

College | Social Sciences

# UCLA Economics

## DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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### MISSION STATEMENT

UCLA's Economics Department has two interlocking objectives. We conduct cutting-edge research by developing new methodologies and applying them to understand society's most critical issues. We also seek to train the next generation of economic leaders in the private sector, government, and academia.

Email [workstudy@econ.ucla.edu](mailto:workstudy@econ.ucla.edu) with news, comments or requests to be added or removed from the distribution list.

## From the Chair's Desk

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### Friends of the UCLA Department of Economics,

I would like to start this letter by congratulating all our graduates. We are proud of your intellectual achievements, and we are certain that you will achieve even more after you leave UCLA!

Unlike the fall quarter, which has been largely quiet, our spring quarter has been somewhat difficult due to the social and political environment affecting all of us. The faculty and students in our department have been coping with the challenges well, and our learning and teaching mission has been largely unaffected. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the members of our community for such a success.

At the time of writing this letter, the department is going to go through a minor transition. My time as the department chair will come to an end very soon. The department has seen many successes during my time as the chair, despite the turbulent environment including Covid and TA strikes. Our faculty produced excellent research products. Our PhD students were placed in leading institutions. Our undergraduates continued to excel in various dimensions, including successes in the job market as well as many intellectual achievements such as success at the Fed Challenge. MQE program has continued to thrive.

I am lucky that I have been able to experience these successes, and I feel grateful to all of you because I know that the department owes these achievements to your generous help. Your time and financial support enabled us to excel in our teaching and research missions. As I step down from the current position, I hope that you would consider continued support of the department. By attending department events, engaging with students in classroom as a mentor, generating firm projects, or by providing financial support, you will help our beloved institution achieve excellence at an even higher level.

Sincerely,

**Jinyong Hahn**  
Department Chair



**Support  
UCLA  
Economics**





## FACULTY NEWS

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### Andres Santos named Co-Editor of the American Economic Review

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Andres Santos is a Professor of Economics at UCLA. Before joining UCLA, Professor Santos earned his Ph.D. from Stanford University and was a faculty member at UCSD. His research centers on theoretical econometrics, with an emphasis on the development of estimation and inference methods for cross-sectional datasets. He is a fellow of the Econometric Society and the International Association for Applied Econometrics.

The *American Economic Review (AER)* is a general-interest economics journal. Established in 1911, the *AER* is among the nation's oldest and most respected scholarly journals in economics. The journal publishes 12 issues per year containing articles on a broad range of topics.



Andres Santos

### UCLA Professor Martha Bailey Receives Honorary Doctorate from Lund University

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UCLA Professor Martha Bailey has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Lund University School of Economics and Management for her research on key issues in labor economics, demography and health in the US from a long-term historical perspective. Professor Bailey is one of the leading economic historians and economists, working at the intersection of labor markets, demography, health and inequality.

The announcement can be found [here](#).



Martha Bailey



## FACULTY NEWS

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### UCLA Professors Board and Meyer-ter-Vehn receive AEJ Best Paper

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UCLA Professors Simon Board and Moritz Meyer-ter-Vehn received the American Economic Journal (AEJ) Best Paper Award for their paper ‘A Reputational Theory of Firm Dynamics’ published in the American Economic Journal: Microeconomics in 2022. The annual AEJ Best Paper Award is given to the best paper published in each of the American Economic Journals: Applied Economics, Economic Policy, Macroeconomics, and Microeconomics over the last three years.

The announcement can be found [here](#).

The paper [here](#).



