

Yu Kyung Koh

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics	Columbia University	2017-Present
M.A. in Economics	Columbia University	2019
B.A. in Economics	The University of Chicago	2015

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Fields: Family Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

REFERENCES

Pierre-André Chiappori (<i>Co-sponsor</i>) E. Rowan and Barbara Steinschneider Professor of Economics Columbia University pc2167@columbia.edu	Bernard Salanié (<i>Co-sponsor</i>) Professor of Economics Columbia University bs2237@columbia.edu	Brendan O’Flaherty Professor of Economics Columbia University bo2@columbia.edu
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JOB MARKET PAPER

“Evolution of Gains from Racial Integration in the US Marriage Market”

Abstract: Interracial marriages have increased in the US over the past few decades, but the trends are heterogeneous across demographic groups. Who has gained more from marital racial integration, and what drives the differing welfare gains across groups? This paper estimates individual utility gains from marital racial integration that accounts for the heterogeneous evolution of costs of interracial marriage experienced by different races and education groups. To this end, I build a transferable utility matching model and estimate the model for all race-education matchings over the past four decades. The model allows me to define and estimate the type-specific utility gains from marital racial integration by comparing the equilibrium single rates in the observed marriage market with the ones in a completely segregated marriage market. Results show gender and educational asymmetries within race: (i) For non-Hispanic whites and blacks, college-educated men have enjoyed higher utility gains from racial integration than their female counterparts and their lower educated male counterparts; and (ii) for Hispanics and Asians, while women have enjoyed overall higher levels of utility gains than men, women have experienced a larger declining trend in the utility gains compared to men. To understand the drivers for these disparities across gender and education, I implement a novel decomposition method based on quantitative comparative statics. I find that the population changes, including the evolving gender gap in college education and the rise in immigration, explain a large portion of the gender gap in the utility gains for all races except blacks. On the other hand, the changes in marital surplus played a larger role in driving the gender gap for blacks and the education gap for all races.

WORKING PAPERS

“Spousal Bargaining Power and Consumption of Married Couples in the US: Evidence from the Scanner Data”
(with So Yoon Ahn)

Abstract: This paper studies how spousal bargaining power affects consumption patterns of married households in the US, using a detailed barcode-level dataset. We use two distribution factors as proxies for spousal bargaining power: (1) spouses’ relative education and (2) spouses’ relative potential wage, which is our preferred distribution factor. As an arguably exogenous measure of bargaining power, our relative potential wage is constructed as a Bartik-style measure of female-to-male wage ratio, exploiting county-level variations in heterogeneous exposure to different industries and state-wide wage growth. We find that the expenditure shares on women’s beauty goods increase and the expenditure shares on alcohol decrease significantly both when the relative education of wives increases and when the relative potential wages of wives increase. These results are consistent with household bargaining explanations. For couples with children, improved women’s household bargaining position is associated with a higher budget share on books, stationery, and school supplies, which are potentially related to investment in children. For singles, we do not find statistically meaningful effects of relative potential wage on any of their consumption outcomes, which strengthens the interpretation that the relative wage only affects couples’ consumption decisions.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

“Geographical Variation in Gains from Racial Integration in the US Marriage Market”

PRE-DOCTORAL PUBLICATION

“Evaluation of the Reggio Approach to Early Education” with P. Biroli, D. Del Boca, J. J. Heckman, L. P. Heckman, S. Kuperman, S. Moktan, C. D. Pronzato, A. L. Ziff, *Research in Economics*, 72(1): 1-32 (2018).

INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

2022: Annual Meeting of the Society of Economics of the Household (UCL), Leuven Summer Event – Labor/Family Economics (KU Leuven)
2021: Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics Annual Conference (Peking University, Virtual)

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Full-Time Research Professional at the Center for the Economics of Human Development, University of Chicago, 2015-2017 (Director: James J. Heckman)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TA for Intermediate Microeconomics (Dr. Wouter Vergote), Columbia University, Fall 2019
TA for Intermediate Microeconomics (Prof. Caterina Musatti), Columbia University, Spring 2020

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University, 2022-2023
Kwanjeong Education Foundation Fellowship, 2017-2022
Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University, 2017-2022
Young-Iob Chung Fellowship, Columbia University, 2019-2020
First Place in the Econometrics Game, Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago, 2015

UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Student organizer for Applied Microeconomic Theory Colloquium, Columbia University, 2021-2022

SKILLS

Computer Skills: R, Matlab, Stata, Julia, Python

Languages: Korean (native), English (fluent)

PERSONAL

Citizenship: South Korea