

Sun Kyoung Lee

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Citizenship

South Korea (US permanent resident)

Academic Positions

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

Past Visiting Positions and Affiliations

CESifo Research Network Affiliate, CESifo, 2023 -
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

Working Papers

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

- ✓ the Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award at the CESifo Area Conference on Global Economy, 2023
- ✓ the Best Paper Award by a Junior Scholar, the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (AREUEA) National Meetings, 2022
- ✓ IPUMS USA Research Award Winner, 2019

"Immigration, Innovation, and Spatial Economic Development: Theory and Evidence from the Age of Mass Migration"¹

with Costas Arkolakis, Michael Peters

- ✓ 2025 draft will be available soon

"Broke, But Not Out Of Luck: Bankruptcy Regulation and Economic Activity"

with Tao Chen, Marta Santamaria, Claudia Steinwender

- ✓ Working Paper coming soon

¹Previously, this work was circulated with the title "*European Immigrants and the United States' Rise to the Technological Frontier*"

Work in Progress

"Growing Through Vintages"

with Cecilia Fieler, Wei Xiang

✓ Working Paper coming soon

"American Intergenerational Mobility in History and Space"

with Rodrigo Adao, Costas Arkolakis, Jack Liang

"Social Agglomeration Forces and the City"

with Peter Luff

Grants

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), 2024-2026, Co-Principal Investigator, PI: originally, Xiaofan Li / later, Lei Zuo

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

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

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 Mehdi-panah

the 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 Jose-Antonio Espin-Sanchez

the 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 Jose-Antonio Espin-Sanchez

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

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

the 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, Awards, and Affiliation

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

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

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

the 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

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

Referee for *Journal of International Economics*, *Explorations in Economic History*

Teaching Experience:

Yale University, Department of Economics

Instructor to the following courses:

Undergraduate Economics of Cities, Econ 428 (lecture), Spring 2021

Undergraduate Economics of Cities, Econ 464 (seminar), Spring 2022

Columbia University, Department of Economics

Teaching Assistant to the following courses:

Undergraduate Corporate Finance, Professor Tri Vi Dang, Fall 2017

Undergraduate Urban Economics, Professor Brendan O'Flaherty, Fall 2016

Master International Economics, Professor Donald R. Davis, Summer 2016

Undergraduate Economics of New York City, Professor Donald R. Davis, Spring 2016, Fall 2014

Undergraduate Public Finance, Professor Francois Gerard, Spring 2015

Undergraduate Intermediate Microeconomics, Professor Jonathan Vogel, Spring 2014

Undergraduate Intermediate Microeconomics, Professor Steven Olley, Fall 2013

Yonsei University, Department of Economics

Teaching Assistant to the following courses:

Graduate Microeconomics 1, Undergraduate Law and Economics, Undergraduate Game theory, MBA Game Theory and its Economic Applications

Seminar and Conference Presentations:

2026

ASSA AREUEA

2025

(on parental
leave; including
scheduled)

University of Zurich, ETH-Zurich, Seoul National University, Econometric Society
Columbia University, University of Hong Kong, US Census Bureau

2024

Yale University (Economic History), US 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 University Conference
"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,
NSF Workshop: Developing Future Workforce for Ocean Renewable Energy Technologies
and Blue Economy

2023

University of Pennsylvania Population Studies Center, CESifo Global Economy conference,
Russel 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
- 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:

- 2022 Urban Economics Association, the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, Women in Macroeconomics (Becker Friedman Institute)

Guest Lecture:

Undergraduate-level economics course *Economics of New York City* (Columbia University, Donald R. Davis)

PhD-level economics course *Topics in Economic Geography: Regional and Urban Economics* (Columbia University, Donald R. Davis)

Undergraduate-level economics course *Economics of Space* (Yale University, Costas Arkolakis)

Undergraduate-level economics course *Immigration and Its Discontents: The Perspective from Economic History* (Yale University, Naomi Lamoreaux)

Undergraduate-level economics seminar, *Herb Scarf Research Assistant Program* (Yale University)

Professional Service

- 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, Jose-Antonio Espin-Sanchez)
- 2025 AREUEA-ASSA Program Committee
- 2020-2022 Co-organizer of Economic History Lunch, Yale (with Jose-Antonio Espin-Sanchez)

2020-2022 Senior thesis advisors to Yale undergraduate senior students:
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, CartoDB, Tableau

Languages

Korean (native), English (fluent), Chinese (intermediate)

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

Last updated: May 30, 2025