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EDUCATION

2023 (expected) Ph.D. in Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara
Committee: Shelly Lundberg (Chair), Heather Royer, Clément de Chaisemartin
2018 M.A. in Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara
2017 M.A. in Economics, Seoul National University
2014 B.A. in International trade, Pusan National University
2013 Exchange student in Economics, University of Iowa

RESEARCH FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics (Demography, Education, Labor Economics), Applied Econometrics

JOB MARKET PAPER

The Impact of Import Competition on College Choice: Evidence from Chinese Imports in Korea

Abstract: As China has become “the world’s factory”, the availability of low-skilled jobs has become worse in countries that import products from China. I exploited cross-industry and cross-local labor market variations in import growth from China to investigate how Korean students’ post-secondary education decisions were influenced by more intensive import competition from China. Using administrative statistics from high schools between 2000 and 2015, I found that in regions more affected by China imports, more students pursued a college degree after finishing from high school. Consistent with the enrollment pattern, I found that in Korea, a surge in Chinese imports caused huge job losses especially for low-educated workers, which decreased the opportunity cost and increased the marginal benefit for college education. However, there is heterogeneity in the enrollments based on gender and type of educational institution. In the more affected regions, male students tended to enroll in 4-year universities rather than 2-year colleges while female students were more likely to choose 2-year colleges. The findings of this study suggest that negative social norms and smaller employment loss for working women led to a more limited increase in educational investment among women.

WORKING PAPERS

Does a Pension Scheme Crowd Out Children? Evidence from Rural China

Abstract: Children have long been viewed as sources of support to parents in developing countries. This paper investigates how child investments in rural China react to a pension program that provides parents with an alternative to adult children as a source of support. Exploiting regional variation in the timing of the New Rural Pension Scheme (NRPS) in China, we find that parents who enrolled in the NRPS spent more on their children’s education. Specifically, the increase in educational spending is observed for the parents of sons. In terms of the quantity of children, although the effect on the probability of giving birth to a baby is not statistically significant, we find that parents enrolled in NRPS were more likely to give birth to a boy. Considering the introduction of a pension scheme as lowering the price for future incomes, this implies that the income effect is larger than the inter-temporal substitution effect leading to higher investments in their children. Moreover, our results suggest that NRPS does not weaken son preference in China, although this program can provide old-age support for parents instead of sons who traditionally did this.

Revisiting Unilateral Divorce Law and Divorce Rate: Using Dynamic Effect Estimators with Heterogeneous Treatment Effects

Abstract: I revisit literatures estimating the effect of unilateral divorce law on divorce rate with US panel data. The reason why these literatures could not have a consensus on the effect of this law on divorce rate is because two-way fixed effects and event study regressions are not robust to heterogeneous treatment effects, and in this case, estimates cannot be interpreted as a causal effect. By using alternative

estimators to address this issue (e.g. de Chaisemartin and D'Haultfoeuille, 2020), I find that divorce rate rose after the adoption of this law and this rise reversed afterwards. Average of dynamic effects is smaller than previous papers found.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Regional Employment and Migration: Evidence from Chinese Imports in Korea

HONORS AND AWARDS

2022 Job Market Fellowship - University of California, Santa Barbara
 2022 Research Quarter Fellowship - University of California, Santa Barbara
 2013 Study Abroad Program School Scholarship, Pusan National University
 2007, 2012 Merit-based School Scholarship, Pusan National University

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant - Principle of Microeconomics
 Teaching Assistant - Principle of Macroeconomics
 Teaching Assistant - Introduction to Econometrics

SKILLS SUMMARY

Software: Stata, Python, Matlab, Eviews, \LaTeX
 Korean (Native), English (Fluent)

OTHER

Citizenship: Republic of Korea

REFERENCES

Distinguished Professor Shelly Lundberg Department of Economics University of California, Santa Barbara slundberg@ucsb.edu	Professor Heather Royer Department of Economics University of California, Santa Barbara heather.royer@ucsb.edu
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