

Yu-Hsiang Lei

Contact

Room 3336, Academic Building,
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology,
Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong
solei@ust.hk
<https://sites.google.com/site/leiyhecon>

Academic Position

Assistant Professor, Division of Social Science, HKUST, 2025 – present

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, National University of Singapore, 2024 – 2025

Assistant Professor of Economics, Yale-NUS College, 2016 – 2024

Administrative Role

Acting Head of Studies, Chinese Study Minor, Yale-NUS College, 2019 - 2020

Member, Council on Chinese Studies, Yale-NUS College, 2016 - 2021

Education

Ph.D. Economics (Advisor: Gerard Padro), 2016
London School of Economics and Political Science

M.Res. Economics, 2010
London School of Economics and Political Science

M.Sc. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, 2009
London School of Economics and Political Science

B.A. Business Administration (minor in Economics), 2005
National Taiwan University

Research Interests

Primary field: Development Economics

Second fields: Political Economy, Public Economics and Chinese Economy

Publications

- Safe Spaces for Children: School Sanitation and Sexual Violence (with Pei Gao and Aditi Kothari), accepted at *European Economic Review*
- Pont-Grau, Alex, Yu-Hsiang Lei, Joel Lim, and Xing Xia. "The effect of language training on immigrants' integration: Does the duration of training matter?" *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 212 (2023): 160-198.
- Lei, Yu-Hsiang. "Quid pro quo? Government-firm relationships in China." *Journal of Public Economics* 199 (2021): 104427.
- Gao, Pei, and Yu-Hsiang Lei. "Communication infrastructure and stabilizing food prices: evidence from the telegraph network in China." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 13, no. 3 (2021): 65-101.

- Lei, Yu-Hsiang, and Guy Michaels. "Do giant oilfield discoveries fuel internal armed conflicts?" *Journal of Development Economics* 110 (2014): 139-157.

Working Papers

- Cross-border Spillover Effects of Dams Along International Rivers, under review
- The Double-Edged Sword of Efficient Communication: The Impact of the Telegraph Network on Social Unrest in China (with Shuo Chen, Zhichen Huang, and Pei Gao)

Work in Progress:

- Dam Good for Trade (with Hanwei Huang and Yan Lei)
- The Impact of Dams in a Changing Climate (with Pei Gao and Simone Genetin)
- Local Tax Distortion in China (with Shiyu Bo)
- Resource Windfall and Fiscal Policy: Evidence from Oilfield Discoveries (with Shawn Chen)
- Proxy Warriors: A Theory of Military Assistance

Teaching

HKUST, Undergraduate - level

Understanding our economy (Principle of Macroeconomics)

Yale-NUS College, Undergraduate - level

Advanced Econometrics

Development Economics

Intermediate Macroeconomics

Quantitative Reasoning (Data Numeracy)

London School of Economics, Undergraduate - level

Economic Theory and Its Application

Economics B (Principle of Economics)

London School of Economics, Postgraduate - level

Econometric Methods

Introductory Course in Mathematics and Statistics

Micro and Macro Economics for MPA student

Research Grants

Principal Investigator, Yale-NUS Seed Grant, 2023– 2025

Amount: SGD 59,270

Principal Investigator, Singapore *Ministry of Education* Academic Research Fund *Tier 2*, 2023-2025 Amount: SGD 220,200

Principal Investigator, Yale-NUS Chinese Research Grant, 2019 – 2021

Amount: SGD 50,000

Principal Investigator, Yale-NUS Chinese Research Pocket Grant, 2021

Amount: SGD 3,800

Principal Investigator, Yale-NUS Singapore-China Collaboration Grant, 2019

Amount: SGD 10,000

Principal Investigator, Yale-NUS Start-up Grant, 2016-2020

Amount: SGD 30,000

Fellowship and Awards

Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Faculty Research Fellowship, NUS, 2024

