Yujing Huang
PhD Student in Economics
UCLA Anderson School of Management
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February 10, 2026

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to apply to the 2026 NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. I am a third-year PhD student in economics at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. My research lies at the intersection of economics of innovation, labor economics, and economic history, and studies how institutional structures and human capital allocation shape the organization and geography of scientific production.

My work examines how policy-driven reallocations of resources and talent influence innovation capacity and long-run economic mobility. One project studies the long-run effects of WWII surplus property transfers to U.S. universities on research infrastructure and institutional development. A second project analyzes knowledge diffusion through high-skilled migration, focusing on U.S.-trained Chinese scientists in the mid-twentieth century and the role of frontier training in shaping scientific productivity and institutional spillovers. Together, these projects seek to understand how institutional environments shape the formation and persistence of innovative activity.

The Innovation Research Boot Camp would be particularly valuable at this stage of my training. While my coursework spans applied microeconometrics, labor economics, and economic history, innovation is rarely taught as a unified field. Exposure to frameworks on the organization of science, measurement of innovation, and innovation policy would help me more directly connect historically grounded empirical work to frontier debates on innovation-driven growth and inequality. I am especially interested in engaging with scholars working on the economics of science and innovation policy and in situating my research within these broader conversations.

A confidential letter of recommendation will be submitted by **Michela Giorcelli**, who is my supervisor and familiar with my research. I meet the eligibility requirements, having completed more than two years of PhD coursework in economics.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Yujing Huang

Yujing Huang

Last updated: January 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

UCLA Anderson School of Management
Entrepreneurs Hall C501
110 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Phone: +1 (872) 219-7898
Email: yujingh@g.ucla.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, UCLA Anderson School of Management — Expected 2028
M.A. in Computational Social Science (Economics), University of Chicago — 2023
Bachelor of Economics and Finance, University of Hong Kong (First Honors) — 2021

REFERENCES

Paola Giuliano
Professor of Economics
UCLA Anderson School of Management
paola.giuliano@anderson.ucla.edu

Michela Giorcelli
Professor of Economics
Dept. of Economics, UCLA
mgiorcelli@econ.ucla.edu

Nico Voigtländer
Professor of Economics
UCLA Anderson School of Management
nico.v@anderson.ucla.edu

Romain Wacziarg
Professor of Economics
UCLA Anderson School of Management
wacziarg@ucla.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Economic History, Political Economy
Secondary: Public Economics, Labor Economics

WORKING PAPER

Religion and Conflict: Evidence from China, 1860 – 1911
(with *Chicheng Ma* and *Felipe Valencia Caicedo*)
This paper examines the economic origins and impacts of religious conflicts in the context of late Qing China (1860–1911). While the literature has attributed the anti-missionary violence to the cultural clash between Confucianism and Christianity, we show that the missionaries' economic contributions to China through the treaty ports and public goods provision, rather than the strength of Confucianism, significantly attenuated Chinese anti-missionary movements. We then assess the impacts of the anti-missionary episode on China's economic development. We find the conflicts discouraged Western merchants from investing in China, evidenced by fewer modern industrial firms and banks. This negative effect also spilled over Chinese domestic modern growth till 1930. The consequences persisted to the present time with conservatism towards international trade, and consequently, fewer foreign investments in regions with more historical conflicts.

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. What does not kill you makes you happier: the long-term effects of recessions on wellbeing (with *Paola Giuliano*)
2. Building Opportunity: The Long-term Effects of Post-WWII Surplus Property Transfers (with *Jay Tan*)
3. The Return(s) of Superstar Scientists (with *Michela Giorcelli* and *Bo Li*)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Prof. Paola Giuliano, UCLA — 2022 – 2026
Research Assistant for Prof. Richard Hornbeck, University of Chicago — 2021 – 2022
Research Assistant for Prof. Shaoda Wang, University of Chicago — 2021 – 2022
Research Assistant for Prof. Chicheng Ma, University of Hong Kong — 2019 – 2021

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

AEGON-INDUSTRIAL Fund Management Co., Ltd. 2019
Summer Intern, Equity Capital Market Analyst

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Clemence Tricaud and Paola Giuliano, UCLA Fall 2024, 2025
MGMTFT 405 Managerial Economics (MBA), Median rating: Excellent

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Harald Uhlig, University of Chicago Fall 2022
ECON 230 Money and Banking (Undergraduate), Median rating: 5.0/5.0

PRESENTATIONS

Religion and Conflict: Evidence from China, 1860 – 1911
Mountain West Economic History Conference, Utah (2025)
AEA/ASSA 2025 Conference, San Francisco (2025)
ESOC 2024 conference, Los Angeles (2024)
WEAI 2024 Conference, Seattle (2024)
SIOE 2024 Conference, University of Chicago (2024)
AEA/ASSA 2024 Conference, San Antonio (2024)
ASREC 2023 Conference, Harvard University (2023)
UCLA Anderson GEM PhD Seminar (2023)

