

Soohyung (Soo) Lee

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Current Positions and Employment History

March 2016 - present, Associate Professor, Economics, Sogang University, South Korea

June 2017 - July 2017, Visiting Research Fellow, Waseda University (Japan)

Fall 2017 - present, Consultant, Inter-American Development Bank (Washington DC)

Consulting projects: improving the quality of education in Latin America

April 2017 - present, Research Fellow, Global Labor Organization

August 2016 - present, Consultant, World Bank (Washington DC)

Consulting projects: improving matching algorithms for foreign guest labors in South Korea

September 2015 - present, Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA, Germany)

February 2015 - October 2015, Consultant, Asian Development Bank (Philippines)

Consulting projects on human capital and labor market outcomes in Asia

Winter 2013, Visiting Professor, Hitotsubashi University (Japan)

September 2011 - August 2012, Research Fellow, Negotiation, Organizations & Markets Unit, Harvard

Business School, sponsored by Alvin E. Roth (winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Economics)

August 2008 - present, Faculty Affiliate, Maryland Population Research Center

August 2008 - February 2016, Assistant Professor, Economics, University of Maryland (College Park)

Personal leave of absence: September 2012- August 2013

Summer 2005, Summer Intern, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC)

1999 - 2002, Deputy Director, International Finance Bureau, Ministry of Finance, South Korea (Second best score in Finance and Economics of the 42nd Civil Servant Qualification Exam)

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Stanford University. 2008

Thesis Title: Essays on Household Formation and Income Inequality

Thesis committee: Peter Klenow(Chair), Luigi Pistaferri(Co-chair), John Pencavel, Michèle Tertilt

M.A. in Economics, Stanford University. 2006

B.A. in Economics, Seoul National University. 1998 (Summa Cum Laude)

Research Interests

Applied Econometrics specialized in Labor, Public, Development, and Market Design

Research Papers

Publications

College Major and Female Labor Supply (with Jihye Kam), forthcoming at "*Strategic, Policy and Social Innovation for a Post-Industrial Korea*," edited by Joon Nak Choi, Yong Suk Lee, and Gi-Wook Shin, Routledge, Ch.6

Efficient Supply of Human Capital: Role of College Major (with Sungjin Cho and Jihye Kam), *Singapore Economic Review*, 2018, 63(1), 1-25 (lead article)

Impact of Ordinal Rank on Career Choice (with Seulgi Lim), *Korean Journal of Labour Economics*, 2017, 40(2), 1-29 (lead article)

Did the Great Recession Affect Sex Ratios at Birth for Groups with a Son Preference? , (with Chiara Orsini), *Economics Letters*, 2017, 154, 48-50

Brides for Sale: Cross-Border Marriages and Female Immigration (with Daiji Kawaguchi), *Economic Inquiry*, 2017, 55(2), 633-654 (lead article)

Effect of Online Dating on Assortative Mating: Evidence from South Korea, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 2016, 31(6), 1120-1139

Carrot and Stick? : Impact of a Low-Stakes School Accountability Program on Student Achievement (with Seokjin Woo and Kyunghee Kim), *Economics Letters*, 2015, 137, 195-199

Propose with a Rose? Signaling in Internet Dating Markets (with Muriel Niederle), *Experimental Economics*, 2015, 18(4), 731-755

Beauty Pays but Does Investment in Beauty?, *IZA World of Labor*, October 2015

Bonus Compensation and Productivity: Evidence from Indian Manufacturing Plant-Level Data (with Natalie Chun), *Journal of Productivity Analysis*, February 2015, 43(1), 47-58

Do Single-Sex Schools Make Girls More Competitive? (with Muriel Niederle and Namwook Kang), *Economics Letters*, September 2014, 124(3), 474-477

All for One? Family Size and Children's Educational Distribution Under Credit Constraints (with Jeanne Lafortune), *American Economic Review, P&P*, May 2014, 104(5), 365-369

Overeducation in the Korean Labor Market : Evidence from Young Workers (with Sungjin Cho) *Journal of Economic Research*, May 2014, 19-41