Simon Board

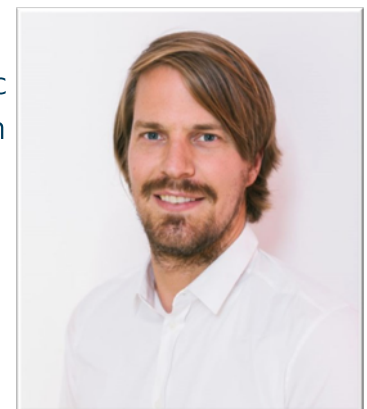


Moritz Meyer-ter-Vehn

### Martin Hackmann wins the Warren C. Scoville Distinguished Teaching Award for Winter 2024

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UCLA Professor Martin Hackmann has won the Warren C. Scoville Distinguished Teaching Award for Winter 2024 for his course Econ131: Economics of Health and Healthcare. The course focuses on the economic analysis of the U.S. medical care sector, a major industry with \$4.5 trillion in spending, accounting for 17% of GDP. It delves into the economics of health care, focusing on the production and financing of medical services. Key topics include health insurance, asymmetric information, hospital competition, physician roles in patient choices, and government interventions. Emphasizing both theory and evidence, the course covers seminal theoretical models and empirical landmark studies that test key predictions and present crucial facts for public debate. The course covers health care demand, socioeconomic health disparities, the physician labor market, the hospital industry, insurance demand, adverse selection, moral hazard, pharmaceuticals, innovation, technology’s impact on health care costs, and significant health programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and employer-sponsored insurance. Professor Hackman’s profile can be found [here](#).



Martin B. Hackmann

# 2024 PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER INSTITUTE

The 2024 Pre-College Summer Institute will start June 24, 2024 and we are excited to welcome almost 300 high school students to the programs! This year, we are offering four programs—2 commuter programs and 2 virtual programs, giving students various opportunities to earn college credit as well as gain a unique college experience. The programs we are offering this year are listed below!

## 2024 COMMUTER PROGRAMS

### Introduction to Investments

4 Units

June 24th—July 12th

This program is designed to provide a broad introduction to investments. Students will explore career paths in finance and gain the tools to begin a personal financial plan. Students will be provided a financial literacy foundation to help better understand the investing landscape with highlight on key concepts and functionality related to business and personal investment decisions.

*No previous economic or math background needed. Completion of this course will earn you course credit for Economics 4.*

## 2024 VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

### Principles of Economics

4 Units

June 24—July 12

This program is designed to help you explore career options and expand your knowledge of critical economic issues affecting the United States and the world. This program includes recorded lectures and mandatory discussion and Q&A sessions. While daily schedules might vary, student can expect to be online for these mandatory sessions from 2:00pm—7:00pm PST, Monday—Friday.

### Principles of Economics

4 Units

July 15th—August 2nd

This program is designed to help you explore career options and expand your knowledge of critical economic issues affecting the United States and the world.

*No previous economic or math background needed. Completion of this course will earn you course credit for Economics 1. Econ 1 counts towards the Econ Major.*

### Python for Economics and Finance

4 Units

July 15th—August 2nd

This program is designed to introduce students to Python with a focus on data analysis through hands on approach. Python is a premier programming language used by financial firms to analyze data. No previous economics, finance or programming background is required.

**2:00pm-3:30pm** Discussions

**4:00pm-6:00pm** Lecture

**Lectures will be held online Monday-Thursday (PST):**

**NOTE: The midterm will be held on FRIDAY, July 19th and the final will be on FRIDAY, August 2nd. In addition, there will be mandatory special guest lecturers various evenings from 6:15pm-7:15pm PST.**

# 2024 PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER INSTITUTE

## *Meet the Peer Learning Facilitators*

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### **2024 COMMUTER PROGRAMS**