Building Opportunity: The Long-term Effects of Post-WWII Surplus Property Transfers
UCLA Economic History Seminar (2025)

The Return(s) of Superstar Scientists
UCLA Anderson GEM PhD Seminar (2025)

Kinship Networks and Decisions to Insure
UCLA Anderson GEM PhD Seminar (2024)

PAPER DISCUSSIONS

1. "Prison Norms and Society Beyond Bars", Michael Poyker, Maxim Ananyev, Western Economic Association International (WEAI), 2024

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Awards

Merit-based Social Sciences Scholarship (US$43,430), UChicago 2022
Maroon Scholar Research Award Scholarship (US$30,000), UChicago 2021
Divisional Fund for Applied Research Scholarship (US$10,000), UChicago 2021
Dean's Honors List, HKU 2017 – 2021
URFP Poster Session – Best Presentation Award (HK$500), HKU 2021
University Research Internship Award (HK$10,000), HKU 2020
C.V. Starr Scholarships (HK$2,000), HKU 2019
Reaching Out Award under the HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund (HK$10,000) 2018

Research Grants

UCLA Center for Global Management PhD Global Research Award (US$4,000) 2026
UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate (US$3,500) 2025
UCLA Price Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (US$10,000) 2025
UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy (US$5,000) 2025
Templeton Religion Trust Grants in Religion and Economic Development (US$10,000) 2024

Fellowships

NBER Fellow of the Innovation Information Initiative (i3) (US$1,500) 2026
UCLA Anderson Fellowship 2023 – 2028
Jeff Metcalf Summer Fellowship, Becker Friedman Institute for Economics (US$5,000) 2022
Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URFP), HKU 2020

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing
Journal of the European Economic Association (ad hoc)

Presentations and Seminars (Including Scheduled)
2025: AEA/ASSA meetings 2025 (San Francisco); Mountain West Economic History Conference 2025
2024: AEA/ASSA meetings 2024 (San Antonio); PacDev 2024 (Stanford); SIOE 2024 (Chicago); WEAI 2024 (Seattle)
2023: ASREC Boston and Graduate Student Workshop (Harvard); UChicago Micro Graduate Student Workshop; The New Economic History of China Conference (Northwestern); The 9th International Symposium on Quantitative History (SJTU)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming	Stata, Python, R, MATLAB, Julia, LaTeX
CSS	Machine Learning, Web-scraping, Large-Scale Computing, Neo4j
GIS	QGIS, R, GeoDa
Languages	English (fluent), Mandarin (native)

Others

University of Southern California 2020
Spring Exchange Student, GPA 4.0/4.0

Exeter College, University of Oxford 2018
Summer Visiting Student

University of California, Los Angeles

GRADUATE Student Copy Transcript Report

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This is an **unofficial/student copy** of an academic transcript and therefore does not contain the university seal and Registrar's signature. Students who attempt to alter or tamper with this document will be subject to disciplinary action, including possible dismissal, and prosecution permissible by law.

Student Information

Name: HUANG, YUJING
UCLA ID: 405852610
Date of Birth: 07/04/XXXX
Version: 08/2014 | SAITONE
Generation Date: February 10, 2026 | 02:26:47 PM
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Program of Study

Admit Date: 09/25/2023
GRADUATE DIVISION

Major:
MANAGEMENT

Degrees | Certificates Awarded

None Awarded

Previous Degrees

None Reported

California Residence Status

Nonresident

Fall Quarter 2023

Major:
MANAGEMENT

MATH METHODS-ECON	ECON 200	4.0	0.0	S
THEORY-FIRM&CONSUMR	ECON 201A	4.0	14.8	A-
DYNMICS&GRWTH THRY	ECON 202A	4.0	13.2	B+
TA TRAINING SEMINAR	MGMT 495	4.0	0.0	S
METHDS-ECONOMETRICS	MGMTPHD 201A	4.0	16.0	A
GLOBAL ECON&MANGMNT	MGMTPHD 208A	1.0	0.0	S

	Atm	Psd	Pts	GPA
Term Total	21.0	21.0	44.0	3.667

Winter Quarter 2024

GAME THRY&INFO ECON	ECON 201B	4.0	14.8	A-
BUSINESS CYCLES	ECON 202B	4.0	16.0	A
REGRESSION ANALYSIS	MGMTPHD 201B	4.0	16.0	A+
GLOBAL ECON&MANGMNT	MGMTPHD 208B	1.0	0.0	S

	Atm	Psd	Pts	GPA
Term Total	13.0	13.0	46.8	3.900

Spring Quarter 2024

GAME THRY ASYM INFO	ECON 201C	4.0	13.2	B+
TPCS-MACROECONOMICS	ECON 202C	4.0	13.2	B+
GLOBAL ECON&MANGMNT	MGMTPHD 208C	2.0	0.0	S
POL ECON-ECONMC DEV	MGMTPHD 270	4.0	16.0	A

