

KEH-KUAN SUN

Smith Institute for Political Economy and Philosophy
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Research Interests

Behavioral/Experimental Economics, Microeconomic Theory, Economics of Networks

Current Position

2021 - Present Postdoctoral Research Associate
 Smith Institute for Political Economy and Philosophy, Chapman University

Education

May 2021 Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA
 Ph.D., Economics
 Dissertation Title: *Essays in Behavioral and Experimental Economics*

May 2019 Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA
 Master of Arts, Economics

Aug 2015 Yonsei University, Seoul, Republic of Korea
 Bachelor of Arts, Economics (Minor in Applied Statistics)

 Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA, USA
 Venice High School, Venice, CA, USA
 Santa Fe Trail High School, Carbondale, KS, USA

Research

Publication

"Habits as Adaptations: An Experimental Study" (with Ludmila Matysková, Brian Rogers, and Jakub Steiner), *Games and Economic Behavior*, Volume 122, July 2020, pp. 391-406

Job Market Paper

“Lying Aversion and Vague Communication: An Experimental Study” (with Stella Papadokostantaki; under review)

Using a novel experimental design that allows participants to be vague while at the same time isolating the internal cost of lying from the social identity cost of appearing dishonest, we explore the extent to which these two types of lying costs affect communication. We find that participants exploit vagueness to be consistent with the truth, while at the same time leveraging the imprecision to their own benefit. More participants use vague messages in treatments where concern with social identity is relevant. We find that social identity concerns substantially affect the patterns of vague messages used across the treatments.

Work in Progress

“Non-Allais Paradox and Context Dependent Risk Attitudes” (with Edward Honda; presented at the 2022 North-American Economic Science Association Conference)

We propose a theoretical model and a laboratory experiment that generate an alternative type of violations of the Expected Utility model that cannot be consistent with many reference-dependent models, yet are distinct from the Allais Paradox. The experiment design consists of a series of binary comparison tasks of two lotteries. We change the relative size of the most disappointing prize while keeping the ranks of the prizes constant. A choice reversal in this series of comparison tasks will be a simple yet direct test against the Expected Utility, the Rank-Dependent Utility, and the Cumulative Prospect Theory.

“Reporting Incentives and the Structure of a Community” (presented at the 2022 Missouri Valley Economic Association Annual Meeting)

Individuals of a given moral disposition may act differently depending on the pattern of connections in a community. This paper examines how the network structure of a community affects a witness and her reporting incentive through a model of favor exchange over a social network. A key factor that affects the reporting decision of a witness to a crime in this model is the relative impact of the offender on the witness’s local network. The result identifies what kind of society is more susceptible to hidden crime. It gives a warning especially for a closed community for the potential harm of overly intertwined mutual neighbors.

“Preferences for Mixing” (with John Rehbeck)

Recent studies, through revealed preferences, find that many individuals prefer randomization when facing a choice problem between lotteries. We propose an experiment to directly elicit one’s willingness-to-pay for different randomization devices over lotteries. This evidence will allow us to separate preferences for randomization and preferences for the reduction of compound lotteries. The novel design allows the measurement of a value to randomization in an incentive-compatible way while using fewer questions than would otherwise be needed. The data will further enable us to look at the comparative statics of mixing.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2023	Asia-Pacific Economic Science Association Conference, Korea (scheduled) Midwest Economics Association Conference, Cleveland, OH (scheduled) Hitotsubashi University, Japan (scheduled) Fairfield University, CT
2022	North-American Economic Science Association Conference Missouri Valley Economic Association Annual Meeting Washington University in St. Louis AEA 2022 Annual Meeting (Poster)
2021	ESA Global Online Around-the-Clock Meetings Asian Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society ECONtribute Summer Workshop 2021 on Social Image and Moral Behavior Tokyo Institute of Technology Berlin School of Economics Korea Information Society Development Institute
2020	The Economic Science Association Job-Market Candidates Seminar Series 9th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (cancelled) Midwest Economics Association Conference (cancelled)
2019	Econometric Society Summer School, Sapporo, Japan Midwest Economics Association Conference, St. Louis, MO
2018	Economics Graduate Student Conference, Washington University in St. Louis ISET Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis 7th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, Atlanta, GA

Teaching Experience

Instructor - Chapman University	
Principles of Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	2021-2022
Instructor - Washington University in St. Louis	
Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	Summer 2017
Teaching Assistant - Washington University in St. Louis	
Behavioral and Experimental Economics (Undergraduate, for Brian Rogers)	2017-2019
Introduction to Macroeconomics (Undergraduate, for Dorothy Petersen)	Fall 2016
Teaching Assistant - Yonsei University (conducted in English)	
Game Theory (Undergraduate, for Sun-ku Hahn)	2012-2015

Contract Theory (Undergraduate, for Oliver Hart)	Fall 2014
Economics of Uncertainty (Undergraduate, for Glenn Ellison)	Spring 2014

Laboratory Experience

Lab Manager - Washington University in St. Louis

Missouri Social Science Experimental Laboratory (Supervisor: Brian Rogers)	2016-2020
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Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

McDonnell International Scholar (Mirae Asset Corporate Fellowship), McDonnell International Scholars Academy, Washington University in St. Louis	2015 - 2020
Teaching and Research Assistantship, School of Economics, Yonsei University	2012-2015
Full Tuition Scholarship, Hyundai Asan Foundation	2012-2013
One Asia Foundation Scholarship, One Asia Foundation	2012
Chair of Asia Economic Community Foundation Award, Asia Economic Community Foundation	2012
Leadership Service Scholarship, Yonsei University	2011
Full Tuition Scholarship, Yonsei University	2010-2011

Department Services (Washington University in St. Louis)

Organizer, Microeconomic Theory Workshop for Graduate Students	2018 - 2019
Organizing Committee, 13th Economics Graduate Students Conference	2018
Organizing Committee, 12th Economics Graduate Students Conference	2017
Organizer, Graduate Student Association Breakfast Seminar	2017 - 2019
Leadership Service, Graduate Student Association	2017 - 2021
Volunteer, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society	2017

Skills

Languages: Korean(native), English(fluent), Japanese(fluent), Chinese(intermediate)
 Programming Languages: R, Python, PHP, JavaScript
 Experiment Software: zTree , oTree
 Lab Management: ORSEE, Linux server management

References

Brian Rogers (Chair)

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