# Sun Kyoung Lee

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## Academic Positions

University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Research Assistant Professor (tenure-track), 2022–present
Yale University, Postdoctoral Associate, Economic Growth Center, 2019–2022

## Past Visiting Positions and Affiliations

CESifo Research Network Affiliate, CESifo, 2023–present
Visiting Scholar, Consumer Finance Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2023–present
Visiting Scholar, Research, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2024–present
Visiting Scholar, Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 2024
Center for Regional Economic Development, University of Bern, May 2022

## Education

Columbia University, Ph.D., Economics, 2019
Columbia University, M.Phil., Economics, 2015
Columbia University, M.A., Economics, 2014
Yonsei University, B.A., Economics, 2011, *Summa Cum Laude* equivalent

## Research Fields

Spatial Economics, Urban and Regional Economics, Economic History

## Publications

**"When Homes No Longer Feel Safe: Housing and Community Gun Violence"**
with Hannah Rubens, Melika Belhaj, Daniel Lee, Zainab Hans, Douglas J. Wiebe, Roshanak Mehdipanah

Accepted, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Global Public Health* (forthcoming, Oxford University Press)

## Working Papers and Projects

### Working Papers

**"When Cities Grow: Urban Planning and Segregation in the Prewar US"**

*Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award*, CESifo Area Conference on the Global Economy, 2023

*Best Paper Award by a Junior Scholar*, American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (AREUEA) National Meetings, 2022

*IPUMS USA Research Award*, 2019

**"Immigration, Innovation, and the Geography of Growth"**
with Costas Arkolakis, Michael Peters

Revise and Resubmit, *Review of Economic Studies*

**"Growing Through Vintages"**
with Ana Cecília Fieler

**"Debt, Drought, and Mobility: How Bankruptcy Institutions Shape Adjustment to Economic Shocks"**
with Tao Chen, Marta Santamaria, Claudia Steinwender

## Ongoing Research Projects

**"BlueChoice: A Fuzzy Multi-Criteria Framework for Converging Wave Energy Converter Selection through Community and Expert Insights"**
with Vishnu Vijayasankar, Eric Wade, Xiangyu Lu, Lei Zuo

**"American Intergenerational Mobility in History and Space"**
with Rodrigo Adão, Costas Arkolakis, Jack Liang

**"People Who Probably Have Many Enslaved Ancestors: Why Only They Should Get Reparations and How to Find Them"**
with Brendan "Dan" O'Flaherty

**"Social Agglomeration Forces and the City"**
with Peter Luff

## Authored Work Pending Reinstatement

**"Judge for yourself? The impact of controls on the rental market in interwar New York"**
*Journal of Urban Economics*, Vol. 153, 2026; DOI: 10.1016/j.jue.2026.103859, with Maximilian Günnewig-Mönert and Ronan C. Lyons.

This article describes the same study as Chapter 2 of MGM's PhD thesis (Trinity College Dublin, March 2024), which was certified under joint authorship of MGM, Ronan C. Lyons, and myself.

Corrigendum requested to reinstate me as a co-author; matter currently under review by Elsevier's Research Integrity & Publishing Ethics team.

## Peer Review Service

Referee for: *American Economic Review*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*

## Professional Activities

Collaboration with the Internal Revenue Service Statistics of Income (SOI) Division of IRS Research, Applied Analytics, & Statistics (RAAS): related to the project *"Accumulation and Intergenerational Transmission of Personal Wealth"*

U.S. Census Bureau, Special Sworn Status

## Grants

University of Michigan, Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (Prime: U.S. Center for Maritime Innovation), "Port Readiness Assessment for Maritime Nuclear Applications" ($90,000), 2026–2027, **Co-Principal Investigator**, PI: Lei Zuo

University of Michigan, Institute of Social Research, Pilot Project Grants for the Study of Rural Contexts, "Addressing Energy Inequality in Rural Communities through Ocean Wave Energy: A Case Study in Beaver Island" ($150,000), 2024–2027, **Co-Principal Investigator**, PI: originally Xiaofan Li / later Lei Zuo

National Science Foundation, "RIDIR: A Big Data Approach to Understanding American Growth" ($1,004,899), **Co-Principal Investigator**, Proposal No: 1831524, 2018–2024, joint with Costas Arkolakis and Michael Peters

