

Jun Soo Lee

Curriculum Vitae

Contact

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Education

University at Albany, SUNY

Ph.D. in Economics

Fields: Health Economics, Labor Economics, and Applied Econometrics

Albany, NY
Aug 2016 – May 2019 (Expected)

University of Tennessee

M.S. in Economics

Knoxville, TN
May 2016

University of Rochester

B.A. with Double majors in Financial Economics with Honors and Mathematics

Rochester, NY
May 2014

Employment

Division of Budget, Economic and Forecasting Units, New York State

Intern

Albany, NY
May 2018-Present

Office of Mental Health, Office of Performance Measurement and Evaluation, New York State

Intern

Albany, NY
May 2017-Aug 2017

University at Albany, SUNY

Research Assistant to Professor Byoung Park

Albany, NY
Summer, 2017

Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research

Research Assistant

Knoxville, TN
Aug 2015-Aug 2016

References:

Associate Professor Pinka Chatterji (Co-chair)
Office Location: Building 25, Room 211B
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Assistant Professor Byoung Park (Co-chair)
Office Location: Building 25, Room 217
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Assistant Professor Chun-Yo Ho
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Distinguished Professor Kajal Lahiri
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Working Papers

"Does Seasonality of Birth Outcomes Really Exist?: Evidence from Weather Conditions during Pregnancy." (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: Previous studies demonstrate that month of birth is highly correlated with birth outcomes and later economic outcomes. Infants born in winter months experience lower educational attainment and worse socioeconomic status later

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in life compared to infants born during summer months. The common limitation of previous studies is that most document the association between month of birth and various outcomes, but the mechanism is poorly understood. In the first part of this paper, I document that the seasonality of birth outcomes is driven by weather conditions during pregnancy. My results show that up to 81% of the effects of seasonality on birth outcomes disappears in most specifications of models that include weather conditions during pregnancy as covariates. In fact, the seasonality birth effects for summer periods either become negative in sign or become statistically insignificant. This evidence supports the idea that the month of birth effects absorb the effects of weather conditions during pregnancy on birth outcomes. In the second part of the paper, I contribute to the small but growing literature on the effects of weather on birth outcomes. Previous studies have found negative effects of solar radiation during the second trimester on birth outcomes. I find that the negative association is driven by the adverse effect of solar radiation during the second trimester on the length of the gestation period. The negative effects on gestation periods are significant and stronger for Non-Latino White mothers but statistically insignificant and positive for African-American mothers. The heterogeneity of the effects of solar radiation on the length of gestation period is consistent with previous findings of racial differences in effects of solar radiation on birth outcomes. After taking the length of the gestation period into account, solar radiation has a direct positive influence on babies' birth outcomes for both Non-Latino White and African-American mothers. The increase in vitamin D may improve birth outcomes, but, on the other hand, increases in solar radiation reduce the length of gestation periods, detracting from birth outcomes.

"Identification and Estimation of Causal Mediation Model: Evidence from Malawi Agriculture Data" with Byoung Park

Abstract: This paper presents identification results for a nonseparable model of causal mediation analysis. We consider the causal effects of a treatment (e.g., hybrid seed) on an outcome of interest (e.g., yields). Direct causal effects are the effects of the treatment on the outcome when other covariates are held fixed. However, in many applications, there are some covariates (e.g., fertilizer) such that the treatment affects the covariates, and in turn, the covariates affect the outcome, which is the indirect effects of the treatment on the outcome. We provide a nonseparable model for causal inference in such applications and find sufficient conditions to identify the model. We also propose a quantile treatment effect parameter of total effects and a decomposition of the quantile treatment effect into direct and indirect effects.

"Overconfidence, Under confidence, and Entry in Contests" with Marcus Bansah and William Neilson

Abstract: An overconfident player 1 believes he is more likely to win a Tullock contest than the true probabilities imply. When he faces an unbiased opponent who is aware of 1's overconfidence, both players reduce their effort and 1's expected payoff is lower than 2's. However, 1's subjective expected payoff, which governs entry into the contest, is higher than 2's, and overconfident players find contests more appealing than unbiased players do, even unbiased players facing other unbiased players. Underconfident players have subjective expected payoffs that are even lower than their objective expected payoffs, so underconfident players tend to avoid competition. The data generated from repeated contests would make it harder for underconfident players to learn of their bias than overconfident ones.

"Do Babies Conceived during Recession Healthier and Make More Money Later in Life?: Evidence from Birth Certificate Data 1989-2011" (SEA presentation)

Works in Progress

"The Minimum Wage Impacts on Employment: New Evidence from the Recent Diverges in Minimum Wage among the Counties in New York State."

"Habit Formation in Exercise Behavior: Evidence from Individual Workout Panel Data, 2011-2015"

"The Self-Enforcement Properties in VAT System: New Evidence from Consumer Side in South Korea Cash Receipt System"

"Analyzing the Behavior of Contractors in the South Korean Rental Market"

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

Macroeconomics (ECON501 Master Level) (Fall 2017)

Program Analysis & Evaluation (ECON580 Master Level) (Spring 2017)

Applied Econometrics (ECON420W) (Fall 2016, Spring 2017, and Spring 2018)

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Intermediate Microeconomics (ECON300) (Fall 2017)

Introduction of Microeconomics (ECON110) (Spring 2017)

Principle of Economics (Fall 2014 and Spring 2015)

Principle of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics at University of Rochester, NY (Spring 2014)

Awards and Grants

Graduate Assistantship in University at Albany, SUNY, NY (2016 - Present)

ESPN Scholarship from University of Tennessee at Knoxville \$10,000 per year (2014-2016)

Graduate Assistantship in University of Tennessee at Knoxville (2014-2016)

I.S.E.O. Summer School Certificate from Professor George Akerlof and Professor Robert Shiller (2015)

Awarded Honors in Research in Financial Economics in University of Rochester, NY (2014)

Putnam University of Rochester Math Olympiad, Credible Performance Award (2014)

Travel Grants

Travel grant for SEA annual meeting in Washington DC from University at Albany, SUNY, NY (2018)

Travel grant for AEA annual meeting in Philadelphia from University at Albany, SUNY, NY (2016)

Travel grant for AEA annual meeting in San Francisco from University of Tennessee at Knoxville, TN (2016)

Travel grant for I.S.E.O. summer school from University of Tennessee at Knoxville, TN (2015)

Conference Presentations

Southern Economic Association planned Nov 2018

Southern Economic Association planned Nov 2018 presented by co-author

Eastern Economic Association planned Feb 2019