# Yu Kyung Koh

December 2022

Department of Economics
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

773-818-5894
yukyung.koh@columbia.edu
www.yukyungkoh.com

Placement Chairs:  Sandra Black, sblack@columbia.edu, Suresh Naidu, sn2430@columbia.edu
Placement Assistant:  Amy Devine, (212) 854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

EDUCATION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ph.D. in Economics | Columbia University | 2017-Present |
| M.A. in Economics | Columbia University | 2019 |
| B.A. in Economics | The University of Chicago | 2015 |

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

*Fields:* Family Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

REFERENCES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pierre-André Chiappori *(Co-sponsor)* | Bernard Salanié *(Co-sponsor)* | Brendan O'Flaherty |
| E. Rowan and Barbara Steinschneider Professor of Economics | Professor of Economics | Professor of Economics |
| Columbia University | Columbia University | Columbia University |
| pc2167@columbia.edu | bs2237@columbia.edu | bo2@columbia.edu |

JOB MARKET PAPER

"The Unequal Gains from Racial Desegregation in the US Marriage Market"

**Abstract:** Interracial marriages have increased in the US over the past several decades, but the trends differ across race, gender, and education groups. This suggests that racial desegregation in the marriage market may not have improved marriage prospects of all groups. This paper studies why some groups have gained more from marital desegregation than others over the past four decades. To this end, I build a transferable utility matching model to define and estimate the welfare gains from marital desegregation by comparing the equilibrium rates of singlehood in the observed marriage market with those in a completely segregated marriage market. I find that among Blacks and Whites, college-educated men gained more than their female and lower-educated male counterparts. To understand why, I implement a decomposition method  to examine the general equilibrium effects from various market-level changes in population and in marital preferences. I find that not everyone benefits from marital desegregation, despite having a larger pool of potential partners, if there is an unbalanced sex ratio or unbalanced marital preferences towards interracial marriage. Simulation results suggest that progress toward racial integration in the marriage market would significantly reduce the rates of singlehood among Blacks.

WORKING PAPERS

"Spousal Bargaining Power and Consumption of Married Couples in the US: Evidence from the Scanner Data" (with So Yoon Ahn)

**Abstract:** This paper studies how spousal bargaining power affects consumption patterns of married households in the US, using a detailed barcode-level dataset. We use two distribution factors as proxies for spousal bargaining power: (1) spouses' relative education and (2) spouses' relative potential wage, which is our preferred distribution factor. As an arguably exogenous measure of bargaining power, our relative potential wage is constructed as a Bartik-style measure of female-to-male wage ratio, exploiting county-level variations in heterogeneous exposure to different industries and state-wide wage growth. We find that the expenditure share on women's beauty goods increases and the expenditure share on alcohol decreases when the relative bargaining position of the wife is higher. These results are consistent with household bargaining explanations. For couples with children, improved women's household bargaining position is associated with a higher budget share on books, stationery, and school supplies, which are potentially related to investment in children. For singles, we do not find statistically meaningful effects of relative potential wage on any of their consumption outcomes, which strengthens the interpretation that the relative wage only affects couples' consumption decisions.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

"Geographical Variation in the Gains from Racial Desegregation in the US Marriage Market"

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 PRESENTATION

| | |
|---|---|
| 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