Multiple Testing and Heterogeneous Treatment Effects: Re-evaluating the Effect of Progresa on School Enrollment (with Azeem Shaikh), *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, June/July 2014, 29(4), 612-626

Can the Job Market for Economists be Improved? (with Fedor Iskhakov, Terence Johnson, David McArthur, John Rust, and Joel Watson), *Handbook of Market Design*, edited by Zvika Neeman, Alvin Roth, and Nir Vulkan, Oxford Press, July 2013, ISBN-13: 978-0199570515

Education's Role in China's Structural Transformation (with Benjamin Malin), *Journal of Development Economics*, March 2013, 148-166

Plastic Surgery: Investment in Human Capital or Consumption? (with Keunkwan Ryu), *Journal of Human Capital*, September 2012, 224-250

Self-Control and Provision of Education Subsidies, *Journal of Economic Research*, May 2012, 61-76

Working Papers

Impact of the Clean Air Act on Air Pollution and Infant Health: Evidence from South Korea (with Minhyuk Nam and Heesun Yoo)

Does Collaboration Improve Female Representation in Academic Fields? (with Ben Malin)

Endogenous Market Formation: Theory and Evidence from the Student-College Matching in Chile (with Ricardo Espinoza and Hector Lopez)

All or Nothing? The Impact of Gender Composition on Effort and Academic Achievement (with Lesley Turner, Seokjin Woo, and Kyunghee Kim), NBER working paper No. 20722, R&R

Impact of an Economic Crisis on Fertility and Birth Outcomes (with Chiara Orsini), R&R

College Admissions as Non-Price Competition: The Case of South Korea (with Christopher Avery and Alvin E. Roth), NBER working paper No. 20774

Awards, Fellowship, and Grants

2017 Dasan Young Economist Award, *Hankyung* (the Korea Economic Daily).

2017 Korean Research Foundation Grant, Principal Investigator, Amount: US\$ 51,000.

2016 Teaching Award, Department of Economics, Sogang University

2016 "Prominent Korean Economist under age 50," nominated by *ChosunBiz*

2016 Young Economist Award, the Korea-America Economic Association (KAEA)

2014 Dean's Research Initiative, University of Maryland, Principal Investigator, Amount: US\$ 10,200.

2013 Korean Research Foundation (SSK Grant), Co-Principal Investigator, Amount: US\$ 200,000.

2008 Landau Best Working paper Prize, SIEPR, Stanford University

2007 - 2008 B.F. Haley and E.S. Shaw Fellowship, SIEPR, Stanford University

2006 Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship, Stanford University

2006 Taube Fellowship, SIEPR, Stanford University
2002 - 2005 Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Kwanjeong Educational Foundation
1998 Award for Academic Excellence, Seoul National University
1998 President Award, Alumni Association of Economics and Business, Seoul National University
1995 - 1998 Department Fellowship, Seoul National University

Presentations

2017 - 2018 (including scheduled) ASSA(Philadelphia), GRIPS (Tokyo), National University of Singapore, Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics conference (Canberra)

2016 - 2017 KAEA-KEA Joint Conference, Waseda University, University of Tokyo, Asian Econometric Society Meeting (Hong Kong), Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, MATCH 2017 (Microsoft Research, Boston), International Association Meeting (Sapporo), Japanese Women Economists Network Meeting (J-WEN, Sapporo), National University of Singapore, Yonsei University, Seoul National University (GSPA)

2015 - 2016 ASSA (San Francisco), Southern Economic Association Meeting (New Orleans), ITAM (Mexico City), Bank of Mexico (Mexico City), University of Maryland - Baltimore County, Tulane University, SUNY Buffalo, Inter-American Development Bank (DC), Korea Economic Society (DC), World Bank workshop on Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (DC), Stanford University (Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center), Korea University, Korean Applied Econometrics Society Meeting (Busan), Seoul National University (GSIS), Korean Labor Economic Association Meeting (Seoul)

