

Ergin Bayrak

Associate Professor (Teaching) | Director of Undergraduate Development and Mentoring
Department of Economics | University of Southern California

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Southern California	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Associate Professor (Teaching), Department of Economics</i>	<i>2021–Present</i>
<i>Director of Undergraduate Development and Mentoring</i>	<i>2024–Present</i>
<i>Assistant Professor (Teaching), Department of Economics</i>	<i>2017–2021</i>
<i>Lecturer, Department of Economics</i>	<i>2011–2017</i>
<i>Lecturer, Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism</i>	<i>2010–2011</i>
<i>Scholar in Residence, Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism</i>	<i>2009–2010</i>

EDUCATION

University of Southern California	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Ph.D. in Economics</i>	<i>2009</i>
University of Southern California	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>M.A. in Economics</i>	<i>2005</i>

TEACHING PORTFOLIO

Undergraduate Courses

ECON 203	Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 303	Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
COMM 207	Economic Thinking for Communication and Journalism
COMM 208	Media Economics: Perspectives on Communication Industries
COMM 499	(Special Topics) Economic Principles for Communication and Journalism
COMM 499	(Special Topics) Business of Media in the Information Economy

Graduate Courses

ECON 500	Microeconomic Analysis and Policy
ECON 593	Practicum in Teaching the Liberal Arts (Ph.D.)
ECON 599	(Special Topics) Antitrust Economics and Competition Policy
ECON 599	(Special Topics) Economics of Innovation
CMGT 599	(Special Topics) Innovation and the Information Economy

TEXTBOOK AND DIGITAL LEARNING PROJECTS

Essential Mathematics for Economists (with Yilmaz Kocer). A three-volume open-access textbook series addressing uneven mathematical preparation at successive stages of economics education, from entry into the undergraduate major through preparation for graduate study. Volume I, *The Freshman Foundation*, is complete. The linear algebra and real analysis parts of Volume III, *The Graduate School Bridge*, are also complete, with the optimization part in progress. Volume II, *The Undergraduate Toolkit*, is in development.

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory. A textbook for intermediate microeconomics integrating formal modeling and mathematical derivation with economic intuition, graphical analysis, and applied policy examples. Four chapters covering market fundamentals, elasticities, and market interventions have been drafted; chapters on consumer theory, producer theory, and market failures are in progress.

Interactive Microeconomics Tools. A collection of 15 browser-based learning tools spanning consumer theory, producer theory, market structure, strategic interaction, and externalities. Adjustable parameters dynamically update equations and graphs, linking formal models with visual analysis and economic intuition.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY, AND PROFESSION

Director of Undergraduate Development and Mentoring	<i>2024–Present</i>
Faculty Advisor for USC Economics Association	
Faculty Advisor for Omicron Delta Epsilon Economics Honor Society	
Faculty Advisor for USC Economics Review	
Coordinator for Easterlin Fellows Program	
Organizer for CURIE: Celebration of Undergraduate Research in Economics	
Recruited, trained, and supervised four Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows	
USC Economics Curriculum Committee	<i>2024–Present</i>
Mentor, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics	<i>2024–Present</i>
USC Mentoring Award Selection Committee	<i>2026</i>
USC Student Recognition Awards Committee	<i>2025</i>
USC Economics RTPC Promotion Committee	<i>2023</i>
USC Economics Teaching Area Coordinator – Microeconomics	<i>2020–2021</i>
USC Economics Master’s Admissions Committee	<i>2017–2023</i>
USC Economics Faculty Merit Review Committee	<i>2017–2018</i>
USC Economics Consultative Committee for Chair Search	<i>2015–2016</i>
Referee, <i>International Journal of Communication</i>	<i>2012–2014</i>
Referee, <i>Journal of Media Economics</i>	<i>2009–2012</i>
USC Annenberg Media, Economics and Entrepreneurship (M2E) Committee	<i>2009–2011</i>

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Valuing Time-Intensive Goods: An Application to Wireless and Wired Internet. (2012) *Internet Econometrics*. Serge Allegrezza and Anne Dubrocard, Eds. Applied Econometrics Association Series, Palgrave Macmillan.

Assessment of the Regional Economic Impacts of Catastrophic Events: CGE Analysis of Resource Loss and Behavioral Effects of a RDD Attack Scenario. (2012) *Risk Analysis* 32(4):583–600 (with J. Giesecke, W. Burns, A. Barrett, A. Rose, P. Slovic, and M. Suher).

The Economics of Cloud Computing. (2011) *Korean Economic Review* 27(2), Winter 2011, 203–230 (with John Conley and Simon Wilkie).

Welfare Effects of Spectrum Management Regimes. (2008) *New Frontiers in Dynamic Spectrum Access Networks 3rd IEEE Symposium*, 1–11.

