

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 Steinschneider Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics
Columbia University	Columbia University	Columbia University
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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. The gender disparity in interracial marriage is concerning as it can diminish the marriage opportunities of the gender that intermarries less than its opposite-gender counterpart. This paper analyzes how the gender asymmetries in marital gains associated with interracial marriage have evolved and shaped the distribution of welfare in the marriage market. 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 uneven benefits across interracial marriage types have improved marriage probabilities for some groups (e.g. college-educated Black men) while limiting marriage prospects for others (e.g. Black women). I find that both (1) sex ratio imbalance and (2) gender gaps in marital gains from interracial marriage contributed to the 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: We examine how women’s relative earning potential shapes household consumption patterns in the US, leveraging plausibly exogenous variations in gender-specific wages created by Bartik-style approaches. We extend existing evidence by providing causal estimates that encompass a broader demographic spectrum and incorporate novel variations in relative wages. We find that women’s better labor market opportunities lead to an increase in women- and children-related consumption and a decrease in men’s alcohol consumption, aligning more with women’s preferences. However, we

do not find impacts on food consumption, which diverges from patterns observed in developing countries. Our results are consistent with household bargaining explanations.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

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

“Siblings’ Interactions in Caregiving for Parents” (with Daniel Barczyk, Matthias Kredler, Frank Yang)

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 (*scheduled*), CIREQ-McGill (*scheduled*)
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