2014 - 2015 Society of Labor Economists Meeting (Montreal), University of Montreal, IZA/RIETI Workshop on Changing Demographics and the Labor Market (Tokyo), KAEA/KIPF conference (Sejong)

2013 - 2014 ASSA (Philadelphia), Annual Conference of Asian Studies (Philadelphia), Seoul National University, Myungji University, Ewha University, KDI policy school, National University of Singapore, Western Economic Association Meeting (Denver), KDI-KAEA Conference on Job Creation and Labor Market Policies

2012 - 2013 ASSA (San Diego), City University of New York, "Migration: Global Development, New Frontiers" (UCL), University of Tokyo, GRIPS (Tokyo), Asian Conference on Applied Micro and Econometrics (Seoul), Kyunghee University, CAU ERIC Conference (Seoul), Hankyung Global Financial Conference (Seoul, discussant), Sogang University

2011 - 2012 ASSA (Chicago), Stanford Institute of Theoretical Economics, George Mason University, Claremont McKenna College, University of South California, Southern Economic Association Meeting (Washington DC), Suffolk University, Sungkyunkwan University, Hanyang University, KAEA-KEA conference (Seoul), NBER Japan Conference (Tokyo), Cowles Foundation Summer Conference (Yale)

2010 - 2011 UC-Irvine, NBER Market Design (Boston), Maryland Population Research Center, University of Tokyo, Hitotsubashi University, PAA- Economic Demography Workshop (Washington DC), Sogang University, The Osaka Economic Workshop (Tokyo), Society of Labor Economists (Vancouver),

The 2011 Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (Seoul), Workshop on Empirical Analysis of Family Economics (Denmark), Korea University, University of Maryland

2009 - 2010 ASSA (Atlanta), New York University, Rand Corporation, George Washington University, World Bank, Aarhus, Free University of Berlin, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Society of Economics Dynamics (Montreal), Annual Meeting of Population Association of America (discussant, Dallas), New Directions in Applied Microeconomics (Florence), Seoul Summer Economics Conference, International Symposium on Econometric Theory in Honor of Takeshi Amemiya's Contribution to Econometrics (Shanghai), Econometric Society World Congress (Shanghai)

2008 - 2009 MIT, New York Fed, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, George Washington University, Florida International University, Seoul National University, Yonsei University, University of Tokyo, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Bocconi, Seoul Summer Economics Conference, American Economic Association (San Francisco), Society of Labor Economists (Boston), Society of Economic Dynamics Meeting (Boston), IZA Trans-Atlantic Meeting (Ammersee, Germany)

2007 - 2008 Cornell, Harvard Business School, Penn State University, Rand Corporation, University of Maryland, University of Minnesota, National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, Korea Economic Research Institute, Peking University, Tsinghua University, Korea University

Teaching

Principles of Economics

- Undergraduate, Sogang University: Spring 2016, Spring 2017

Development Economics

- Undergraduate, Sogang University: Spring 2016, Spring 2017

Applied Econometrics

- Undergraduate, Sogang University: Fall 2016

- Graduate, University of Maryland: Spring 2014

- Undergraduate & Graduate, Hitotsubashi University: Winter 2012/2013

Labor Economics

- Graduate, Sogang University: Fall 2016, Fall 2017

- Graduate, University of Maryland: Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2015

- Undergraduate, University of Maryland: Spring 2009, Fall 2010, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015

Media Coverage and Popular Writings

Monthly contributions to *Joongang Sunday*: April - October, 2017

- The era of Big Data and public policies, September 3, 2017, [link](#)

- Low fertility rates, July 30, 2017, [link](#)

- "Blind review" in recruiting, June 25, 2017, [link](#)

- Labor market rigidity, May 21, 2017, [link](#)

