

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 (\$8,000) CDEP Field Research Fund (\$5,200) Young-Iob Chung Fellowship Dean's Fellow Harvard University The Harvard International Development Internship Fund (HIDIF) Morris Kronfeld Prize (for showing the greatest academic improvements) Others Army Achievement Medal from the US Army	2022-2023 2022-2023 2022 2022 2021 2019-2020 2017-2022 2016 2013 2010
JOB MARKET PAPER	Making Community-Driven Development Work [Most recent version] <i>Abstract:</i> Is decentralization an effective way of procuring public goods and ultimately improving development outcomes? Community-Driven Development (CDD) is a development practice that delegates the authority for procuring public goods to local communities. I digitized historical data from Korea to investigate if procuring public goods via CDD can increase agricultural productivity. I find that CDD accelerates productivity growth for the villages that (1) have high initial capabilities to self-organize and (2) are exposed to new economic opportunities. I use the construction of the <i>Namhae</i> bridge in 1973 as the source of variation for economic opportunities. Among the villages newly connected by the bridge, only those with high capabilities procured more infrastructure-related public goods and consequently experienced faster agricultural productivity growth. I find that neither condition separately has a significant effect on productivity. Decentralization provides flexibility to local communities; this flexibility contributes to productivity to the extent that they can leverage it for economic development.	
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

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

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	