

# Soohyung (Soo) Lee

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## Current Positions and Employment History

August 2008 - present, Assistant Professor, Economics, University of Maryland (College Park)  
Personal leave of absence: September 2012- August 2013

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

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)

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

Labor/Public, Development, Family Economics, Market Design, and Applied Econometrics

## Research Papers

### *Publications*

- Effect of Online Dating on Marital Sorting, forthcoming in *Journal of Applied Econometrics*
- 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 Progesa 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*

- 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, under review
- Efficient Supply of Human Capital: Role of College Major (with Sungjin Cho and Jihye Kam), under review
- Brides for Sale: Cross-Border Marriages and Female Immigration (with Daiji Kawaguchi), under review
- Impact of an Economic Crisis on Fertility and Birth Outcomes (with Chiara Orsini), under review

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

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

## **Awards, Fellowship, and Grants**

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**

2015 - 2016 (including scheduled) ASSA (San Francisco), Southern Economic Association Meeting (New Orleans), ITAM (Mexico City), Bank of Mexico, 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)

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

Graduate Applied Econometrics at University of Maryland: Spring 2014

Advanced Applied Economics at Hitotsubashi University: Winter 2012/2013

Graduate Labor at University of Maryland: Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2015

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

## Media Coverage and Popular Writings

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" in *FiveThirtyEight*, December 8, 2014, [link](#)

"Do Single-Sex Schools Make Girls More Competitive?" 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) cited in *Hankyung TV, Hankyung*, April 2013

Use of "Market Design" in South Korea (interview with Alvin Roth, 2012 Nobel Prize Winner)  
cited 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](#), *Slate*, February 13, 2012. [link](#), and *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

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*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Experimental Economics*, *Applied Economics*, *European Economic Review*, *Labour*, *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*, *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, expected), Keonwoo Kim (2015), 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: Younggun Na (2016, expected), 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