Liberalization, TFP and Growth: Argentina and Turkey since the 1970s. (2008) *Empirical Models in Social Sciences Proceedings of IEU ISC*, 31–47.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

USC Mentoring Award for Faculty Mentoring Undergraduate Students	2025
Dornsife Faculty Development Award	2023, 2025, 2026
Google Policy Fellowship	2009
Research Associate, Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Threats and Emergencies	2008–2011
Graduate Fellow, Center for Communication Law and Policy	2006–2009
National Science Foundation DySPAN Symposium Travel Grant	2008
College Merit Fellowship, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, USC	2003, 2007
Institute for Economic Policy Research Grant (with C. Betts and S. Pevnitskaya)	2007
USC Center for International Studies Grant (with C. Betts)	2005
Best Empirical Paper Award, USC Department of Economics	2005
Istanbul Bilgi University Fellowship	1999–2003
Republic of Turkey, Ministry of National Education Fellowship	1999–2003

STUDENT MENTORING AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows Supervised and Subsequent Positions

Siyu Chen	2025	Nankai University, Postdoctoral Fellow
Andres Perez	2025	UCSD School of Global Policy and Strategy, Postdoctoral Scholar
Xin Jiang	2024	UC Berkeley, Lecturer
Diego Rodriguez	2024	Université du Québec à Montréal, Assistant Professor

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Supervision

Sydney Hurter	2026	Determinants of TikTok Shop Purchasing Behavior: Social Media Engagement and Influence in the Beauty Industry
Shotaro Seto	2025	How Primary Income Reinvestment Sustains Japan's Capital Flow Stability (co-advised with Saori Katada)
Jake Roberts	2013	China's Demographic Crunch: The One-Child Policy's Thirty-Year Tenure and Diminished Growth Prospects in the Coming Century
Gage Allard	2012	The Effects of Financial Media on Irrational Investor Behavior: A Quantitative Study on Short-Term Stock Market Inefficiency Evidenced by <i>Mad Money</i>

Undergraduate Directed Research Supervision

Alexander Provda	2019	The Olympic Effect
Jonathas Psaltis	2019	Sports Gambling in the US Economy
Alexandra Miles	2019	Behind the Scenes of Beauty Purchases
Michelle Lee	2019	Water Conservation in Los Angeles
Steph Domond	2018	How Campaign Contributions Are a Smart Investment for the Wealthy Few
Karl Treziok	2018	Strategic Targeting of Free Trade
Nicholas Balas	2018	The Effects of the Entrance and Disruption of the Green Automobile
Leslie Robertshaw	2018	The Amazon Effect: Amazon's Non-Zero-Sum Game
Marina Strader	2017	Economic Impact of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity
Michael Lichtman	2017	A (Hard) Fork in the Road: The Beginning and Aftermath of Bitcoin's Civil War
Perry Wong	2017	A Survey of Evidence in Favor and Against the Efficient Market Hypothesis
Akshay Sakaria	2017	The True Value of College Athletes
Geordy Leimang	2016	Environmental Problems in China and Potential Solutions
Sara Henry	2016	Let It Rain: The Influence of Rainfall on Future Educational Attainment
Kevin Kim	2016	Can Los Angeles Survive a \$15 Wage Hike?
Baris Balat	2015	Energy Markets in Turkey and Eastern Europe

Graduate Directed Research Supervision

William Ji	2023	Sci-Fi Film and Its Effect on the Chinese Stock Market: Through <i>The Wandering Earth</i> Series
Soha Taskaongar	2019	Determinant of Resale Price Premium: The Supreme Phenomenon
Justin Dang	2017	Crime and Politics: The Effects of Party Affiliation on Crime
Mazen Zeineddine	2017	Crime and Politics: The Effects of Party Affiliation on Crime
Joshua Scott	2016	State of the Art in High-Frequency Dynamic Pricing of Hotel Rooms
Casey Rudnick	2013	The Business of Sports
Ola Abu-Zekry	2013	The Role of the Social Media in the Egyptian Revolution and Its Effects on the Telecom Industry

Selected Recent Placements of Students Recommended

Gabriel Solis	2025	MIT Blueprint Labs
Aries Wang	2025	MIT Lincoln Lab
Xintong Chen	2025	University of Cincinnati Ph.D.
Beier Chen	2025	USC Ph.D.
Xuefan Zhuang	2024	Rutgers University Ph.D.
Yehao Gu	2023	Ohio State University Ph.D.
Yingshan Qi	2023	University of Cambridge MPhil
Siqi Su	2022	USC Ph.D.
Yixuan Li	2022	Ohio State University Ph.D.
Andrew Sharng	2021	University of Chicago Ph.D.
Jirong He	2021	USC Ph.D.
Yun Fan	2021	University of Georgia Ph.D.
Malek Owain	2020	American University Ph.D.
Muneer Alsafi	2020	Rutgers University Ph.D.
Talal Alkhanfar	2020	GWU Ph.D.
Joshua Scott	2020	LSU Ph.D.
Sameer Nair-Desai	2020	University of Michigan Ph.D.