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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Social Networks, Health Economics, Public Economics

EDUCATION

University of Iowa

Ph.D. Economics (expected) 2022
M.A. Economics 2017

State University of New York at Buffalo

M.A. Economics 2011

North South University, Bangladesh

B.B.A Finance and Economics 2010

JOB MARKET PAPER

[Peer Effects in Skills and Habits.](#)

WORKING PAPERS

[The Maternal and Sibling Spillover Effects in Educational Attainment](#) (with Suyong Song). *Submitted.*

[The Intergenerational Mobility of Cognitive and Social Skills](#) (with Sun Hyung Kim and Suyong Song). *Submitted.*

[The Impact of Family Income and Maternal Labor Supply on Child Achievement and Behavior](#) (with Sun Hyung Kim and Suyong Song).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Impact of Nearly Universal Insurance Coverage on Child Achievement: Evidence from the Affordable Care Act”.

“Sibling Spillover Effects in Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills”.

“The Determinants and Impacts of Exposure to Bullying” (with Suyong Song).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
Department of Economics, University of Iowa 2021
- Graduate College Summer Fellowship
University of Iowa 2021, 2019
- Outstanding Research Paper Award
Department of Economics, University of Iowa 2019
- Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship
University of Iowa Fall 2019

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Head Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa

Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)

Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa

Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2015, Spring 2018), Money, Banking and Financial Markets (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

Grader, University of Iowa

Principles of Macroeconomics (Summer 2018), Principles of Macroeconomics (Summer 2018), Intermediate Microeconomics (Spring 2017), Intermediate Microeconomics (Spring 2017, Fall 2018), Household Finance (Spring 2016, Fall 2016), Personnel Economics (Fall 2016)

Lecturer, North South University, Bangladesh, August 2011-May 2015

Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics, Applied Mathematics- I and Applied Mathematics-II

PROGRAMMING
LANGUAGES

R, Stata, Python

REFERENCES

Suyong Song (Advisor)

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Abstracts

JOB MARKET PAPER

[Peer Effects in Skills and Habits](#)

This paper estimates peer effects in various skills and habits within a linear-in-means framework. The identification of the causal effect of peers' outcome is often hindered with the presence of correlated effects, influences of peers' background characteristics and the simultaneity of behavior of interacting agents. This paper exploits the structure of interactions in a directed friendship network to identify peer effects using an instrumental variable strategy. It relies on the assumption that each individual has his own reference group of friends whose mean outcome and characteristics influence his own outcome. Then under the presence of intransitivity, the characteristics of an individual's indirect connections can be used as instruments to identify peer effects. Using the Add Health data, my estimates suggest that there exist sizeable within-outcome peer effects on a student's academic performance, sociability, smoking intensity, alcohol consumption and delinquent behavior. A student's academic performance and delinquency are also impacted by friends' sociability. Furthermore, I investigate the possible mechanisms underlying the large peer spillover effects and find that both parental and school interventions can promote positive spillovers and mitigate negative spillovers.

WORKING PAPERS

- [The Maternal and Sibling Spillover Effects in Educational Attainment](#) (with Suyong Song). *Submitted*.

This paper estimates maternal and sibling spillover effects in educational attainment based on data from the NLSY surveys. Using an instrumental variable strategy, this study shows that a one-year increase in first-born's education causes a significant increase of 4.5 months in younger sibling's schooling and a one-year increase in maternal education significantly increases child's education by around 3 months. It also finds that the higher the birth order, the smaller the maternal and first-born's spillover effects. These findings emphasize the importance of both mother's and sibling's education in understanding the human capital production function and estimating education externalities.

- [The Intergenerational Mobility of Cognitive and Social Skills](#) (with Sun Hyung Kim and Suyong Song). *Submitted*.

Abstract: We model how children's skills are passed on from mothers. The model explains the concepts of "critical channels" through which maternal skills are transmitted to children. Exploiting the variation in the average skills of peers across the college major and occupation, we investigate the intergenerational transmission of cognitive, social and noncognitive skills using data from the NLSY79. We find statistically significant transmission of cognitive and noncognitive skills, whereas social skills are not transmitted. We investigate potential channels underlying our findings. The effective investment in child, mothers' psychological well-being, and proper attention toward children are important mechanisms explaining main results.

- [The Impact of Family Income and Maternal Labor Supply on Child Achievement and Behavior](#) (with Sun Hyung Kim and Suyong Song).

This paper estimates the contemporaneous effects of family income and maternal employment on cognitive and non-cognitive skills of children ages 5-16 using an instrumental variable strategy. By making use of legislative changes associated with income tax liabilities and interstate banking as instruments, this study makes important improvements to the methodologies existing in the literature. It shows that family income has a significant positive effect on child's cognition only. The

impact of maternal work is significant on both cognitive and several non-cognitive dimensions. The maternal work effect on non-cognition cannot be generalized in any direction but it is deleterious on cognition.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **The Impact of Nearly Universal Insurance Coverage on Child Achievement: Evidence from the Affordable Care Act.**

This study investigates the impact of public health insurance expansions under The Affordable Care Act (ACA) on children's educational achievement, measured by test scores, available from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data. The ACA, passed in 2010, includes dozens of provisions to expand health insurance coverage, slow the growth rate in health care costs, and reform the market for private health insurance. The improvement in children's achievement may arise from either better health or a greater level of household resources as the ACA would reduce a family's out-of-pocket medical spending. I utilize a difference-in-difference-in-differences model with the differences coming from time, state Medicaid expansion status, and local area pre-treatment uninsured rates. In addition, the effect of ACA on child achievement can be estimated using the synthetic control approach by creating a synthetic comparison (control) group that is a weighted average of states that opt out of the ACA Medicaid expansions following the Supreme Court's ruling in 2012. The comparison between estimates obtained from two different approaches checks the robustness of findings and validates the interpretation of the estimates as causal.

- **Sibling Spillover Effects in Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills.**

This study estimates sibling spillover effects in cognitive and non-cognitive skills within a school fixed-effect model by exploiting differences in peer group characteristics among siblings. The identification relies on the assumption that each individual has his own specific reference group of friends whose mean characteristics influence his own outcome. Under the presence of intransitivity in a directed friendship network, when friends of siblings are not friends, the characteristics of siblings' friends can instrument for siblings' outcome. Using the Add Health data, my estimates suggest that there exist large sibling spillover effects in academic performance, pro-social behavior and psychological traits. The richness of information provided by the Add Health data allows me to investigate possible mechanisms that drive these spillover effects. I find that siblings pose as important role models and parents can significantly promote the quality and frequency of sibling interactions to facilitate the positive spillovers.

- **The Determinants and Impacts of Exposure to Bullying** (with Suyong Song).

This study investigates the extent to which cognitive and non-cognitive skills can lower the chance of bullying victimization during adolescence, and consequently spill over to impacting academic success and mental health later in life. We use data from wave 1 (1994-1994), wave 2 (1996) and wave 3 (2001-2002) of the nationally representative sample of US youth (National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health) to examine the longitudinal relationship between child's skills, early victimization and later outcomes. We make use of early test scores available in Wave-I data to identify the joint distribution of latent cognitive and non-cognitive skills and employ a factor analytic model for identifying treatment effects of bullying. Our model allows us to estimate the heterogeneity in treatment effects of bullying across latent skill levels. Our study aims to provide important insights into potential interventions that may reduce incidences of bullying.