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EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Economics, University of California, Irvine	2017-Present
	M.A. in Economics (Ph.D. Track), Korea University, Seoul	2016
	B.A. in Economics, Korea University, Seoul	2013
	Exchange year, National University of Singapore	2011-2012

RESEARCH FIELDS      Public Economics, Labor Economics, and Applied Microeconomics

WORK IN PROGRESS      *The Effects of Universal Free Lunch Provision on Student Achievement: Evidence from South Korea* (Job Market Paper)

This paper examines the impact of the Universal Free Lunch Program (UFLP) on student achievement in South Korea. I leverage the staggered rollout of the UFLP across South Korean provinces and employ difference-in-differences strategies to estimate the causal effects of the program. Taking advantage of rich school-level data, I find that providing a free lunch to all students leads to improvements in academic achievement on average. I also test for heterogeneous effects and find that the benefits of the UFLP appear universally across different baseline participation rates in the means-tested lunch subsidy. After exploring numerous potential mechanisms including changes in school lunch participation, I find suggestive evidence of the increased participation in and expenditures on the after-school programs that are not free. These results suggest that parents used the saved lunch fees for educational investment and highlight the importance of mental accounting.

*Quasi-Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Expanding TANF Cash Assistance* (joint with [Matthew Freedman](#)) (*Revise and resubmit, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*)

We study the labor supply and consumption responses to cash assistance delivered through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program in the United States. Exploiting a sharp increase in cash benefit generosity for low-income single-parent families in New Hampshire due to a legislative revision to payment calculations, we implement difference-in-differences and triple-differences to estimate the impacts of greater benefits on work behavior as well as on food expenditures and food security. Our results suggest that more generous cash assistance reduces labor supply among likely TANF-eligible individuals, but also increases household food spending and reduces the incidence of food insecurity. Our findings speak both to the moral hazard costs and to the standard-of-living improvements associated with expanded cash assistance in an era in which cash welfare is at historically low levels, is time limited, and imposes work requirements.

*The Effects of Old-Age Pension Receipt on Elderly Employment and Health: Evidence from South Korea* (Draft available upon request)

Public old-age pensions are an important component of the social safety net in many countries. This paper estimates the causal effects of pension receipt on employment and health of elderly people by exploiting exogenous changes to the full retirement age under South

Korea's pension system. Using rich survey data, I find that pension receipt decreases employment and improves self-reported health. The results shed light on the effects of public old-age pensions on individuals' work behavior and well-being. The policy implications are also particularly timely as many countries attempt to shore up public old-age pension finances in the face of major demographic shifts in their populations.

*Policing and Prosecuting Drug Offenses in Nashville: Drug Free School Zones* (joint with [Aria Golestani](#) and [Jaclyn Rosenquist](#)) (Draft available upon request)

Drug free school zones (DFSZs) increase penalties for drug crimes committed near schools or places where children gather. In this study, we utilize a unique data-set to estimate the causal effect of DFSZ enhancements on court sentencing outcomes in Nashville, TN. We exploit the variation of arrestees' location and use the instrumental variable two stage least squares estimator to study the causal effect of being charged with the DFSZ enhancement. Our estimates suggest that being charged with the DFSZ enhancement increases the likelihood of an individual being found guilty by 11 percentage points and increases the sentence length by roughly 1 year. Notably, we find that enhancement charges against eligible offenders are more likely to be applied to Black arrestees than White arrestees, leading to lasting impacts across race in sentencing outcomes.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	Research assistant to Professor Matthew Freedman, University of California, Irvine	2020
	Research assistant to Professor Kyu Ho Kang, Korea University	2016
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Teaching assistant, University of California, Irvine	2017-Present
	Labor Economics, Health Economics, Basic Economics 1& 2, Managerial Economics, International Business Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics 2, Intermediate Macroeconomics	
	Teaching assistant, Korea University	2013-2016
	International Finance (in English), Econometrics 2	
	Teaching assistant, Bank of Korea	2015
	Intermediate Time Series using MATLAB	
HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS	Best Poster Award, All-California Labor Economics Conference	2021
	Economics Summer Research Fellowship, University of California, Irvine	2021
	Conference Grant, University of California, Irvine	2021
	Associate Dean's Fellowship, School of Social Science, University of California, Irvine	2020
	Economics Summer Research Fellowship, University of California, Irvine	2020
	Economics Summer Research Fellowship, University of California, Irvine	2019
	Merit Fellowship in Economics, University of California, Irvine	2017-Present
	Recruitment Fellowship, University of California, Irvine	2017
	BK21+ Scholarships, Korea University, Seoul	2014-2016
	General Scholarships, Korea University, Seoul	2013-2015
	POSCO Scholarships, POSCO, Seoul	2011
	Honor Scholarships (C), Korea University, Seoul	2009-2010

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SELECTED PARTICIPATION & ACTIVITIES	Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics (AMIE): 1st Workshop in Applied Microeconomics (mentee) Diversity Training, School of Social Science, UCI PhD Student Mentor Program, Department of Economics, UCI (mentor) Mentoring Workshop for the Female Economics PhD Students, Stanford Univ. (mentee) Women in Economics PhD Student group, Dept. of Economics, UCI (member) Teaching Assistant Professional Development Program (TAPDP) training, UCI	2021 2020 2019-present 2019 2018-present 2017
CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND SEMINARS	Southern Economic Association 91st Annual Meeting (Scheduled) North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) (Scheduled) Urban Economics Association (UEA) 15th North American Meeting All-California Labor Economics Conference (Poster) Western Economic Association International 96th Annual Meeting Population Association of America Annual Conference ( <i>presented by coauthor</i> ) Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting ( <i>presented by coauthor</i> ) Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Virtual International Conference Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics (AMIE): 1st Workshop in Applied Microeconomics Southern Economic Association 90th Annual Meeting Association For Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference APPAM California Regional Student Conference (Scheduled, canceled due to COVID-19) Public Choice Society 89th Annual Meeting (Scheduled, canceled due to COVID-19) Southwestern Social Science 99th Annual Meeting (Poster)	2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2020 2020 2020 2020 2019
INTERNAL PRESENTATIONS	Poster Presentation, Dept. of Economics, University of California, Irvine (scheduled) Applied Micro Workshop, Dept. of Economics, University of California, Irvine Poster Presentation, Dept. of Economics, University of California, Irvine THPE Workshop, University of California, Irvine Poster Presentation, Dept. of Economics, University of California, Irvine	2021 2020 2020 2020 2019
PRE-PHD PUBLICATION	<i>Bayesian Analysis of Optimal Foreign Currency Portfolio Selection</i> with Donghwan Kim and Kyu Ho Kang, <i>Financial Stability Studies</i>	2016
COMPUTER SKILLS	MATLAB, Stata, Gauss (full proficiency) Python, R, Linux (basic proficiency)	
LANGUAGES	Korean (native), English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (basic knowledge)	

REFERENCES

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