Long Service Award, Yale-NUS College, 2022

Outstanding Contribution as Referee for Journal of Development Economics, 2018

LSE Teaching Fellowship, London School of Economics, 2014 - 2016

LSE Ph.D. Scholarship, London School of Economics, 2011- 2014

Dean's List, National Taiwan University, 2003

Academic Activities

Referee Services:

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy; Journal of European Economic Association; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Banking and Finance; Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization; Journal of Law, Economics and Organization; China Economic Review; Regional Science and Urban Economics; Environment and Development Economics; Economic Modelling; British Accounting Review; Journal of East Asian Studies; American Political Science Review

Professional Associations:

American Economic Association

Econometric Society

Royal Economic Society

European Economic Association

Society of Labor Economists

Economic History Association

Asian and Australian Society of Labour Economics

Academic Visits:

Yale University, Sep – Oct 2018

NYU-Shanghai, Nov – Dec 2018

Conferences and Invited Talks

2024	Jinan-SMU Conference on Urban and Regional Economics, University of Western Australia, EHA annual meeting, Urban Economic Association North American Meeting, New Chinese Economic History Workshop (Melbourne University), Asian Historical Economics Conference (HKU), BREAD Asia.
------	--

- 2023 Annual Conference on China and the Global Economy (HKU), Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (NTU), City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong University of Technology and Science, NUS - East Asia Institute, China Europe International Business School, Political Economy Workshop (Fudan), Singapore Management University, Nanyang Technology University, ESSEC Business School, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (NUS), Monash Environmental Economics Workshop, Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics Conference (Taiwan), European Meeting of the Econometric Society (Manchester), UNSW
- 2022 XIX World Economic History Congress (PSE), Academia Sinica
- 2021 SMU-NUS Development Workshop, Applied Microeconomics Conference (Korea University), Economic History of Developing Regions Virtual Seminar (Warwick)
- 2020 Hitotsubashi University, Osaka University, Kobe University, Fudan University, NUS - East Asia Institute, China Europe International Business School
- 2019 Cepremap India-China Conference (Warwick), North American Urban Economics Association (Philadelphia), ASSA meeting (Atlanta), China Econometrics Society Meeting, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Fudan University, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
- 2018 The University of Western Australia, NYU Shanghai
- 2017 International Institute of Public Finance Annual Congress (Tokyo University), Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (CUHK), NUS - East Asia Institute, Jinan University, Fudan University, NYU Shanghai
- 2016 NBER Chinese Economy (Boston), Royal Economic Society Annual Meeting (London), China Economics Summer Institute (HKUST), Australia National University, CUNEF University, University of Navarra, Trinity College Dublin, National Taiwan University, Academia Sinica, Yale-NUS College, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
- 2015 Northeast Universities Development Consortium (Brown), Spanish Economic Association Meeting

Student Supervision

Yale-NUS College, undergraduate student thesis

- 2016-2017 Shermaine Chia (*Winner of the Economics Capstone Award*)
Manas Punhani
- 2017-2018 Alex Pont Grau (*Winner of the Economics Capstone Award*)
Sharlene Chow
Shermin Chan
- 2018-2019 Dhivesh Vashdev Dadlani (*Winner of the Economics Capstone Award*)
Aditi Kothari (*Winner of the Economics Capstone Award*)
Mildred Liu Mirui
Rim Bettaieb
- 2019-2020 Lucy Kuo
Dylan Leong
Ariyka Nath
- 2020-2021 Momoka Ando (*Winner of the PPE Capstone Award*)
Linder Harrison Isaac
Megha Joshi
Sanat Nanda
- 2021-2022 Prayog Bhattarai (*Winner of the Economics Capstone Award*)
Tan Hong Kai (*Winner of the PPE Capstone Award*)

Mesbaul Islam Anindo

Tejas Pal

2022-2023 Muhammad Bin Khalid (*Winner of the Economics Capstone Award*)

Thiti Thitipankul

2023-2024 Ayesha Syed (*Winner of the Yale-NUS Economics Capstone Award*)