

Christopher R. Esposito

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Strategy Area

UCLA Anderson School of Management

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Academic Appointments

- 2023–Present **Osborne Postdoctoral Fellow**
Price Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Strategy Area
UCLA Anderson School of Management
- 2021–2023 **Mansueto Postdoctoral Fellow**
Department of Sociology and Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation
University of Chicago

Education

- 2021 **Ph.D., Geography**
University of California, Los Angeles
Dissertation: *The Evolution of Technological Knowledge Across Space and Time*
- 2014 **B.A., Economics & Geography**
Colgate University

Working Papers

- [Global Science Sustains U.S. Innovation](#)
- [The Speed of Knowledge and the Rise of Team-Based Invention](#) (with F. van der Wouden)
- [Who Drives Technology Forward? Age and Spillovers in Inventor Networks](#)
- The Commercialization Pipeline (with Olav Sorenson)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- **Esposito, C.***, Wu, R.*, & Evans, J. 2025. Shifting power asymmetries in scientific teams reveal China's rising leadership in global science. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. (*Co-first authors*)
- **Esposito, C.**, Leamer, E., & Nickelsburg, J. 2024. Who paid Los Angeles' minimum wage? A side-by-side minimum wage experiment in Los Angeles County. *Journal of Human Resources*. Forthcoming
- **Esposito, C.** 2023. The geography of breakthrough invention in the United States over the 20th century. *Research Policy*
- **Esposito, C.** 2023. Cycles of regional innovative growth. *Journal of Economic Geography*
- **Esposito, C.** & Rigby, D. 2019. Buzz and pipelines: The costs and benefits of local and non-local interaction. *Journal of Economic Geography*
- Meyer, W. & **Esposito, C.** 2014. Burgess and Hoyt in L.A.: Testing the Chicago models in the automobile-age American city. *Urban Geography*
- Meyer, W. & **Esposito, C.** 2014. Residential patterns in the pre-automobile American city. *Geographical Review*

Selected Research in Progress

- Identifying Dependencies in Chinese Invention (with Ziyu Chen and Olav Sorenson)
- Assembling Order: Tracing the Origins of Scientific Fields (with Carina Kane and James Evans)
- Diverging Search Paths in Science and Technology
- Are States the Laboratories of Democracy? (with Zander Furnas)

Teaching Experience

- Guest Lecturer, MBA Organizations and Management — Chicago Booth (2023)
- Regional Economics and Development (Graduate Public Policy), UCLA (2019–2021)
- Introduction to GIS, UCLA (2019–2020)
- People and Earth's Ecosystems, UCLA (2019–2021)

Seminars and Select Conferences

- **2026:** Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competitiveness; Geography of Innovation Budapest; Georgia Tech Carter School of Public Policy; Harvard Kennedy School of Government Growth Lab
- **2025:** NBER Summer Institute Science of Science Funding; DRUID Toronto; Columbia Business School Management, Analytics, and Data Conference (MAD); Entrepreneurship & Innovation Policy (EIP); Georgia Tech Scheller College of Business REER; HEC Montreal International Business
- **2024:** International Conference on the Science of Science & Innovation (ICSSI) Washington DC; Berkeley Haas Entrepreneurship and Innovation Brown-Bag; AOM Chicago
- **2023:** Harvard Kennedy School of Government Growth Lab; ICSSI Northwestern University; AOM Boston; University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs Innovation Policy Lab
- **2022:** Stanford GSB Macro Organizational Behavior; Columbia Business School Department of Management; Maryland Smith School of Business Management & Organization; Georgia Tech School of Public Policy; Kellogg School of Management Center for Science-of-Science and Innovation; ICSSI Washington DC; Entrepreneurship & Innovation Policy Seminar Series (EIP); AOM Seattle; Research Policy Early Career Workshop
- **2021:** UCLA Anderson School of Management Strategy Unit; University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs; DRUID Copenhagen
- **2020 and earlier:** Urban Economics Association Philadelphia; Global Conference in Economic Geography Cologne; Geography of Innovation Barcelona & Toulouse; Harvard Kennedy School Growth Lab

Journal Referee Service

- Organization Science; European Economic Review; Nature Human Behaviour; Research Policy; Journal of Economic Geography; PLOS One; Industry and Innovation; Journal of Regional Science; Regional Studies

Professional Associations

- Academy of Management
- Association of American Geographers

Professional Service

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| 2023–Present | Organizer, Quarterly Research Conference Series
UCLA Price Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation |
| 2023 | Director of Seminars
University of Chicago Knowledge Lab |

Awards and Honors

- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2015–2020)
- UCLA Geography Graduate Student Publication Award
- IIASA Fellowship — National Academy of Sciences
- UCLA Graduate Research Fellowship
- Colgate University Shannon McCune Award for Excellence in Geography

Selected Media Coverage

- [China Closing In on US as Leader in Global Science, Study Shows](#) — Bloomberg
Related to: “Shifting power asymmetries in scientific teams reveal China’s rising leadership in global science” (PNAS)
- [Chinese Scientists Increasingly Lead Joint Projects with the UK, US, and Europe](#) — Nature
Related to: “Shifting power asymmetries in scientific teams reveal China’s rising leadership in global science” (PNAS)
- [A Case Against Experience as a Central Driver of Innovation](#) — UCLA Anderson Review
Related to: “Who Drives Technology Forward? Age and Spillovers in Inventor Networks” (Working paper)
- [A \\$15 Minimum Wage May Have Partially Arrived — But Who Pays?](#) — UCLA Anderson Review
Related to: “Who paid Los Angeles’ minimum wage? A side-by-side minimum wage experiment in Los Angeles County” (Journal of Human Resources)

Technical Skills

R, Python, Stata, Linux/Bash, ArcMap, QGIS

References

Prof. Olav Sorenson	olav.sorenson@anderson.ucla.edu
Prof. James Evans	jevans@uchicago.edu
Prof. David Rigby	rigby@geog.ucla.edu
Prof. Jacob Foster	foster@soc.ucla.edu
Prof. Michael Storper	storper@ucla.edu