

HongSeok Kim

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Citizenship: Republic of Korea (F1)

Education	Iowa State University	IA, USA
	Ph.D. in Economics	2021 –
	Advisor: Professor Juan Carlos Cordoba.	
	Hanyang University	Seoul, Republic of Korea
	M.A. in Economics and Finance	2021
	B.A. in Economics and Finance	2019
Fellowships	Graduate Student Workshop Fellowship, Western Economic Association International	2026
	Summer Teaching Assistantship, Iowa State University	2025
	Most Engaging Presentation Award, EGSA, Iowa State University	2025
	Best Discussant Award, EGSA, Iowa State University	2025
	Research Travel Grant (\$750) \times 4, Iowa State University	2023–2025
	Brain Korea 21 Plus Scholarship, Hanyang University	2020–2021
	Academic Scholarship HY-IN Graduate School Scholarship, Hanyang University	2020
	Academic Fellowship Korea Student Aid Foundation Fellowship	2019
	Graduation Award, Hanyang University	2019
Seminar & Conference	101th Western Economic Association International	2026
	Workshop on AI and Machine Learning for Economists, Iowa State University	2025
	Southern Economic Association, Washington D.C	2025
	19th Economics Graduate Student Conference, Washington University in St. Louis	2024
	Midwest Macro Meetings, Purdue University	2024
	Macro Reading Group, Iowa State University	2024
	Midwest Economic Association, Chicago	2023
Academic Experience	Sole Instructor	Iowa State University
	ECON 1020: Principles of Macroeconomics (<i>Eval: 4.36/5.0</i>)	Summer, 2025
	Recitation Instructor – Graduate	Iowa State University
	ECON 6020: Macroeconomic Analysis (Ph.D. Core, <i>Eval: 5.0/5.0</i>)	2025F
	ECON 6030: Advanced Microeconomics - Game Theory (Ph.D. Core, <i>Eval: 4.67/5.0</i>)	2023S
	ECON 6040: Advanced Macroeconomics Analysis (Ph.D. Core, <i>Eval: 5.0/5.0</i>)	2024S, 2025S, 2026S
	ECON 5710: Intermediate Econometrics (Masters)	2026S
	Teaching Assistant/Lab Instructor – Undergraduate	Iowa State University
	ECON 1010: Principles of Microeconomics	2021, 2023, 2024
	ECON 1020: Principles of Macroeconomics	2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
	ECON 3020: Intermediate Macroeconomics (<i>Eval: 5.0/5.0</i>)	2025
	ECON 3710: Introduction to Econometrics (<i>Eval: 4.29/5.0</i>)	2021

Working Paper [2] **Precautionary Retirement**

[HongSeok Kim](#)

Abstract. With Social Security's trust fund facing depletion, this paper studies how the system's regressive payroll tax shapes labor supply and retirement decision, motivated by an observation that high-income older males work more and longer. We develop a tractable labor supply model with heterogeneous work-costs, demonstrating that the elasticity of labor supply to financial incentives is inherently distributional. High-income workers, further from retirement cutoff, primarily adjust their hours (intensive margin), while those with higher work-costs adjust participation (extensive margin). Our central contribution is the measurement of these income group-specific elasticities, providing a framework to evaluate the distributional effects of policy reforms. We find seniors are 1.71 more elastic than the prime-age workers, implying that raising payroll tax rates may not resolve the solvency of Social Security.

Presented: *WEAI Graduate Workshop (2026), Macro Reading Group, Iowa State (2025)*

[1] **Ambiguity Aversion and Fertility Decisions**

[HongSeok Kim](#)

Abstract. This paper investigates how ambiguity aversion affects fertility decisions, considering the uncertainty surrounding the benefits of parenthood. We extend the Becker and Barro (1988) fertility model by incorporating ambiguity aversion to capture parents' decision-making process accurately. We assume that individuals care about their own and children's well-being (dynastic altruism) and face ambiguity about their children's future abilities (ambiguity aversion). Using a multiple priors utility framework, we model parents' preferences as maximizing their minimum expected utility of descendants, focusing on the worst-case scenario for their child's ability. Our findings suggest that more ambiguity-averse parents tend to have fewer children, as they emphasize the lowest possible outcome. This insight helps explain declining fertility rates and rising childlessness in developed countries, as individuals prioritize predictable outcomes over uncertain returns of parenthood.

Presented: *Southern Economic Association, Washington D.C (2024), 19th Economics Graduate Student Conference, Washington University in St. Louis (2024), Midwest Macro Meetings, Purdue (2024), Macro Reading Group, Iowa State (2024), Midwest Economic Association, Chicago (2023)*

Academic Service

Discussions

"Urbanicity and Fertility: Evidence from Refugees to Canada",

– Midwest Economics Association Meetings, Chicago

2024

Guest Lecture

ECON3270 (Economics of Discrimination)

– Quantity-Quality Trade-off of Gary Becker's Model

2025

Other Service

Economic Help Room Services for the Undergraduates

2021, 2023