

Seung-hun Lee

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, Columbia University	May 2024 (expected)
M.Phil. Economics, Columbia University	May 2021
M.A. Economics, Columbia University	May 2020
B.A. Economics, Yonsei University	Feb 2017

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Development Economics, Political Economy, Labor Economics
Secondary: Public Finance

WORKING PAPERS

Childbirth Effects of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami

(Joint with Elizabeth Kayoon Hur), *Submitted*

Abstract: This paper evaluates the effect of the in utero exposure to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami on short-term childbirth outcomes in Indonesia. We exploit variation in damage intensities across communities and the timing of exposure to identify causal links between the in utero exposure and birth outcomes. We find that the probability of successful pregnancies drops by 5.9 pp, while miscarriages increase by 5.5 pp in our preferred specification. However, this does not vary by intensity of exposure across communities. Household expenditures on health increased after the event, possibly contributing to reduced negative effects after the disaster. Our results suggest the importance of considering fetal loss for similar studies in developing countries and highlight that facilitating household investment in health through various policies may mitigate negative birth effects in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Remittance and the Tax Structures in Developing Countries

Abstract: Despite the increasing flow of remittances in volume and proportion, particularly among the developing countries, their role in determining the state's capacity to collect taxes has received little attention. This paper explores the link between remittances and various tax revenue categories using country-level data. Two-way panel regressions suggest that a 1%p increase in inflow of remittances explains a 0.12%p rise in consumption tax revenues. The same estimate derived from IV methods proxying for migrant network strength and openness of borders increases to 0.9%p. Decomposing this result reveals that increase in household consumption expenditure explains all of the statistical association, not the efficient tax-collecting mechanism such as VAT. Subsample regressions by income category suggests that the association between remittances and consumption tax revenue is stronger in countries with lower income.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Economic and Political Impacts of Assassinations of Municipality Presidents in Mexico

Religious Conflicts and Educational Outcomes in Nigeria

(Joint with Kayode Taiwo, Rose Camille Vincent)

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Best paper, Korea Uni.-KIEP Paper Competition on South East Asian Studies	2020
Wueller Teaching Award, Winner (Undergraduate Core)	2020
Research Grant, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS)	2018-20, 2021-24
Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University	2018-23
3rd Best Paper, Korea Institute of Public Finance Economics Paper Contest	2017
2nd Best Paper, Maeil Business Newspaper Economics Paper Contest	2017
Dual Undergraduate-Graduate Degree Scholarship, Yonsei University	2017-18
Special Scholarship for Undergraduate Students, KFAS	2015-16
National Humanities Scholarship, Korea Student Aid Foundation	2011-12, 2015-16

TEACHING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant in Columbia University

Introduction to Econometrics II (Ph.D core)

– TA for Jushan Bai (Spring 2020), Serena Ng (Spring 2022), and Bernard Salanié (Spring 2022 & 2020)

Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate)

– TA for Seyhan Erden (Fall 2021) and Tamrat Gashaw (Spring 2021, Fall 2019)

– Winner of Wueller Teaching Awards (Fall 2019)

Economic Policy Analysis (Masters)

– TA for Lena Edlund and Brandan O'Flaherty (Fall 2020)

Teaching Assistant in Yonsei University

Public Finance (Undergraduate)

– TA for Kyung-woo Lee (Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Fall 2016)

Macroeconomics (Undergraduate)

– TA for Kyung-woo Lee (Fall 2017)

Korean Economic Development (Undergraduate)

– TA for Jaymin Lee (Spring 2016, Fall 2015)

Research Assistant

Bank of Korea Knowledge Partnership Program (with Bank of Korea, Nepal Rastra Bank, and Yonsei University)

– Duration: March 2017 - December 2017

– Responsible for cleaning data and designing medium-sized macroeconomic models on Nepalese economy

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE

2018 Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, Sogang University, South Korea	2018
The 24th International Panel Data Conference, Sogang University, South Korea	2018
2017 Korea-Japan Inter-University Conference, Ewha University, South Korea	2017
2017 Korea Institute of Public Finance Conference, Seoul, South Korea	2017
2016 Korea-Japan Inter-University Conference, Korea University, South Korea	2016

PERSONAL DETAILS

Nationality: South Korea (F-1 Visa)

Language: English (Fluent), Korean (Native), French (Basic)

Programming: STATA, MATLAB, Eviews, R, Python, SQL, LyX, and L^AT_EX

Marital Status: Single

Military Service: Sergeant, English Interpreter, Republic of Korea Army (May 2013 - Feb 2015)