MINJE CHO

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EDUCATION

Korea University
M.A. in Economics (February 2025)

Korea University
B.A. in Economics and B.A. in Statistics (February 2023)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health Economics, Public Economics, Econometrics

WORKING PAPER

Individual Differences in the Effects of Neighborhood Socioeconomic Deprivation on Economic Decision Making and Psychotic Risk in Children (with Junghoon Park, Eunji Lee, Bo-Gyeom Kim, Gakyung Kim, Yoonjung Yoonie Joo and Jiook Cha) [link]

This study finds that greater neighborhood deprivation correlates with children's increased future reward discounting and psychotic-like experiences (PLEs) using the instrumental variable forest model, with the effects on PLEs varying by genetic predisposition, cognitive intelligence, and brain structure.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Economic Costs of a Social Tragedy: Evidence from the Itaewon Crowd Crush (with Kanghyock Koh)

This study assesses the economic impact of the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush, identifying significant declines in credit card spending, transaction volumes, and foot traffic in the affected neighborhood.

External and Internal Margin Gains from Infrastructure Improvement (with Wookun Kim and Matthew Shapiro)
This research investigates the economic impact of the Seoul Metro Line 9 extension on local economic activity, utilizing detailed public transit, mobility, and card transaction records.

The Effect of Air Quality Alerts on Consumption and Foot Traffic (with Jongbin Lee)
This research examines how people respond to air quality alerts through changes in card spending and foot traffic, using regression discontinuity to verify the program's unintended economic costs.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for **Prof. Chirok Han & Sangsoo Park (Korea Univ.)**   08/2024 - 12/2024
- Constructed a code database with R and Stata to develop the Economic Generative Interpretive System.

Research Assistant for **Prof. Kanghyock Koh (Korea Univ.)**   03/2023 - 02/2024
- Constructed a panel dataset integrating healthcare utilization records of 1 million individuals from the National Health Insurance Service cohort with pollution records in South Korea.
- Analyzed the impact of PM2.5 on healthcare utilization by age group and symptoms, using trans-boundary PM2.5 as an instrumental variable.

Research Assistant for **Prof. Wookun Kim (Southern Methodist Univ.)**   08/2022 - 02/2023
- Created a district-level pollutant panel dataset (2001-2022) in South Korea, aggregating station-level measurements and accounting for stations' relocations, closures, and new installations.
- Explored data imputation techniques, including the use of satellite imagery to recover unobserved PM2.5 data before 2015.

Research Assistant for **Prof. Jiook Cha (Seoul National Univ.)**   01/2022 - 12/2022
- Conducted research for the paper titled "Individual Differences in the Effects of Neighborhood Socioeconomic Deprivation on Economic Decision-Making and Psychotic Risk in Children."
- Led a lab-wide seminar on heterogeneous treatment effect estimation, focusing on the generalized random forest model and its applications in psychopathology and psychiatry.

SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS

Graduate Student Session, Korea Economics Association Annual Meeting	2025
PhD Conference, Korea University Economics Department	2024

HONORS AND GRANTS

Outstanding Research Proposal Award, BK21 Economic Education Research Group	2023
BK21 Fellowship, BK21 Economic Education Research Group	2023
Outstanding M.A. Program Entrant, Korea University	2023
Full Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Korea University	2022
Research Support Program, Korea University Economics Department	2022
Honorable mention, NH Investment and Securities Big Data Contest	2021

- Awarded in Algorithm Development Field, $750

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for **Prof. Kanghyock Koh (Korea Univ.)**   09/2024 - 12/2024
- Health Economics (undergraduate)

Teaching Assistant for **Prof. Youngwoo Koh (Korea Univ.)**   03/2024 - 06/2024
- Mathematics for Economists (undergraduate), Microeconomic Theory I (graduate), Microeconomic Theory Seminar (graduate)

SKILLS

Programming Languages
Python, R, Stata, SAS, GAUSS, Matlab

Languages
English (fluent), Korean (native)