

Min-Jung Kim

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Education

2026 Ph.D. Economics, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA (*Expected May*)
2018 M.A. Economics and Finance, Hanyang University, South Korea
2016 B.A. International Trade, Konkuk University, South Korea

Fields of Specialization

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Health Economics, Education Economics

References

Timothy J. Halliday (Co-chair)
Professor
Department of Economics
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Email: halliday@hawaii.edu

Sang-Hyop Lee (Co-chair)
Professor
Department of Economics
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
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Dylan T. Moore
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
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Michael M. Phillips
Associate Specialist
Department of Public Health Sciences
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Email: mphil@hawaii.edu

Fellowships and Awards

2016–2018 Graduate Research Fellowship, Hanyang University
2013–2014 Academic Excellence Scholarship, Konkuk University
2014 Conference Presentation Award (1st Place), Konkuk University
2013 National Academic Excellence Scholarship, Government of South Korea

Research Experience

2024–Present Research Assistant, CDC Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Project,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Supervisor: Michael M. Phillips)
2017–2018 Research Assistant, Department of Economics,
Hanyang University (Professor: Youngwoo Koh)

Teaching Experience

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

2022–2025	Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics
2019–2022	Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics
2022	Teaching Assistant, Principles of Macroeconomics
2021, 2023	Teaching Assistant, Games and Economic Behavior
2021, 2023	Teaching Assistant, Development Economics
2023	Teaching Assistant, Financial Markets and Institutions
2021	Teaching Assistant, Economic Forecasting
2021, 2023	Teaching Assistant, Economics of Happiness

Hanyang University

2018	Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (Graduate)
2018	Teaching Assistant, Advanced Microeconomics (Graduate)
2017–2018	Teaching Assistant, Economics of Information and Uncertainty
2016–2017	Teaching Assistant, Mathematical Economics
2016–2017	Teaching Assistant, Law and Economics Theory

Job Market Paper

“The Determinants of Sibling Similarity in Risky Behavior: Evidence from South Korea”

Despite well-documented sibling similarity in risky behaviors, little is known about the mechanisms that drive it. This paper provides the first empirical evidence from South Korea that this similarity cannot be fully explained by parental socioeconomic status or direct sibling spillovers, and that unobserved common factors, such as parenting style and household norms, also play an essential role in shaping it. Using four complementary identification strategies, I find that socioeconomic background accounts for part of the observed correlation but can sometimes suppress the mechanisms that generate it. The influence of older siblings is modest, largely contemporaneous, and can discourage rather than imitate certain behaviors. A substantial portion instead reflects these unobserved common factors, notably, 67% for drinking and 86% for violence, which are more readily shaped by parental conduct and household norms. These effects are most pronounced among brother pairs and siblings close in age. This finding underscores that sibling similarity in risky behaviors is structured less by peer imitation than by family norms and intra-household dynamics.

Working Papers

“Birth Order, Gender and Parental Investments in South Korea”

The mechanisms underlying the impact of birth order on parental inputs and child outcomes are still unclear. This study considers that pregnancy planning, gender preference, and expectations can vary with birth order, affecting parental inputs. Using this perspective, I investigate the influence of birth order on parental inputs and children's time use in South Korea. Apart from parental supervision, I find that parents are more involved in school activities and invest more in private education expenditures for first-born children than their later-born siblings. These results indirectly affect children's time use, so

that firstborn children spend more time in private education and less time in leisure activities than their siblings. Another key finding is that there is no gender effect in parental inputs, which provides evidence that the historically strong preference for sons in South Korea has considerably declined in recent years. These results support existing research on long-term outcomes associated with birth order and contribute to understanding parental investment behavior. The evidence consistently points to parents investing more in their firstborns in South Korea. This firstborn advantage has also existed in the country's past, but the findings suggest that it may have intensified under sustained low fertility. As family size decreases, parents increasingly concentrate their limited resources on the eldest child to maximize educational and economic returns and enhance the household's overall prospects.

Work in Progress

“The Effect of Maternal Employment on Children’s Time Use: Evidence from South Korea”

“The Influence of Household Income on Children’s Health in South Korea”

Seminar and Conference Presentations

- 2025 Southern Economic Association Meeting (SEA), Tampa, FL - Scheduled
- Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting (SOLE), Toronto, Canada
- Western Economic Association International Annual Meeting (WEAI), San Francisco, CA
- Population Association of America Annual Meeting (PAA), Washington, D.C.
- Midwest Economic Association Meetings (MEA), Kansas City, MO
- 2024 University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Applied Microeconomics Workshop
- 2023 University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Applied Microeconomics Workshop
- 2014 Konkuk University Academic Conference

Skills

Programming: Stata, R, QGIS, L^AT_EX

Languages: Korean (native), English (fluent)