- Evidence-based policy, April 15, 2017, [link](#)
- “Did the Great Recession Affect Sex Ratios at Birth for Groups with a Son Preference?”
cited in *Quartz*, April 21, 2017, [link](#)
- “Brides for Sale: Cross-Border Marriages and Female Immigration”
cited in *Marginal Revolution*, October 29, 2016, [link](#)
- South Korea’s Role in International Development Aids, *Maeil Kyungjae Shinmun (MK)*, March 9, 2016, [link](#)
- “Prominent Korean Economists under 50” Interview Series, *ChosunBiz*, January 14, 2016, [link](#)
- 2016 KAEA Young Economics Award Interview in *Maeil Kyungjae Shinmun (MK)*, January 5, 2016, [link](#)
- “All or Nothing? The Impact of Gender Composition on Effort and Academic Achievement”
cited in *FiveThirtyEight*, December 8, 2014, [link](#)
- “Do Single-Sex Schools Make Girls More Competitive?”
cited in *Pacific Standard*, September 22, 2014, [link](#)
- “New Development in Economics” in *Chosun Business Weekly*, January 2014, [link](#)
- “Market Design: How might the U.S. experience be relevant for Korea?” (discussant at the 2013 Seoul Global Finance Conference), *Hankyung TV, Hankyung*, April 2013
- Use of “Market Design” in South Korea (interview with Alvin Roth, 2012 Nobel Prize Winner)
in *Seoul KyungJae, Joongang Ilbo, Joongang Sunday, Korea International Tribune*, October 2012
- “Propose with a Rose? Signaling in Internet Dating Markets”
cited in *Freakonomics*, August 26, 2011 [link](#),
cited in *Slate*, February 13, 2012. [link](#),
cited in *Quartz* January 17, 2014, [link](#)
- “The Competition for Brides in East Asia,” *SERI Quarterly*, October 2011
- “Plastic Surgery: Investment in Human Capital or Consumption?”
cited in *USA Today*, March 30, 2011 [link](#)
cited in *Joongang, Donga, Hankook, Hankyung, Korea Herald, and Yonhapnews*, July 20, 2010
- “Marriage and Online Mate-Search Services”
cited in *Korea Joongang Daily - International Herald Tribune*, December 17, 2007 [link](#)

Professional Activities

Board member: *Korea Development Policy Association*

Editorial Board: *Korea Review of Applied Econometrics*

Referee for: *American Economic Review, Econometrica, Review of Economic Studies, Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Review – Economic Policy, International Economic Review, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Economic Journal, Journal of Human*

Resources, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of European Economic Association, Economic Inquiry, Canadian Journal of Economics, Macroeconomics Dynamics, Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Economics of Education Review, Experimental Economics, Applied Economics, European Economic Review, Labour, Journal of Experimental & Theoretical Artificial Intelligence, IZA Journal of Labor Policy, Southern Economic Journal, Review of Economics of the Household, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, Journal of Family Issues, Feminist Economics, Demographic Research, Singapore Economic Review, Social Science Japan Journal, Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Conference organization: Seoul Summer Economics Conference (2009, 2010, jointly with Keunkwan Ryu, Seoul National University)

Department service: Graduate student admission committee (2013-2015), Junior faculty recruiting committee (2008-2011), Media communication committee (2009-2011)

Student Advising

Graduate students: Ricardo Espinoza (2017, OECD), Hector Lopez (2016, Cuasar Capital), Geunyoung Kim (2016, MA), Keonwoo Kim (2015, MA), Miguel Sarzosa (2015), Maria Prada (2014, IADB), Jing Zhang (2011, Renmin University), Sheri Pruitt (2011, FDA), Keith Kranker (2011), Quynh Nguyen (2010), Tamara Hayford (2009)

Undergraduate students: Wonmoon Lee (2017, Korea Investment Corporation), Heesun Yoo (2017, PhD program, Vanderbilt), Saeyoung Jong (2016, MA program, KDI school), Younggun Na (2016, data analyst & product developer, Onion5), Pulasthi Amarasinghe (2015, PhD program, AREG, University of Iowa), Meryem Demirkaya (2014, UMD Applied Economics), Yusuf Salloum (2011, Analysis group, then Univ Michigan Law School)

Member of: American Economic Association, Econometric Society, Society of Labor Economists, Korea-America Economic Association, Population Association of America, International Association for Applied Econometrics, Western Economic Association