	Atm	Psd	Pts	GPA
Term Total	14.0	14.0	42.4	3.533

Fall Quarter 2024

ECON HIST-W EUROPE	ECON 241	4.0	16.0	A+
ECONOMIC HISTORY	ECON 248A	4.0	0.0	S
IND ORG&PRC PLC&REG	ECON 271A	4.0	16.0	A
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMNT	ECON 287C	4.0	16.0	A+

	Atm	Psd	Pts	GPA
Term Total	16.0	16.0	48.0	4.000

Winter Quarter 2025

ECON HIST OF THE US	ECON 242	4.0	16.0	A+
ECONOMIC HISTORY	ECON 248B	4.0	0.0	S
TPCS-PUBLIC FINANCE	ECON 253A	4.0	16.0	A
LABOR ECONOMICS II	ECON 261B	4.0	16.0	A
GLOBAL ECON&MANGMNT	MGMTPHD 208B	1.0	0.0	S

	Atm	Psd	Pts	GPA
Term Total	17.0	17.0	48.0	4.000

Spring Quarter 2025

US LABOR MARKETS	ECON 244	4.0	16.0	A
ECONOMIC HISTORY	ECON 248C	4.0	0.0	S
TPCS-PUBLIC FINANCE	ECON 253B	4.0	16.0	A+
DEVELOPMENT ECONMCS	ECON 262D	4.0	16.0	A
GLOBAL ECON&MANGMNT	MGMTPHD 208C	2.0	0.0	S

	Atm	Psd	Pts	GPA
Term Total	18.0	18.0	48.0	4.000

Fall Quarter 2025

PHD RES SEMINAR	ECON 209A	4.0	0.0	S
PREP-QUAL EXAMINATN	MGMT 597	12.0	0.0	S
GLOBAL ECON&MANGMNT	MGMTPHD 208A	1.0	0.0	NR

	Atm	Psd	Pts	GPA
Term Total	16.0	16.0	0.0	0.000

Winter Quarter 2026

*** Courses In Progress ***

PHD RES SEMINAR	ECON 209B	4.0
PREP-QUAL EXAMINATN	MGMT 597	12.0
GLOBAL ECON&MANGMNT	MGMTPHD 208B	1.0

	Atm	Psd	Pts	GPA
Term Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.000

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GRADUATE Totals

	Atm	Psd	Pts	GPA
Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Total	43.0	43.0	N/a	N/a
Graded Total	72.0	72.0	N/a	N/a
Cumulative Total	115.0	115.0	277.2	3.850

Total Completed Units 115.0

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Research Statement

Yujing Huang

My research studies how institutions shape the organization of science and the accumulation of innovation capacity. I focus on settings where policy-induced reallocations of infrastructure or scientific talent generate plausibly exogenous variation, allowing causal analysis of how research ecosystems evolve and how innovation advantages persist across regions and organizations. Across projects, I combine large-scale archival data construction, modern bibliometric sources, and applied microeconometric designs to study the long-run dynamics of scientific production.

My primary project (joint with Jay Tan) examines the long-run effects of WWII surplus property transfers to U.S. universities on institutional expansion, research activity, and intergenerational mobility. Under the Surplus Property Act, the federal government redistributed land, buildings, and equipment to universities, with allocation decisions largely constrained by proximity and logistical considerations. This setting provides quasi-experimental variation in higher-education infrastructure. We assemble new archival data on these transfers and link them to university growth, scientific output, and individual outcomes. The project contributes to the economics of innovation by providing evidence on how supply-side shocks to institutional inputs shape the spatial organization of research and the persistence of innovative advantages.

A second line of research (joint with Michela Giorcelli and Bo Li) studies international knowledge diffusion through high-skilled migration. Using newly digitized training records and bibliometric data, we analyze U.S.-trained Chinese scientists in the mid-twentieth century, comparing those who returned to China with those who remained abroad and estimating how return migration affected China's scientific development. This project addresses core questions in the economics of science regarding the transmission of tacit knowledge, the allocation of scientific labor, and the long-run innovation consequences of migration constraints.

Looking forward, my broader research agenda connects historical policy shocks to contemporary innovation dynamics. I aim to study how institutional investments, mobility of scientific talent, and organizational design jointly shape the evolution of research ecosystems and the distribution of innovative capacity. By integrating historically grounded identification strategies with modern innovation frameworks, my work seeks to bridge economic history and the economics of science, contributing new evidence on how innovation systems emerge, scale, and persist over time.

The NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp would be particularly valuable for advancing this agenda. While my training spans economic history, labor economics, and applied microeconometrics, innovation is rarely taught as a unified field. The boot camp's emphasis on the organization of science, measurement of innovation, and innovation policy would sharpen both the conceptual framing and empirical design of my work, and help position my research within frontier debates on innovation-driven growth and inequality.