Administration	2016
Arizona State University Semester abroad	2016

INTERESTS

economic history, political economy, development economics

RESEARCH

Working Papers

Cultural exchange and the birth of international development

This paper investigates the impact of intergroup contact on commitment to international development in the context of the Student Volunteer Movement, the largest missionary movement in the United States. Using hand-collected archival records of individual missionaries and volunteers who did not ultimately become missionaries, matched with publication data, this study shows missionary experience deepened social scientific knowledge of non-European countries. Then I quantify policy relevance of this knowledge output by documenting that American insights into non-European regions relied heavily on missionaries even compared with other foreign experts during WWII, when the US began to increase its international involvement. Building upon these findings, the next part of the paper explores how deeper understanding of foreign countries shaped preferences for foreign aid. Using a shift-share instrumental variable based on denominational exposure to early missionary recruiters in 1886-87, I demonstrate that congressmen representing denominations with greater missionary exposure were more likely to support landmark foreign aid legislation that established the concept of foreign assistance for the first time. This exposure fostered private foreign aid through churches, promoted moral universalism in congressional speeches, and led to an increase in Peace Corps volunteers.

Path dependence through agglomeration spillovers: Evidence from the beet sugar industry [Draft]

This paper presents evidence of path dependence in economic geography by investigating the agglomeration spillovers from US beet sugar factories, which attracted large-scale manufacturing facilities near farmlands. To estimate the effects of plant openings, I identify runner-up locations for beet sugar plants from a historical trade journal and find that these plant openings had large and long-lasting effects on population and manufacturing activities over one hundred years. The agglomeration spillovers benefited industries not only directly linked through input-output linkages but also extended to broader, less related industries outside the production chain of agricultural processing.

Work in progress

Place-based costs and productivity in R&D (with Sathya Ramesh)

This paper estimates the elasticities of productivity and costs of R&D with respect to urban concentration using data on 300,000 scientists across American cities. We introduce a novel shift-share instrumental variable based on university-origin and destination-city pairs. Our findings show that the agglomeration elasticity of patents is generally higher than that of wages. However, while place-based costs remain constant across cities of varying sizes, the agglomeration elasticity of patents declines significantly in cities above the median size. These results suggest that place-based policies aimed at fostering economic activity in non-superstar cities could enhance the aggregate productivity of R&D.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023	Kurnow PhD Fellowship, New York University
2019	Doctoral Fellowship, Ilju Academic Foundation
2019	Doctoral Fellowship, Kwanjeong Educational Foundation (declined)
2019	Doctoral Fellowship, NYU Stern
2016	Undergraduate Thesis Grant, Korea University
2015	Undergraduate Fellowship, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies

PRESENTATIONS

2023:North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association **2021:** Yale Economic History Graduate Student Conference

REFERENCES

Petra Moser (Chair)

New York University
Stern School of Business
Professor of Economics
44 West 4th St., 7th Floor
New York, NY 10012
pm119@nyu.edu

Jacob French

New York University
Stern School of Business
Assistant Professor of Economics
44 West 4th St., 7th Floor
New York, NY 10012
jff305@nyu.edu

Walker Hanlon

Northwestern University
Department of Economics
Associate Professor of Economics
42211 Campus Dr.
Evanston, IL 60208
whanlon@northwestern.edu

Martin Rotemberg

New York University
Department of Economics
Assistant Professor of Economics
19 West 4th St., 7th Floor
New York, NY 10012
mrotemberg@nyu.edu

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