Chun Chee Kok

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Academic Position
Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium — 2025 – present
Postdoctoral Researcher

Education
Monash University, Australia — 2025
Ph.D. in Economics
Advisors: Professor Sascha O. Becker & Professor Paul Raschky
Visiting student: King's College London & University of Warwick

Monash University Malaysia — 2019
B.Bus.Com. (Hons) in Applied Economics

Fields
Political Economy of Development, Economic History

Publication
Gender and Religion: A Survey with Sascha O. Becker and Jeanet Bentzen. *Journal of Demographic Economics*, forthcoming.

Job Market Paper
Irreplaceable Middlemen? Evidence from the Expulsion of Indians from Uganda

Working Papers
The Political Economy of Intergroup Contact: Evidence from Malaysia
with Gedeon J. Lim, Danial Shariat, Abu Siddique, and Shunsuke Tsuda

The Visibility Premium: Article Order and Citations (*R&R at Economic Inquiry*)
with ⓡ Francesco Lippi and ⓡ Sascha O. Becker

Work in Progress
Pray Together, Prosper Together? Experimental Evidence on Church Networks in Ghana
with Anthony Amoah, Prachi Jain, Amma Panin

Hindu Folklore and Cultural Norms
with Joseph Gomes, Karine Moukaddem, and Amma Panin

Confucian Elites and Peasant Rebellions
with Cheongyeon Won

Interethnic Proximity and Competition in Southeast Asia
with Gedeon J. Lim, Abu Siddique, and Shunsuke Tsuda

Language, Nation-building, and Economic Development: Evidence from Indonesia
with Arya Gaduh and Gedeon J. Lim

Research Grants & Awards
Hong Kong Research Grants Council, General Research Fund — 2023–2026
with Arya Gaduh and Gedeon J. Lim

University of Hong Kong Faculty Incentive — 2023
with Arya Gaduh and Gedeon J. Lim

Teaching
UCLouvain
Lecturer, Globalization (Undergraduate), UCLouvain — 2026

Monash University
TA, Introductory Macroeconomics (Undergraduate) — 2025
TA, Environmental Economics (Undergraduate) — 2025
Guest Lecturer, Economic Development (Honours/Masters) — 2023
TA, Political Economy: Institutions, Order, and Evidence (Undergraduate) — 2023
TA, Game Theory and Strategic Thinking (Undergraduate) — 2022

Field Experience
Malaysia and Ghana

Conference & Workshop Presentations

2026: In Time and Space Workshop (York); ERINN Workshop (Namur); Building for the Future: The Economics of Infrastructure and Sustainable Development (Louvain-la-Neuve); 1st Annual Minority in Economics Mentoring Workshop (Bristol); Ifo Dresden Workshop on Regional Economics (Dresden); UCLouvain Internal Economics Seminar (Louvain-la-Neuve); 17th Australasian Public Choice Conference (Sydney)*; Annual Conference of the Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science (Sydney)*; 13th Annual Natural Experiments Workshop (Melbourne)*; AASLE (Beijing)*

2025: Australasian Development Economics Workshop (Sydney); Ifo Institute (Munich; virtual); LEAP Seminar (Stellenbosch; virtual); UCLouvain Internal Economics Seminar (Louvain-la-Neuve)

2024: 4th Early Career Workshop in Quantitative Political Economy (London)

2023: Australasian Public Choice Conference (Perth); Asia Pacific Economic and Business History Conference (Sydney); Warwick CAGE Summer School (Warwick)

Refereeing

The Economic Journal (×2), *Australian Economic History Review*, *Empirica* (×2), *Journal of Economics, Theology and Religion*

Service

Co-organiser, Louvain–Namur Political/Development/Culture Reading Group — 2025 – present
UCLouvain & University of Namur

Coordinator, First-Year PhD Students' Economic Research Project — 2023 – 2024
Department of Economics, Monash University

