

DEOKJAE JEONG

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of California, Davis	2024 (<i>Expected</i>)
M.S. in Economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison	2018
M.A. in Economics, Sung Kyun Kwan University	2012 (<i>coursework complete</i>)
B.A. in Law, Sung Kyun Kwan University	2010

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Innovation, Immigration

WORKING PAPERS

Automation, Human Task Innovation, and Labor Share: Unveiling the Role of Elasticity of Substitution (JMP)

Abstract: This paper investigates the factors driving the recent decline in labor share, with a specific emphasis on the roles of ‘automation’ and the ‘innovation of tasks exclusive to humans.’ We present four major findings. First, we identify two distinct channels through which robots affect labor share: automation and the decrease in robot prices. We observe that both channels negatively impact the labor share. Our general equilibrium model forecasts that the significance of the latter will escalate as robots become more widespread. Second, we are among the first to empirically evaluate the impact of task innovation solely assigned to humans on labor share. Our findings suggest that the positive influence of human-exclusive innovation outweighs the adverse effect of automation. Third, we contribute to the literature by estimating that the elasticity of substitution between labor and non-robot capital is less than one. Lastly, we estimate the elasticity of substitution between tasks to be one, giving empirical validation for an assumption commonly made in prior studies. With a plausible range of estimates for these two elasticities, we offer a comprehensive analysis of the interplay between factors such as capital price, robot price, and wages in determining labor share.

How the reduction of Temporary Foreign Workers led to a rise in vacancy rates in South Korea

Abstract: This paper investigates the impact of a reduction in low-skilled Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) on job vacancies in South Korea's manufacturing sectors. The study harnesses a quasi-experimental event —the commencement of a COVID-19 quarantine policy in January 2020— as the foundation to pinpoint the causal link between the dwindling numbers of TFWs and the subsequent increase in job vacancies. This stringent quarantine measure acted as the ‘shift’ component in my shift-share instrument, while the pre-pandemic distribution of TFWs across various manufacturing sectors functioned as the ‘share’ component. Utilizing Difference-in-Difference regressions with continuous intensities, the research underscores that sectors with a heavy dependence on TFWs witnessed a significant spike in vacancies a year following the COVID-19 outbreak, and this surge lasted for two years. Consequently, firms grappled with the challenge of securing full-time staff, given that most of these foreign workers (E9 visa holders) had been primarily engaged in full-time roles. This highlights that domestic workers are not readily available to fill vacant positions, especially as full-time workers. The paper also incorporates Structural Vector Autoregression and Local Projection methodologies to substantiate these observations.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Market Concentration and Labor Share: An EU Critique of the Superstar Firms Theory

PRESENTATIONS (*: Scheduled)

Korea-America Economic Association Job Market Conference	2023
Applied Microeconomics Student Talk	2022, 2023
Annual All-California Labor Economics Conference	2023
Advisees' Meeting Presentations	2021 ~ 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UC DAVIS, Teaching Assistant	2018 ~ Present
ECN 1A	Introductory Microeconomics
ECN 1B	Introductory Macroeconomics
ECN 100A	Intermediate Microeconomics
ECN 101B	Intermediate Macroeconomics
ECN 110B	World Economic History
ECN 131	Public Finance

Sung Kyun Kwan University, Teaching Assistant
Labor Economics & Microeconomics

2011

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Korea Institute of Public Finance	2014 ~ 2015
Center for Performance Evaluation and Management	
<i>Research Associate</i>	
Korea Development Institute	2012 ~ 2014
Department of Human Resource Development Policy	
<i>Research Associate</i>	

FELLOWSHIPS

Research Award (UC Davis, Department of Economics)	2023
Non-Resident Tuition Fellowship, UC Davis	2019 ~ 2022
SimSan Scholarship, SimSan Foundation	2010 ~ 2012
Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Sung Kyun Kwan University	2009

SKILLS

Stata, SAS, R, MATLAB, Python
English (fluent), Korean (native), Japanese (advanced), Mandarin (basic)

REFERENCES

Giovanni Peri

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