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EDUCATION

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| 2022 (expected) | Ph.D. in Economics, Columbia University |
| 2018 | M.Phil. in Economics, Columbia University |
| 2017 | M.A. in Economics, Columbia University |
| 2015 | M.A. in Economics, Yonsei University |
| 2013 | B.A. in Economics, Yonsei University |
| Fall 2011 – Spring 2012 | Undergraduate Exchange Program, University of California, Berkeley |

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Macroeconomics, Labor Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Occupation Specificity and the Decline in the Aggregate Job Separation Rate”

Abstract: The long-run decline in the aggregate job separation rate in the U.S. has been documented in the literature. This paper analyzes the role of increasing occupation specificity, where human capital becomes less transferable across occupations, in the falling aggregate job separation rate. I do a shift-share decomposition of the decline in the aggregate job separation rate to find that it is accounted mostly by the within-occupation increase in specificity. Then I build a search-and-matching model where the increase in specificity within occupations reduces job separations. The model predicts 60% of the decline in the aggregate job separation rate. When occupations become more specific, human capital acquired from one occupation becomes less transferable to a different occupation, resulting in larger wage cuts for occupation switchers. Occupation switchers also have to undergo a longer period of occupation-specific training in their new occupation, during which they earn low wages. In the model, after the increase in occupation specificity, workers separate less to avoid switching occupations, accepting lower wages at their current job at the same level of productivity.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Occupation Specificity, Endogenous Occupation Switching, and Unemployment Duration”

Abstract: It is documented in the literature that the average unemployment duration has increased in the U.S. This paper analyzes how the increase in occupation specificity, where human capital becomes less transferable across occupations, results in longer unemployment spells. I do a shift-share decomposition to find that the increase in the average unemployment duration is driven by the within-occupation increase in specificity. Then I build a search-and-matching model where the increase in specificity within occupations lengthens unemployment duration. The model predicts all of the increase in the average unemployment duration. In the model, the longer unemployment spells are due to the unemployed trained workers, whose human capital has become more specific to their previous occupation, choosing not to switch occupations. If they switch occupations, they could quickly end their unemployment spell. This would however come at the cost of larger wage cuts because their human capital has become less transferable to a different occupation. Occupation switchers would also have to earn these lower wages for a longer period of time until they become trained in their new occupation. Hence, despite a low probability of getting reemployed in the same occupation as before, previously trained workers increasingly choose not to switch occupations, which increases the average unemployment duration.

PUBLICATIONS

“A Simple Correction of Gini Estimates Using Tax Return Data” (with So-Hye Yoon and Tae-Hwan Kim), The Review of Social & Economic Studies, 2020, Vol. 63, No. 1, pp.1-38. (in Korean)

“Top Income Shares Based on Household Income and Expenditure Survey Data” (with Yunmi Kim and Tae-Hwan Kim), The Korean Journal of Economics, 2015, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 87-97. (in Korean)

AWARDS

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| 2020 – 2021 | Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University |
| 2015 – 2020 | Dean’s Fellowship, Columbia University |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| September 2016 – May 2020 | Prepared and conducted weekly recitations and office hours for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Master’s Level) Macroeconomic Analysis II (Spring 2019)• (Master’s Level) International Economics (Spring 2018)• Financial Economics (Fall 2019)• Money and Banking (Fall 2017, Spring 2020)• Intermediate Macroeconomics (Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2018) |
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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| June 2016 – August 2016 | Research Assistant to Professor Christian Moser, Columbia University <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked with Brazilian microdata (PNAD, PME) to construct inequality time series and labor market transition rates• Wrote the dictionary files and relevant codes to import Brazilian microdata into Stata |
| August 2014 | Young Scientist at the 5th Lindau Meeting on Economic Sciences |

OTHER EXPERIENCES

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| September 2009 – June 2011 | The Yonsei Annals, Republic of Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official monthly English news magazine of Yonsei University• Editor of five divisions (Research, Photo, Campus Affairs, Global Affairs, Culture, March 2011 – June 2011)• Reporter (September 2009 – December 2010) |
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OTHER INFORMATION

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| Programming: | Stata, Matlab, R |
| Citizenship: | United States, Republic of Korea |

REFERENCES

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International and Public Affairs
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