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Research Grant, "Wealth in America" ($3,990,000), 2021–2025, **Co-Investigator**, PI: originally Fabian Pfeffer / later Pablo Mitnik (resigned March 2024)

U.S. Census Bureau, "New Methods to Support Census Bureau Record Linkage" ($1,000,000), 2021–2024, **Research Staff**, PI: Margaret Levenstein

University of Michigan, Public Health IDEAS-PFI Pilot Research Grant, "Exploring Real Estate Factors as Predictors of Gun Violence" ($24,996), 2023–2024, **Co-Principal Investigator**, PI: Roshanak Mehdipanah

Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University, "Charting the Future of Economics, Governance, and Economic Development in the United States and Beyond" ($15,000), 2024, **Co-organizer**, joint with Rohini Pande, Gerald Jaynes and José-Antonio Espín-Sánchez

Macmillan Center, Yale University, "An Interdisciplinary Conference Examining the Future Direction of Research in History, Economics and Public Policy" ($10,000), 2023–2024, **Co-organizer**, joint with Gerald Jaynes and José-Antonio Espín-Sánchez

Program in Economic History, Economic Growth Center, Yale University, "A Big-Data Approach to the Growth of the US Economy in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries" ($15,000), 2020–2021

Kauffman Foundation National Bureau of Economic Research Entrepreneurship Grant ($20,000), **Co-Principal Investigator**, joint with Costas Arkolakis and Michael Peters, 2017–2018

National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Research in Economics: Urban Transit Infrastructure and the Growth of Cities ($18,240), Proposal No: 1658827, 2016–2018, **Co-Principal Investigator**, Doctoral Advisor: Donald R. Davis

American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, Graduate Study Award, 2017

Program for Economic Research Data Grant ($5,000), Columbia University, 2016

International Seminar Data Grant, Columbia University, 2016

Travel Data Grant, Columbia University, 2016

## Honors and Awards

Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award, Global Economy conference, CESifo, 2023

Best Paper Award by a Junior Scholar, American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (AREUEA) National Meetings, 2022

2019 IPUMS Research Award (The IPUMS USA), University of Minnesota, 2020

Alice Hanson Jones Fellowship for Economics and History, 2017–2018

C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship Program, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2017

Economic History Association Graduate Fellowship, 2017

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University, 2017–2018

Doctoral Research Fellow, Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at New York University, 2014–2015

Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at New York University, Fall 2015

Kwanjeong Educational Foundation Fellowship, 2012–2016

Fulbright Graduate Study Award, 2011 (declined)

United States Department of State Fellowship, 2009

University of Chicago, Study of the United States Institute for Korean Undergraduate Leaders Program, Sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs U.S. Department of State, 2009

Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies Special Scholarship for Undergraduate Students, 2009–2011

Yonsei University, Department of Economics: Highest Honors Student Award (Fall 2008), High Honors Student Award (Spring 2007, Fall 2007), Honors Student Award (Spring 2009, Fall 2009)

Yonsei University "Freedom Scholarship" Department of Economics, 2007–2011

Brain Korea 21 Scholarship, 2011–2012

Bank of Korea Scholarship, 2009

National Champion of Nationwide Essay Competition on Human Rights Issues, Commemorating the end of *Apartheid* in South Africa (Highest Honors), The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & The South African Embassy Seoul, 2005

National Champion of Nationwide Reading Contest (Highest Honors), The Ministry of Education & The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 2005

## Teaching Experience

**Instructor**, Yale University, Department of Economics:
Economics of Cities (Econ 428, lecture, Spring 2021; Econ 464, seminar, Spring 2022)

**Teaching Assistant**, Columbia University (2013–2017):
Corporate Finance, Urban Economics, International Economics, Economics of New York City, Public Finance, Intermediate Microeconomics

**Teaching Assistant**, Yonsei University:
Graduate Microeconomics, Law and Economics, Game Theory, MBA Game Theory

## Guest Lectures

*Economics of New York City* (Columbia University, Donald R. Davis)

*Topics in Economic Geography: Regional and Urban Economics* (Columbia University, Donald R. Davis)

*Economics of Space* (Yale University, Costas Arkolakis)

