Yu Kyung Koh

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Current Position

Postdoctoral Researcher	*Montreal, Canada*
McGill University	*Sep 2023 – Current*

Education

Columbia University	*Sep 2017 – May 2023*

Ph.D. in Economics (2023), M.A. in Economics (2019)

- ○ **Supervisors:** Pierre-André Chiappori, Bernard Salanié, Brendan O'Flaherty
- ○ **Specializations:** Applied Microeconomics, Family Economics, Labor Economics, Matching

University of Chicago	*Sep 2011 - June 2015*

B.A. in Economics

Working Papers

[Juggling Priorities: Women's Labor Market Opportunities and Household Consumption](#) ⧉ (with So Yoon Ahn) - *Accepted at Journal of Human Resources*

Abstract: How do women's relative labor market opportunities affect household consumption for married couples? While higher potential wages can enhance women's bargaining power, shifting consumption toward their preferences, they may increase work hours, altering time constraints and spending. Using exogenous gender-specific wages and scanner data, we find higher female-relative wages increase spending on convenience foods and decrease spending on fresh produce, contributing to higher obesity rates. This is primarily driven by women's time reallocation, given their disproportionate domestic responsibilities. Our findings suggest that the impacts of earned female income may differ from those of unearned income found in previous studies.

[Racial Sorting in the US Marriage Market: Evolution and Welfare Implications](#) ⧉

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 the marital welfare of different social groups is shaped by changing marital gains related to interracial marriage and changing population composition. 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 a decomposition method accounting for the equilibrium channels, I find that the evolving gender disparities in marital surplus associated with interracial marriage contributed to the gender gaps in marital welfare among Black men and women. In contrast, the sex ratio imbalances played a more substantial role for White men's and women's marital welfare. Lastly, I show that in the absence of the gender gaps in racial preferences in marriage, particularly in the direction of stronger racial integration, marital prospects for all would improve.

[Preference Heterogeneity versus Economic Incentives: What Determines the Choice to Give Care to the Elderly?](#) ⧉ (with Daniel Barczyk and Matthias Kredler) - *Reject & Resubmit at Journal of Public Economics*

Abstract: Family is a primary source of care, yet significant variations in care arrangements exist both across families and countries. To understand why, we develop a tractable static model in which parents and children bargain over care arrangements, accounting for both financial incentives and heterogeneous caregiving preferences. Our structural model directly implies a discrete-choice estimation equation that we implement on European data. We find that non-monetary preferences significantly shape care decisions: omitting preference heterogeneity overstates the price elasticity of formal care by a factor of 2.5. Counterfactuals show that implementing formal-care subsidies as in the most generous low-cost countries leads to a 38-76% increase in nursing-home uptake in the remainder of Europe; cross-country preference heterogeneity is an equally important determinant for the low- cost versus high-cost country gradient in formal-care use. Our model forecasts a three- to thirteen-fold rise in future formal care demand by 2050, driven mainly by a declining ratio of adult children to elderly parents.

Work in Progress

The Role of Firms in Parental Leave Take-Up

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

2025	World Labor Conference by Society of Labor Economists (SOLE), Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting, (CEA), Population Dynamics Seminar at McGill
2024	Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting (SOLE), Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting (CEA), CIREQ-McGill
2023	Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting (SOLE)*, Southern Economics Association (SEA) – Structural Applied Micro
2022	Annual Meeting of the Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO), Leuven Summer Event – Labor/Family Economics (KU Leuven), Nebraska Labor Summit*
2021	Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics Annual Conference (AASLE)

* denotes co-author's presentation

Relevant Work Experience

Research Professional (Supervisor: James J. Heckman)   *Chicago, Illinois*
Center for the Economics of Human Development   *Aug 2015 – June 2017*

Teaching and Department Service

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

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

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

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, University of Chicago	*2015*

Skills

Computer Skills: Python, R, MATLAB, Stata, Julia, SQL

Languages: Korean (native), English (fluent), French (beginner)

Personal

Citizenship: South Korea • U.S. Permanent Resident

References

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