

PYOUNGSIK KIM

Department of Economics
CB3305, Gardner Hall
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

E-mail: kimpyoungsik@gmail.com
Phone: (+1) 919-794-1922
Homepage: sites.google.com/site/kimpyoungsik

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, US

2017 - 2022(Expected)

Ph.D. in Economics

Committee: Luca Flabbi (chair), Donna Gilleskie, Fei Li, Qing Gong, Stanislav Rabinovich

Sogang University, South Korea

2015

M.S. in Economics

Sogang University, South Korea

2012

B.A. in Economics, *Summa cum laude*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Health Economics, and Structural Econometrics

WORKING PAPERS

"Labor Market Search, Illness, and the Value of Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance"(Job Market Paper)

Abstract: Through the lens of a search model of the labor market, I investigate both the employee- and employer-side mechanisms to assess the value of employer-sponsored health insurance (ESHI) in response to acute illness causing absenteeism. The model incorporates the medical treatment decisions of individuals and ESHI provision decisions of firms. I evaluate the importance of acute illness costs, such as deteriorated productivity, increased medical expenses, fewer job opportunities, and reduced utility. The equilibrium proportion of firms providing health insurance is a function of labor market frictions, match-specific productivity, and endogenous illness conditions. I estimate the model using the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). I find that a relatively large portion (3%) of productivity is lost due to illness, resulting in a decrease in wages by 2% and workers' welfare by 4%. ESHI serves to enhance productivity by directly or indirectly reducing such costs. In my counterfactual experiments, I study the impacts of mandatory health insurance and employer mandate penalties on illness costs, labor market outcomes, and welfare. Higher ESHI coverage rates can reduce illness costs and improve some labor market outcomes, and there is a redistribution of welfare from firms to workers.

"Gender Differentials and Migration in Developing Countries" with Pulasthi Amarasinghe

Abstract: Gender inequalities in income and employment opportunities are severe in developing countries, and these inequalities are location-specific since labor markets differ significantly in rural and urban settings. In this paper, we motivate our work by using the weather as an instrumental variable. We develop and estimate a search model of the labor market in which unemployed agents decide their employment and migration status. Differences by formality status and location allow the study of a distinctive feature of the developing countries: migration. The model parameters are estimated using the Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS) from RAND, focusing on a sample of individuals whose original location is rural.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"On-the-job search, Obesity and Discrimination"

"Discrimination against minorities: theory and evidence from the Sri Lankan Civil War" with Pulasthi Amarasinghe

HONORS, FELLOWSHIP, AND AWARDS

Graduate Student Transportation Grant (USD 400)

2022

Pre-doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Health Economics Research, University of Chicago (USD 20,000)	2021
COVID-19 Funding, UNC (USD 3,000)	2020
Buono Family Fund for Excellence in Economics, UNC	2017, 2018, 2019
First-Prize Winner in the Graduate Student Paper Competition, Korea Labor Institute	2015
Excellent Prize Winner in the Graduate Student Paper Competition, Korea Economic Daily	2014
Albatross Fellowship, Sogang University	2012
Excellent Student Award, Sogang University	2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Introduction to Economics, UNC	Fall 2021
Introduction to Economics, UNC	Summer 2020, 2021

Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Economics, UNC	Spring 2020, Fall 2020
Introduction to Statistics and Econometrics, UNC	Spring 2019, Fall 2019
Intermediate Microeconomics, UNC	Fall 2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

Correspondent, Korea Labor Institute, South Korea	2020
Economic Researcher for Economic Research Team, Korea Enterprises Federation, South Korea	2012-2017
Researcher for Wage Research Team, Economic and Social Development Commission, South Korea	2014

PRESENTATIONS

Midwest Economics Association (MEA), RES Annual Conference	2022
Triangle Health Economics Workshop (THEW)	2021
Korea Labor and Income Panel Study Conference	2015

REFERENCES

Luca Flabbi

Associate Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
(919) 843-9842
lflabbi@email.unc.edu

Donna Gilleskie

Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
(919) 966-5372
donna_gilleskie@unc.edu

Qing Gong

Assistant Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
(919) 966-5394
qinggong@email.unc.edu

Stanislav Rabinovich

Assistant Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
(347) 831-7862
srabinov@email.unc.edu

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Skills Matlab, Stata

Languages English (Fluent), Korean (Native)

Last Updated: January, 2022