*Immigration and Its Discontents: The Perspective from Economic History* (Yale University, Naomi Lamoreaux)

*Herb Scarf Research Assistant Program* (Yale University)

## Seminar and Conference Presentations

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| 2027 | TECHNIS research group |
| 2026 | AREUEA National Conference, CESifo Global Economy, Society for Economic Dynamics, Zurich-Bern-Wisconsin Conference on Real Estate and Urban Economics, Cities, Housing, & Society (Harvard University), Athens Winter Econ Meeting, Yale (International and Spatial) |
| 2025 **(on parental leave)** | University of Zurich, ETH-Zurich, U.S. Census Bureau, Columbia University, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Sogang University<br>2025 TRAIN Workshop (Trade, Regulation, and Academic Insights for the Next Generation) |
| 2024 | Yale (Economic History), U.S. Census Bureau, Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, University of Michigan (Urban and Regional Planning seminar), Federal Computer Assisted Survey Information Collection (FedCASIC), Yale Conference<br>"Charting the Future of Economics, Governance, and Economic Development in the U.S. and Beyond", the Korea Development Institute and the Hawaii Asia-Pacific Institute,<br>NSF Workshop: Developing Future Workforce for Ocean Renewable Energy Technologies and Blue Economy |
| 2023 | University of Pennsylvania Population Studies Center, CESifo Global Economy conference, Russell Sage Foundation, University of Michigan (Economic History), Southern Economic Association, MIT Center for Real Estate, Harvard University Opportunity Insights, The Korean Economic History Society, Renmin University, University of Michigan (PSID Seminar), Rutgers New Brunswick, University of Crete |
| 2022 | University of Bonn, Nova School of Business and Economics, Rutgers New Brunswick, NYU Stern Econ, NYU Furman Center, National University of Singapore (NUS) Real Estate, University of Bern, University of Michigan Institute of Social Research, University of Michigan, Seoul National University, Urban Economics Association, Southern Economic Association, the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (AREUEA), the Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH), Stanford University SITE Housing & Urban Economics, Penn State University, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, KAEA Applied Micro, FIW-Workshop Regional Economics |
| 2021 | Oxford, Yale SOM Finance, Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory, the American Enterprise Institute, Sogang University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology |
| 2020 | Bank of Mexico, RIDGE Virtual Forum Economic History workshop |

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| 2019 | Society for Economic Dynamics, Social Science History Association, Yale University, Yonsei University, The Korean Economic History Society, Seoul National University, Chung-Ang University, Korea University, Korea Development Institute |
| 2018 | WEHC, Rutgers University Newark |
| 2017 | AREUEA-ASSA Chicago, NYU Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Infrastructure Conference, Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory (SAET), NBER Summer Institute Development of American Economy (poster session) |

## Conference Discussion

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| 2026 | ASSA AREUEA, Quantitative Trade and Spatial Economics (CEPR) |
| 2022 | Urban Economics Association, the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, Women in Macroeconomics (Becker Friedman Institute) |

## Professional Service

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| 2025 | · 2026 Stone Center Emerging Scholars Committee (chair) |
| 2024 | · Co-organizer of Conference "Charting the Future of Economics, Governance and Economic Development in the United States and Beyond" (with Rohini Pande, Gerald Jaynes, José-Antonio Espín-Sánchez)<br>· 2025 AREUEA-ASSA Program Committee<br>· Dissertation committee: Daniel Velasquez |
| 2020–2022 | Co-organizer of Economic History Lunch, Yale (with José-Antonio Espín-Sánchez) |
| 2020–2022 | Senior thesis advisor to Yale undergraduate seniors: Peter Luff (2020; the Library Map Prize Winner), Liam Geenen (2022), Freya Salva (2022), Siddarth Shankar (2022; *Magna Cum Laude*) |

## Computer Skills

Stata, R, SQL, ArcGIS, QGIS, Python

## Languages

Korean (native), English (fluent)

## Non-Economics Published Books

영어의 신 (A book project to tackle educational inequality through fun English education, written in Korean), 2008, Joong Ang Magazine & Books, ISBN: 9788964560488
보카 올마이티 (A sequel to the earlier book, written in Korean), 2009, Joong Ang Magazine & Books, ISBN: 9788983758446