

Gee Young Oh

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 2021 (*Expected*)
B.A. in Economics, *Minor* in Business, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Research interests

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Development Economics, Household Economics

References

Professor Michael Gechter (*chair*)
Assistant Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
The Pennsylvania State University
mdg5396@psu.edu

Professor Marc Henry
Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
The Pennsylvania State University
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Professor Ewout Verriest
Assistant Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
The Pennsylvania State University
ewout@psu.edu

Teaching experience

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| Fall 2019 - Fall 2020 | <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Labor Economics, Penn State University |
| Spring 2019 | <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Public Finance, Penn State University |
| Spring 2018 | <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Decision Making and Strategy, Penn State University |
| Fall 2017, Fall 2018 | <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Advanced International Trade, Penn State University |
| Fall 2015 - Spring 2017 | <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Introductory Microeconomics, Penn State University |

Honors, scholarships, and fellowships

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| 2020 | Liberal Arts Teaching and Research Scholarship, Penn State University |
| 2015 - 2020 | Department of Economics Teaching Assistantship, Penn State University |
| 2013 | Honors Student Award, Yonsei University |
| 2011 | Underwood International College Scholarship, Yonsei University |
| 2010, 2013 | Veritas Scholarship, Yonsei University |

Research experience and other employment

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| Summer 2018 | <i>Research Assistant</i> , Penn State University, for Prof. Kala Krishna |
| Fall 2013 - Spring 2015 | <i>Research Assistant</i> , Yonsei University, for Prof. Youngse Kim |
| Spring 2012 | <i>Marketing and Sales Intern</i> , Memebox, Korea |
| Summer 2011 | <i>Undergraduate Research Assistant</i> , UC Berkeley, for Prof. David Zilberman |

Presentations

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| 2020 | 95th Annual Western Economic Association International Conference Penn State Trade and Development Reading Group Penn State Applied Microeconomics Job Market Candidate Seminar 90th Southern Economic Association Meeting (<i>scheduled</i>) |
| 2017, 2018, 2019 | Penn State Trade and Development Reading Group |

Certificates

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| 2020 | Graduate Student Online Teaching Certificate (<i>Expected</i>) |
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Skills

Software: Stata, Matlab, LaTeX, Microsoft Office (with MOS certification)
Language: English (fluent), Korean (native)

Working papers

“Allocating Time as a Couple: Effects of Relative Wages and Gender Role Bias” - Job Market Paper

Gender differences in time allocations are still pronounced, with females spending more time in home production and less in labor. I study how gender role bias affects working couples’ time allocation in labor, home production, and leisure, and its implication on predicting distributional policy effects where a policy targets gender wage gaps to reduce time allocation differences across gender. Although many papers acknowledge gender role bias, its quantitative policy implications have been studied less. Using detailed Mexican and U.K. panel data, I document that among working couples, as a female’s relative wage increases, her relative labor (home production) decreases (increases) in both countries. The pattern is counter-intuitive as the female’s opportunity cost of home production increases as her relative wage increases. However, it is rationalizable if gender role bias exists against working females. Motivated by the empirical evidence, I build a structural household model where couples face increasing disutility for stepping out of social norm as females earn more. Estimating the model with the U.K. data on working couples, I find that on average, disutility from gender role bias starts increasing when a female’s earning share exceeds 0.45 or when she is nearly breadwinning. Furthermore, I find that in more biased households, the disutility starts increasing when her earning share is lower. Finally, using the estimated model, I predict a fiscal policy’s distributional effects where the policy disproportionately increases females’ effective wages on working couples. I find that ignoring gender role bias overestimates the policy effects on promoting female labor supply and diminishing her home production time. The result highlights the importance of acknowledging gender role bias to accurately predict the policy effects on the labor market.

“Relative Consumption Levels in Individuals’ Subjective Wellbeing”

I study how intra-household inequality affects individuals’ wellbeing through the lens of a collective household framework where each member has the bargaining power to secure more household resources to be allocated for his/her interest. Unlike the existing literature that focuses on ‘absolute’ resource levels, I propose another channel through which intra-household inequality, or unequal resource allocation resulting from unequal bargaining power, can affect an individual’s wellbeing: by affecting ‘relative’ resource as compared to the other household member. The happiness literature has explored and found evidence for this channel, and I link it with the collective household literature. From detailed Mexican household-level survey data, I estimate individual consumption levels through a structural household model and use self-reported subjective wellbeing as a proxy for happiness. I find that there is a negative correlation between relative consumption levels and happiness for adult females. The negative correlation is consistent with studies that find domestic violence rates are higher for empowered females, or working females, who also consume more than those less empowered. However, the relation is insignificant for adult males.

Work in progress

“Intra-Household Inequality and Gender-Equitable Inclusive Growth” (with Paul I. Ko)

As the world has experienced large economic growth, labor force participation for females has been increasing but consistently lower than that of males across many countries suggesting that the growth may lack inclusivity in terms of gender. This paper offers new insights about achieving inclusive economic growth in terms of gender equity by tying it to achieving equality between females and males in households. Through the lens of a structural household model, we study how intra-household inequality, in aggregate, affects gender-equitable inclusive growth. By investigating gender-bias parameters in the household model, we examine how resolving the micro-level inequality resolves the aggregate level inequality in gender gaps in labor force participation.

Other activities

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| 2015 - Current | <i>Vice President (2019), President (2020), Yonsei - Penn State Alumni Network</i> |
| 2012 - 2014 | <i>Vice President (2013), Junior Scholar Club, Yonsei University</i> |
| 2007 - 2009 | <i>Volunteer, Supervisor (2009), English Supporters, Korea</i> |

Last updated: October 20, 2020