

So Yoon Ahn

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Placement Chairs: Prof. Martin Uribe, mu2166@columbia.edu; Prof. Pierre-André Chiappori (fall), pc2167@columbia.edu; Prof. Navin Kartik (spring), nk2339@columbia.edu

Placement Assistant: Amy Devine, (212) 854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

Education:

2018 (expected)	Ph.D. Economics	Columbia University
2012	M.A. Economics	Yonsei University
2010	B.A. Economics	Yonsei University

Fields of Specialization:

Primary Fields: Labor Economics, Family Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Secondary Field: Development Economics

Job Market Paper:

“Matching across Markets: Theory and Evidence on Cross-Border Marriage”

Vickery Prize for Best Third Year Paper (runner-up)

Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award for Best Proposal (runner-up)

Abstract: Marriage markets are becoming increasingly integrated in some parts of the world. Yet, marriage migration is largely overlooked in the vast literature on migration and even the small number of existing studies focus only on its impact on migrant-receiving countries. This paper provides an equilibrium framework to understand the impact of marriage migration in *both* migrant-receiving and migrant-sending countries and presents novel and rich empirical evidence from the marriage markets of Taiwan (a migrant-receiving country) and Vietnam (a migrant-sending country to Taiwan). First, I build a two-country matching model to analyze cross-border marriage patterns and the impact of changes in the costs of cross-border marriage (e.g., bureaucratic requirements and cultural differences). Second, I test the predictions of the model on matching patterns and confirm that most of Taiwanese-Vietnamese couples were Taiwanese men-Vietnamese women couples. Furthermore, in these dominant form of cross-border marriage, Taiwanese men are selected from the middle segment in educational distributions while Vietnamese women are positively selected. Finally, I evaluate the impact of changes in costs of cross-border marriages by exploiting two regulatory events in Taiwan and Vietnam that led to dramatic changes in marriage migration. I show that the costs of cross-border marriage affect the welfare of men and women in both countries along different margins: marriage rate, matching patterns and intra-household allocations. The results show that the possibility of cross-border marriage not only affects people who consider marrying cross-nationally, but also affects *all* men and women in both countries. Immigration policies that change the cost of cross-border marriage can have far-reaching implications on marital outcomes, the status of women, and migration patterns.

Work in Progress:

“Improve Job Matching Among Youth” (with Rebecca Dizon-Ross and Benjamin Feigenberg) *preliminary results available upon request*

Abstract: Do inaccurate expectations about job seeker competitiveness contribute to poor job matching in developing countries? We utilize the largest online job portal in the Middle East and North Africa region to evaluate the effect of an intervention delivering information about job seeker competitiveness to job applicants. Providing information about the relative fit of an applicant's background for a particular job causes job seekers to apply for jobs that are better matches for their background. The effects of information are largest among entry-level workers with higher levels of education, who generally face the highest unemployment rates in the region. The findings are consistent with the hypothesis that changes over time in demand for skills in the job market may lead to inaccurate expectations that hinder labor market matching. Improving the efficiency of online job search may be particularly welfare-enhancing in the Middle East and North Africa region given that the young, highly-educated subpopulation that faces the greatest labor market hurdles also has the highest level of internet connectedness.

“Assimilation of Marriage Migrants: Evidence from Korea”
preliminary results available upon request

Publications (before Ph.D.)

“Introduction of Online Sponsored-Link Auction Theory” (with Yeon-Koo Che and Jinwoo Kim), *Korean Journal of Economics*, 2011

Research and Work Experience:

2014, Research Assistant for Pierre-André Chiappori and Bernard Salanié

Honors and Awards:

2017-2018, Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund
2017, Center for Development Economics and Policy Grant, Columbia University
2016, Dr. Edwin P. and Dr. Beatrice G. Reubens Travel and Research Fund
2015, Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award (runner-up), Columbia University
2015, Vickery Prize for Best Third Year Paper (runner-up), Columbia University
2004-2009, Samsung Junior Frontier Leadership (JFL) scholarship

Teaching Experience:

Advanced Microeconomics (Spring 2016) *Wueller Teaching Award Winner*
Intermediate Microeconomics (Fall 2015)
Introduction to Econometrics (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015)

Seminar Presentations:

Annual Meeting of the Society of Economics of the Household (San Diego), 2017
Empirics and Methods in Economics, Northwestern University, 2016
Population Association of America Annual Meeting (Washington DC), 2016

Other Activities:

Ronald Coase Workshop on Institutional Analysis (Tallinn, Estonia), 2016
Price Theory Summer Camp, University of Chicago, 2015

Languages:

English (fluent), Korean (native), French (basic)

References:

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