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EDUCATION

Cornell University

Ph.D Economics (in progress)

2020-

Seoul National University

B.A. Economics, B.A. Political Science and International Relations

Summa Cum Laude

2014-2019

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor economics, Applied Econometrics

JOB MARKET PAPER

Estimating Treatment Complementarity

How can we estimate the complementarity between two treatments when assignment is not fully random, such as in randomized experiments with imperfect compliance or in quasi-experimental settings? The first part of this paper shows that the commonly used two-stage least squares (2SLS)—with instruments for each treatment and their interaction—is often not suitable for estimating treatment interaction effects. Specifically, 2SLS requires strong assumptions about (1) treatment effect heterogeneity or (2) types of compliers. I show that these assumptions have testable implications on first stage patterns, and these often fail in published empirical studies on complementarity. The second part of the paper proposes an alternative estimation strategy for cases where these assumptions for 2SLS are unlikely to hold. Building on the marginal treatment effect literature, this approach models potential outcomes as a linear function of individuals' unobserved resistance to treatment and offers a clearer connection to the intended estimand of treatment interaction. Lastly, the paper revisits Angelucci and Bennett (2024), an experimental study of complementarity under imperfect compliance, to illustrate how the proposed diagnostics and alternative estimator can enhance empirical analysis of interactions between two treatments.

Presented at: Cornell Labor Work in Progress Seminar (2024-2025), Cornell Econometrics Reading Group (2024), World Congress of the Econometric Society (2025)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Effects of SNAP Work Requirements

(with Lexin Cai and Pauline Leung)

In this paper, we examine the effectiveness of work requirements as a screening device in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the main food assistance program in the United States. “Able-bodied adults without dependents” (ABAWDs) are subject to work requirements, but during the Great Recession these rules were broadly suspended and later reinstated at different times across counties and states throughout the 2010s. Using linked SNAP and LEHD administrative data from eight states, we exploit the age-50 eligibility cutoff and county-level waiver reinstatements in difference-in-differences and triple-differences designs to estimate the effects of reinstating work requirements. We find that reinstating work requirements reduces SNAP participation and benefits among ABAWDs. We do not find robust evidence that work requirements increase labor supply. Moreover, our results suggest that work requirements disproportionately screen out low-income individuals, suggesting worse program targeting.

Any views expressed are those of the authors and not those of the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product. This research was performed at a Federal Statistical Research Data Center under FSRDC Project Number 3049. (CBDRB-FY26-P3049-R12788).

New Data on War on Poverty Programs in the 1960s

(with Esra Kose, Henry Manley and Doug Miller)

We introduce a new dataset on the War on Poverty programs from 1965 to 1969, constructed from newly discovered and digitized Poverty Program Information (PPI) books. This grant-level dataset makes four key contributions. First, it provides detailed information on each grant recipient, including the program type and the amount of federal funding appropriated. Second, it records the geographic coverage of each grant—whether national, multi-state, county-specific, or multi-county—and, for the first time, identifies the recipient counties associated with local agencies. Third, for several programs, it includes novel information on participant enrollment. Finally, it documents a set of War on Poverty initiatives that have not been previously analyzed due to the absence of data. Together, these features allow researchers to revisit earlier studies that did not have comprehensive information on the geographic distribution of anti-poverty funding and to newly examine programs that were historically excluded from empirical evaluation.

The Lifecycle Effects of War on Poverty Programs

(with Hilary Hoynes, Esra Kose, Henry Manley, and Doug Miller)

Parental Gender Norms and College Major Choice

(with Chulhee Lee and Seojung Oh)

Why do women sort into “female” majors? This paper investigates whether parental gender norms affect a child’s choice of college major in Korea. As an index of parental son preference, we use the sex ratios at birth (SRB) in the parent’s province of birth that resulted from differential rates of sex-selective abortions across regions. We find that having fathers with more traditional gender norms tend to increase the probability of the daughters’ enrollment in a female-dominated major, such as education and home economics. However, this relationship is no longer found for recent cohorts who entered college after 2000. No significant effect is observed for sons, and only weak influence of maternal gender norms is found. We offer two possible explanations for the diminished influence of parental gender norms among the younger generations, namely, increasing labor-market disadvantage associated with female-dominated majors and convergence in parental preference on sons’ and daughters’ occupations. Our results show that conventional gender stereotype in Korea played a role in shaping segregated choice of major by gender through cultural transmission, and that its influence became weaker over time.

PUBLICATION

Meijer, E., Casanova, M., Kim, H., Llena-Nozal, A., Lee, J. (2022). Economic costs of dementia in 11 countries in Europe: Estimates from nationally representative cohorts of a panel study. *The Lancet regional health. Europe*, 20, 100445.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant at Cornell University

PUBPOL 3100: Multiple Regression Analysis	2024SP
PUBPOL 6090/ECON 6590: Empirical Strategies for Policy Analysis	2023FA
ILRLE 4450/ECON 3440: Women in the Economy	2022FA

Research Assistant at Cornell University

Prof. Doug Miller (Part-time research assistance)	2022-2024
Prof. Pauline Leung	2023SP
Prof. Seth Sanders	2021FA-2022SP

Research Assistant at Center for Economic and Social Research, University of Southern California

Prof. Jinkook Lee	2018-2020
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Research Assistant at Seoul National University

Prof. Chulhee Lee (Part-time research assistance)	2017-2018
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GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Brooks School Racial Equity Research Grant <i>Cornell University</i>	2023
Sage Fellowship <i>Cornell University</i>	2020
Merit-based Scholarship <i>Seoul National University</i>	2014-2018
National Humanities and Social Sciences Undergraduate Scholarship <i>Korea Student Aid Foundation</i>	2017

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship	South Korea
Programming	Stata, MATLAB, Python, SAS, R
Languages	Korean (Native), English (Fluent)
Other	Special Sworn Status (SSS)

REFERENCES

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