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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**Education**

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA**
Ph.D. Economics 2020-2026 (expected)

**Chinese University of Hong Kong, China**
M.Phil Economics 2017-2019

**Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands**
B.Sc. Economics and Business Economics (cum laude) 2015-2017

**Sung Kyun Kwan University, South Korea**
B.Sc. in Economics 2012-2019

**Fields**

Health, Public, and Development economics

**References**

Julian Reif
University of Illinois
Gies College of Business
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Mark Daniel Bernhardt
University of Illinois
Department of Economics
(217) 244-5708
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David Molitor
University of Illinois
Gies College of Business
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**Employment**

Asian Development Bank, Consultant, 2019-2020
Republic of Korea Air Force, 2013-2015

**Research**

Research Assistant, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Julian Reif, 2021-2026
Research Assistant, Asian Development Bank, Hyuncheol Bryant Kim, 2019-2020
Research Assistant, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Laura Hering, 2016-2017

**Teaching**

Intermediate Macroeconomics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Wallace Kai Chung Mok, 2017-2019

**Job Market Paper**

**Health Screening and Selection: Evidence from Biennial Subsidies in South Korea**

Public health screening programs are widely used, but their impact is often limited by low participation among high-risk individuals who stand to benefit most from early diagnosis. I study selection into health screenings and their causal effects using quasi-random variation from South Korea's National Health Screening Program, which subsidizes 90--100% of screening costs every other year at even-numbered ages. Using survey data, I find that subsidy eligibility increases screening completion by 16-19 percentage points (183-295%). Compliers with the subsidies are predominantly from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and are in poorer health than those who always participate regardless of subsidies. Using national health insurance claims data, I find that subsidy eligibility increases both in-situ and invasive cancer diagnoses by 17-19%, as well as treatments for conditions including cancer precursors, hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, and

osteoporosis. These results demonstrate that subsidies can effectively target high-risk individuals and strengthen the impact of public health screening programs.

**Working Papers**

**Spousal Spillover in Health Screening: Evidence from National Health Screening Program in South Korea** (with Hyuncheol Bryant Kim and Jaehyun Jung)

This study investigates spousal spillover in health screenings using South Korea's National Health Screening Program, which subsidizes 90–100% of screening costs biennially at even-numbered ages. Using spouse's even age as an instrument, we estimate that a spouse's screening increases one's own participation by 7.9 percentage points, 37% of the direct subsidy effect. Evidence points to coordination as a key mechanism, as many couples undergo screening on the same day. We also find contrasting patterns of selection by own subsidy eligibility. Among subsidy-eligible individuals, those with low socioeconomic status (SES) are more likely to respond to their spouse's screening, while among ineligible individuals, spillovers are concentrated among those with high SES. These results suggest that spousal spillovers can be used to increase participation and reduce socioeconomic disparities in preventive care.

**Misinformation Belief, Health Behavior, and Labor Supply during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Tricycle Drivers in Philippines** (with Hyuncheol Bryant Kim, Syngjoo Choi, Yasuyuki Sawada, and Takashi Yamano) (Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*)

This study aims to analyze the behavioral consequences of people's beliefs in conspiracy theories and misinformation surrounding COVID-19 vaccines. We employ unique panel data to examine the relationship of belief in misinformation, vaccination behavior, and labor supply of tricycle drivers in the Philippines. We find that individuals with higher risk preference are more likely to hold misinformed beliefs. These beliefs, in turn, are associated with reductions in vaccination and other preventive health behaviors. We also find that beliefs in misinformation delay workplace recovery.

**Papers in Progress**

**When Gender Norms Shape the Returns to Education: Evidence from Health Behaviors in Indonesia** (with Jaysa Rafi)

**Impact of False Positive and False Negative Tests on Mortality and Health Care Utilization: Evidence from Cancer Screenings in South Korea**

**Other Publications**

**Geographic differences in the mortality burden of the Covid-19 pandemic** (with Julian Reif and Hanke Heun-Johnson, *IGPA Policy Spotlight*, 2023)

**Post-Pandemic Employment Recovery: Case Study of Tricycle Drivers in Metro Manila** (with Takashi Yamano, Yasuyuki Sawada, Shigehiro Shinozaki, Hyuncheol Bryant Kim, and Syngjoo Choi, *Informal Services in Asian Cities: Lessons for Urban Planning and Management from the Covid-19 Pandemic*, 2022)

**Fellowships & Awards**

Boltz Fellowship, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 2025
Harbeson Memorial Fellowship, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2024
Brems Third Year Paper Award, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2023
Best Graduate Student Paper, Missouri Valley Economic Association, 2022
Thesis Competition Award, Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, 2019
Excellence Scholarship for non-EEA students, Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2016

Samsung Global Scholarship, Sung Kyun Kwan University, 2012

**Seminars & Conferences**

American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon), Nashville, 2025
Asian Economic Development Conference, Seoul, 2024
Asian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics, Manila, 2023
Washington University in St. Louis Economics Graduate Student Conference, St. Louis, 2023
Asia-Pacific Economic Science Association, Seoul, 2023
Missouri Valley Economic Association Conference, St. Louis, 2022

**Academic Service**

Referee for *American Journal of Health Economics*

**Languages**

English (fluent), Korean (fluent), Spanish (beginner), Chinese (beginner)

**Software skills**

Stata, Python, R, Latex

(Last updated in September 2025)