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| CONTACT INFORMATION | Department of Economics Columbia University 420 West 118th Street New York, NY 10027 | Phone: +1 (617) 866-0115 Email: bookang.seol@columbia.edu Website: bookangseol.com |
| PLACEMENT | Chairs: Sandra Black, sblack@columbia.edu ; Suresh Naidu, sn2430@columbia.edu Administrator: Amy Devine, aed2152@columbia.edu , +1 (212)854-6881 | |
| EDUCATION | Ph.D. in Economics, Columbia University (expected) MPA/ID (Int'l Development), Harvard Kennedy School A.B. in Economics, Harvard University | 2023 2017 2013 |
| FIELDS | Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, and Economic History | |
| FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS | Columbia University CDEP Fellow, Center for Development Economics and Policy Dissertation Fellowship PER Summer Research Fellow, Program for Economic Research PER Field or Experiment Fund CDEP Field Research Fund Economics Department Colloquium Research Fund Young-Iob Chung Fellowship Dean's Fellow | 2022-2023 2022-2023 2022 2022 2021 2021 2019-2020 2017-2022 |
| | Harvard University The Harvard International Development Internship Fund (HIDIF) Morris Kronfeld Prize (for showing the greatest academic improvements) | 2016 2013 |
| | Others Army Achievement Medal from the US Army | 2010 |
| JOB MARKET PAPER | Fractionalization and Rural Development in Korea [Most recent version] <i>Abstract:</i> Social fractionalization along dimensions like ethnicity or class can stunt economic development. This paper investigates how fractionalization affects a group's ability to respond to economic shocks by studying rural South Korea in the 1970s. The fractionalization of rural Korean society can be proxied by clan homogeneity—the density of family clans that share the same parental lineage. I combine this cross-sectional variation with the time variation in market access created by the construction of a new bridge, the <i>Namhae</i> bridge, in 1973. I test whether less fractionalized groups experienced faster productivity growth following the construction of the <i>Namhae</i> bridge. I find that homogeneous villages displayed higher agricultural investments and productivity growth than heterogeneous villages. Homogeneous villages better exploited opportunities created by the bridge by providing complementary local public goods more effectively than heterogeneous villages. Finally, heterogeneous villages did catch up, consistent with spillovers or demonstration effects. | |
| WORKING PAPERS | Technical Glitch with a Lasting Impact: the Y2K Bug and IT Sector in India | |

Abstract: The Y2K bug refers to the problem when old computer programs misinterpret the year 2000 for 1900. During the months following up to January of 2000, governments and companies worldwide started outsourcing debugging tasks to companies in India. The Y2K bug created a temporary demand shock for Indian IT firms. I use this variation in exports to examine how it affects firm productivity in the long run. I also investigate the responses in the secondary education market. I find that (1) the “exposed” firms have significantly higher sales and wages even after the shock had dissipated and that (2) the districts that had more exposed firms experienced a significant increase in the number of private secondary schools where English is the primary medium of instruction.

WORK IN
PROGRESS

How Crony was Korea’s “Crony Capitalism”?

Research Question: Do family ties explain the allocation of government funds?

RESEARCH AND
WORK EXPERIENCE

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Summer Intern for Rohini Pande, Harvard Kennedy School | Summer 2016 |
| Analyst, The World Development Report 2016, The World Bank | 2014-2015 |
| Research Assistant for Pol Antràs, Harvard University | 2013-2014 |
| Research Assistant for Ed Glaeser, Harvard University | Fall 2013 |
| Research Assistant for Ricardo Hausmann, Harvard Kennedy School | 2011-2013 |
| Military service, the Korean Army | 2008-2010 |

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

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| Teaching Assistant | |
| International Trade (Undergraduate) | Fall 2021 |
| Industrial Organization (Undergraduate/Master’s) | Spring 2020, Spring 2021 |
| Principles of Economics, Head TA | Fall 2019, Fall 2020 |
| Game Theory (Undergraduate/Master’s) | Spring 2019, Fall 2018 |

OTHER
INFORMATION

Citizenship: South Korea
 Languages: English, Korean
 Programming: STATA, ArcGIS, Python, MATLAB, R
 Leadership Experience: President (2016-2017), Harvard Korea Society

REFERENCES

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| Miguel Urquiola (Sponsor) Dean of Social Sciences Department of Economics Columbia University msu2101@columbia.edu +1 (212) 854-8908 | Eric Verhoogen Professor of Economics and SIPA Department of Economics Columbia University eric.verhoogen@columbia.edu +1 (212) 854-4428 |
| Suresh Naidu Professor of Economics and SIPA Department of Economics Columbia University sn2430@columbia.edu +1 (212) 854-0027 | |