

Last Updated: August 17, 2025

Hyewon Kim

- E-mail: hk935@cornell.edu
- Phone: +1) 213-477-5517

EDUCATION

Cornell University

Ph.D Economics (in progress)

2020-

Seoul National University

B.A. Economics, B.A. Political Science and International Relations

Summa Cum Laude

2014-2019

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor economics, Applied Econometrics

JOB MARKET PAPER

Estimating Treatment Complementarity

How can we estimate the complementarity between two treatments when assignment is not fully random, as in randomized experiments with imperfect compliance or in quasi-experimental settings? The first part of this paper shows that the standard econometric approach—two-stage least squares (2SLS) with instruments for each treatment and their interaction—is often not suitable for estimating treatment interaction effects. Specifically, 2SLS requires strong assumptions on (1) treatment effect heterogeneity and (2) types of compliers. I show that these assumptions have testable implications, and these often fail in published empirical studies on complementarity. The second part proposes an alternative estimation strategy for cases where the restrictive assumptions are likely to fail and 2SLS is not viable. Building on the literature on marginal treatment effects, this approach models potential outcomes as a linear function of individuals' unobserved resistance to treatment and offers a clearer connection to the intended estimand of treatment interaction. Lastly, the paper revisits published empirical studies on treatment complementarity.

Presented at: Cornell Labor Work in Progress Seminar (2024-2025), Cornell Econometrics Reading Group (2024), World Congress of the Econometric Society (2025, Planned)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Effects of Work Requirements in Means-Tested Programs

(with Lexin Cai and Pauline Leung)

New Data on War on Poverty Programs in the 1960s

(with Esra Kose, Henry Manley and Doug Miller)

We introduce a new data source on the War on Poverty programs from 1965-1969, using a collection of newly discovered and digitized Poverty Program Information (PPI) books. This grant-level data set has four primary contributions. First, it includes the name of each grant recipient, the type of program funded, and the amount of funding that was appropriated. Second, it indicates whether the grant coverage was nationwide, multiple state, individual county, or for multiple counties. Multiple county program listings provide information about the recipient counties by local agencies for the first time. Third, for several programs, it provides novel information on enrollment. Finally, it includes information on a new set of War on Poverty programs that have not been previously studied due to lack of data.

The Lifecycle Effects of War on Poverty Programs

(with Hilary Hoynes, Esra Kose, Henry Manley, and Doug Miller)

Parental Gender Norms and College Major Choice

(with Chulhee Lee and Seojung Oh)

Why do women sort into “female” majors? This paper investigates whether parental gender norms affect a child’s choice of college major in Korea. As an index of parental son preference, we use the sex ratios at birth (SRB) in the parent’s province of birth that resulted from differential rates of sex-selective abortions across regions. We find that having fathers with more traditional gender norms tend to increase the probability of the daughters’ enrollment in a female-dominated major, such as education and home economics. However, this relationship is no longer found for recent cohorts who entered college after 2000. No significant effect is observed for sons, and only weak influence of maternal gender norms is found. We offer two possible explanations for the diminished influence of parental gender norms among the younger generations, namely, increasing labor-market disadvantage associated with female-dominated majors and convergence in parental preference on sons’ and daughters’ occupations. Our results show that conventional gender stereotype in Korea played a role in shaping segregated choice of major by gender through cultural transmission, and that its influence became weaker over time.

PUBLICATION

Meijer, E., Casanova, M., Kim, H., Llena-Nozal, A., Lee, J. (2022). Economic costs of dementia in 11 countries in Europe: Estimates from nationally representative cohorts of a panel study. *The Lancet regional health. Europe*, 20, 100445.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant at Cornell University

PUBPOL 3100: Multiple Regression Analysis	2024SP
PUBPOL 6090/ECON 6590: Empirical Strategies for Policy Analysis	2023FA
ILRLE 4450/ECON 3440: Women in the Economy	2022FA

Research Assistant at Cornell University

Prof. Doug Miller (Part-time research assistance)	2022-2024
Prof. Pauline Leung	2023SP
Prof. Seth Sanders	2021FA-2022SP

Research Assistant at Center for Economic and Social Research, University of Southern California

Prof. Jinkook Lee	2018-2020
-------------------	-----------

Research Assistant at Seoul National University

Prof. Chulhee Lee (Part-time research assistance)	2017-2018
---	-----------

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Brooks School Racial Equity Research Grant <i>Cornell University</i>	2023
--	------

Sage Fellowship <i>Cornell University</i>	2020
---	------

Merit-based Scholarship <i>Seoul National University</i>	2014-2018
--	-----------

National Humanities and Social Sciences Undergraduate Scholarship <i>Korea Student Aid Foundation</i>	2017
---	------

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship	South Korea
Programming	Stata, MATLAB, Python, SAS, R
Languages	Korean (Native), English (Fluent)
Other	Special Sworn Status (SSS)