

Gee Young Oh

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Employment

Associate Research Fellow, Korea Institute of International Economic Policy, 2021-

Education

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

Research fields

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Development Economics, Household Economics

Working papers

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

I study how gender role bias affects the time allocations of heterosexual working couples in labor, home production, and leisure, and the ramifications for distributional effects of policies that change effective wages. Using detailed time use data from Mexico and the U.K., I document that among working couples in both countries, as a female’s relative wage increases, her relative labor hours decrease, and her relative home production hours increase. The pattern is seemingly puzzling but it can be rationalized if couples face disutility for breaking a social norm as females’ share of household earnings increases. I then build a structural household model that incorporates gender role bias. Fitting the model to the U.K. data on working couples, I find that on average, disutility arising from gender role bias starts increasing when a female’s earning share exceeds 0.45, that is, when she is nearly the breadwinner. Furthermore, I construct a measure of household-level bias using responses to survey questions on bias, and find that in more biased households, the disutility starts increasing when the female’s earning share is lower. Using the model, I predict the effects of a fiscal policy that disproportionately increases females’ effective wages. In particular, I find that when a given policy increases females’ wages by 10 percent, the policy’s effect on female labor supply is overestimated by 5 percentage points if gender role bias is not taken into account.

“Relative Consumption Levels in Individuals’ Subjective Wellbeing”

I study how intra-household inequality affects individuals’ wellbeing 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 explore another channel through which unequal intra-household resource distribution can affect an individual’s wellbeing: by affecting ‘relative’ resource as compared to the other household member. From detailed Mexican household-level survey data, I estimate an individual’s resource level through a structural household model and explore its relationship with happiness, using self-reported subjective wellbeing as a proxy for happiness. I find that there is a negative correlation between relative resource 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.

Presentations

2021	Korean Women Economists Network Job Market Jamboree
2020	90th Southern Economic Association Meeting
	Penn State Applied Microeconomics Job Market Candidate Seminar
	Penn State Trade and Development Reading Group
	95th Annual Western Economic Association International Conference
2017, 2018, 2019	Penn State Trade and Development Reading Group

Research experience and other employment

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

Teaching experience

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

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

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