

Yu Kyung Koh

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EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral researcher, Department of Economics, McGill University 2023-Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics	Columbia University	2023
M.A. in Economics	Columbia University	2019
B.A. in Economics	University of Chicago	2015

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Fields: Family Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

REFERENCES

Pierre-André Chiappori (<i>Co-sponsor</i>)	Bernard Salanié (<i>Co-sponsor</i>)	Brendan O’Flaherty
E. Rowan and Barbara	Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics
Steinschneider Professor of	Columbia University	Columbia University
Economics	bs2237@columbia.edu	bo2@columbia.edu
Columbia University		
pc2167@columbia.edu		

WORKING PAPERS

“Evolution and Welfare Implications of Racial Sorting in the US Marriage Market”

Abstract: Interracial marriage has steadily increased in the US, indicating positive progress toward social integration. Nevertheless, this progress has been uneven across different social groups, with notable gender disparities among Blacks and Asians. This paper analyzes how changing marital gains and changing population supplies have shaped the interracial marriage pattern and the marital welfare of each social group in the US. Using a structural model of marriage market equilibrium, I first show that marital gains from interracial marriage have improved only for some pairs, revealing substantial gender and education gaps. I then show that these disparities in marital gains, along with the demographic composition, have improved marriage prospects and welfare for some groups (e.g. college-educated Black men) while limiting others' (e.g. Black women). Using the estimated model, I uncover the complex ways through which changing marital gains and population have shaped uneven marital welfare. I find that both (1) increasing sex ratio imbalance and (2) evolving gender gaps in marital gains from interracial marriage contributed to the evolving gender gaps in marital prospects, but differently for different racial groups. Lastly, I show that removing the gender gaps in racial preferences in marriage, particularly in the direction of stronger racial integration, would improve marital prospects for all.

“Gender Wage Gap and Household Consumption in the US: Evidence from the Scanner Data” (with So Yoon Ahn)

Abstract: How does women’s relative economic position affect household consumption? Higher female income can enhance women’s bargaining power, shifting spending toward their preferences. Conversely, higher earnings may lengthen work hours, affecting time constraints and spending patterns. Using exogenous gender-specific wage variations and detailed US household scanner data, we find that women’s better labor market conditions increase spending on women- and children-related goods, supporting household bargaining theories. However, unlike in developing countries,

higher female wages in the US result in more frozen food and less fresh produce consumption, suggesting a labor supply effect. This shift is linked to increased household obesity.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

“Geographical Variation in the Gains from Racial Desegregation in the US Marriage Market”

“Preference Heterogeneity versus Economic Incentives: What Determines the Choice to Give Care?” (with Daniel Barczyk and Matthias Kredler)

PRE-DOCTORAL PUBLICATION

“Evaluation of the Reggio Approach to Early Education” with P. Biroli, D. Del Boca, J. J. Heckman, L. P. Heckman, S. Kuperman, S. Moktan, C. D. Pronzato, A. L. Ziff, *Research in Economics*, 72(1): 1-32 (2018).

INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (* denotes presented by co-author)

2024: SOLE, CEA, CIREQ-McGill

2023: SOLE*, SEA

2022: Annual Meeting of the Society of Economics of the Household (UCL), Leuven Summer Event – Labor/Family Economics (KU Leuven)

2021: Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics Annual Conference (Peking University, Virtual)

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Full-Time Research Professional at the Center for the Economics of Human Development, University of Chicago, 2015-2017 (Director: James J. Heckman)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TA for Intermediate Microeconomics (Dr. Wouter Vergote), Columbia University, Fall 2019

TA for Intermediate Microeconomics (Prof. Caterina Musatti), Columbia University, Spring 2020

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University, 2022-2023

Kwanjeong Education Foundation Fellowship, 2017-2022

Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University, 2017-2022

Young-Iob Chung Fellowship, Columbia University, 2019-2020

First Place in the Econometrics Game, Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago, 2015

UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Student organizer for Applied Microeconomic Theory Colloquium, Columbia University, 2021-2022

SKILLS

Computer Skills: R, Matlab, Stata, Julia, Python

Languages: Korean (native), English (fluent)

PERSONAL

Citizenship: South Korea