Nicholas Pelonis  
Fong Lieu  
Palak Singh  
William Ebert

### **2024 VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**

Richard Grigorian  
Akshita Khajuria

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## 2022-2023 TA AWARDS

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### **Fall 2022**

Huihuang Zhu for Econ41  
Ben Pirie for Econ103L

### **Winter 2023**

Jack Sitarski for Econ11  
Jay Yoo for Econ106IL

### **Spring 2023**

Akira Ishide for Econ2  
Jeff Hill for Econ106SL

### **Grad TA**

Danny Ober-Reynolds for Econ203B

### **Teaching Assistant Consultant**

Ben Pirie

# 2024 PhD PLACEMENTS

**We are very excited to announce the 2024 PhD Placements.**

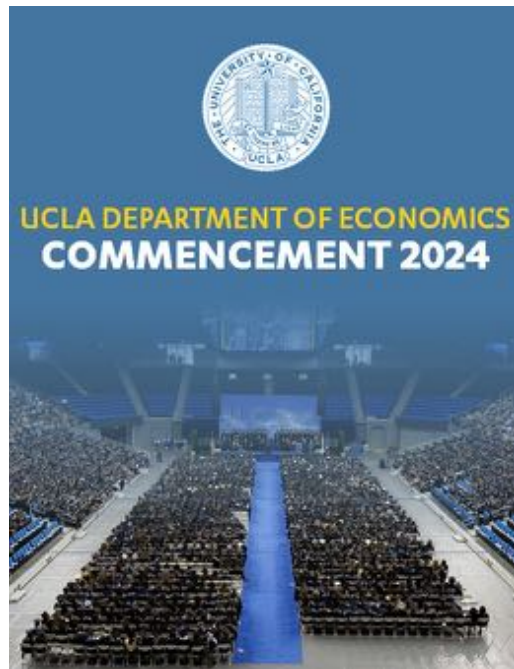
Stepan Aleksenko	University of Rochester, Postdoctoral Associate (2024-2025); Southern Methodist University, Assistant Professor (Fall 2025)
Adam Baybutt	Automa Capital, Quantitative Researcher
Jesper Böjeryd	Stockholm University, Postdoctoral Scholar
Luis Cabezas	Central Bank of Chile, Economist
Sungwoo Cho	United States Military Academy at West Point, Assistant Professor
Domenico Fabrizi	Catolica Lisbon School of Business & Economics, Assistant Professor
Diana Flores-Peregrina	Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy, Postdoctoral Scholar
Seungyub Han	Louisiana State University, Assistant Professor
Chang He	University of Virginia, Assistant Professor
Johnny Huynh	Dartmouth College, Assistant Professor of Health Policy
Akira Ishide	University of Tokyo, Assistant Professor
Calvin Kuo	U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Financial Economist
Manvindu Navjeevan	Texas A&M University, Assistant Professor
Daniel Ober-Reynolds	Bates White, Economist
Fatih Ozturk	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Paris, Economist
Mariano Palleja	U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Financial Economist
Daniel Perez	MITRE, Senior Economist
Joaquin Serrano	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Assistant Professor
Lucas Zhang	Bates White, Economist
Wan Zhang	Nankai University, Assistant Professor



# 2024 Commencement



## UCLA Department of Economics Commencement 2024 Program



**Congratulations to all of our Economics and Business Economics graduates this year! With over 800 students graduating, we are so proud of each and every one of you!**

**Click above to view the 2024 Commencement Program.**

UCLA

# MASTER OF QUANTITATIVE ECONOMICS

WHERE ECONOMICS MEETS DATA SCIENCE

## Ready to give back?

Partner with the MGE Team and utilize our talented student body to help with projects at your company. Our Applied Projects are a great way for our students to gain valuable real world experience. Our global pool of students offers unique insights and advanced analytics training to help you solve issues facing your business. We invite organizations of all sizes and from all fields to collaborate with us!

Find out more by contacting  
Jessica Jacobs at [jjacobs@econ.ucla.edu](mailto:jjacobs@econ.ucla.edu)

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“

Collaborating on the Applied Project with SumZero proved to be a great opportunity for me to work with my fellow classmates, use complex machine learning algorithms and practice my business presentation skills!”

-Aneri Patel, MGE Student

## MQE SPOTLIGHTS

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# Give to Economics

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**Economics**

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*The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the UCLA Department of Economics.*

Donors play a vital role in the ways we are able to sustain and enhance our mission. The Chair's Greatest Need Fund is an unrestricted fund used to support the following:

Student Activities & Fellowships  
Faculty & Graduate Student Research  
Supporting UCLA Partnership Programs  
Departmental Operations

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UCLA 100 YEARS