Student Representative — 2023 – 2024
Department of Economics, Monash University

Co-organiser, PhD Biweekly Meetings — 2023
Department of Economics, Monash University

Policy & Professional Experience

Research Assistant, Monash University — 2024–2025

Short-term Consultant, World Bank Group, Malaysia — 2021–2022

Pre-doctoral Research Assistant, INSEAD, Singapore — 2019–2020

Research Intern, Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia — 2019

Casual Research Assistant, Monash University Malaysia — 2019

Affiliations

Member, Asian & Australasian Society of Labour Economics

Member, European Economic Association

Languages

English, Mandarin Chinese, Malay, Hokkien, Cantonese

Citizenship

Malaysian

References

Professor Sascha O. Becker
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University of Warwick & Monash University
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Professor Paul Raschky
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Abstracts

Irreplaceable Middlemen? Evidence from the Expulsion of Indians from Uganda

Abstract. Does the ethnic majority gain from the expulsion of a middleman minority? Such policies are justified by the economic gains they promise the majority, yet those gains are rarely examined. I leverage the 1972 expulsion of Indians from Uganda, which removed a minority that made up less than one percent of the population but dominated crop buying, processing, and wholesale trade. For identification, I combine newly digitized census and road-network data with quasi-random variation from delays in a road-upgrading program. Four decades later, households in localities more exposed to the loss of Indian middlemen obtain less crop value from their farmland: a one-standard-deviation increase in exposure lowers crop value by 17 percent, or one-sixth of the median household's annual crop value. The effects likely operate through disintermediation: the decline is largest for the most marketed crops, which depend most on intermediation, and more-exposed households are less likely to sell to traders and sell a smaller share of their sales through traders. This pattern is consistent with the destruction of the intermediation the minority provided rather than its transfer to the majority. Altogether, the results suggest that the expulsion left the majority economically worse off in the long run.

The Political Economy of Intergroup Contact: Evidence from Malaysia (with Gedeon J. Lim, Danial Shariat, Abu Siddique, and Shunsuke Tsuda)

Abstract. Are there particular social structures that allow ethnic diversity to coexist with political stability and economic prosperity? This paper examines the effects of interethnic proximity on political identity and economic development. We exploit fine-grained spatial variation from a British colonial resettlement policy in Malaysia (1948-1951), which forcibly relocated over half a million ethnic minority Chinese into segregated "Chinese New Villages" (CNVs). We find that ethnic majority Malays residing in polling districts closer to CNVs exhibit lower contemporary electoral support for the ethnonationalist coalition, potentially reflecting a moderation of ethnonationalistic political identity. We also observe moderately positive impacts on contemporary economic prosperity. Positive political effects are stronger in regions with initial, historical interethnic complementarities—even in the absence of persistent economic prosperity. Novel primary survey data reveal that Malays living in closer proximity to CNVs report greater contact with Chinese, higher interethnic trust, and weaker zero-sum beliefs. Suggestively, these effects appear to be reversed in areas with greater interethnic competition. Throughout, broader impacts on social integration remain muted. Our findings highlight the promise and pitfalls of intergroup contact in jointly underpinning political moderation and economic development.

The Visibility Premium: Article Order and Citations (*R&R at Economic Inquiry*) (with ⓡ Francesco Lippi and ⓡ Sascha O. Becker)

Abstract. We exploit a natural experiment to identify the causal effect of the order with which articles appear within a journal issue on citations. Using data on 1,456 articles published in the *Economic Journal* between 2010 and 2024, we find that articles appearing earlier in an issue receive substantially more citations throughout the sample period. Articles ranked 7–9 receive 17% fewer two-year citations than those ranked 1–3, with effects growing to 28% over five years. Between December 2015 and February 2025, the journal switched from chronological to alphabetical ordering, allowing us to disentangle rank (visibility) effects from alphabetical (name) effects. Analysis of views and downloads confirms a visibility mechanism, with important implications for editorial practices.