Choong Hyun Nam

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Research Interests:

Macroeconomics, Labour Economics, Industrial Economics

Education History:

2010 – Currently: PhD Economics at University of Warwick, UK.

2010: MSc Economics degree awarded   at University of Warwick, UK.

2005:   MA in Economics degree awarded at Yonsei University, South Korea.

2002:   BA in Economics degree awarded at Yonsei University, South Korea.

Employment History:

2012 – Currently: Teaching assistant at University of Warwick

2008 - 2009:   NHN (Naver.com, a leading internet search engine company in Korea)

2006 –2008:   Hyundai Research Institute

2005 –2006:   KDI (Korea Development Institute)

Research Papers:

"The role of product diversification on skill-biased technological change" (job marker paper)

- Submitted to *the Review of Economic Dynamics* by the recommendations of my supervisors.

- To be presented at the annual PhD conference in Economics at University of Leicester.

- Since the 1980s, the labour demand has shifted toward more educated workers in the US. The most common explanation is that the productivity of skilled workers has risen relative to the unskilled, but it is not easy to explain why the aggregate labour productivity was stagnant during the 1980s. This paper suggests an alternative story: introducing new goods involves fixed labour input, biased toward white-collar workers. Hence, the transition from Ford-style mass production towards more diversified one has shifted labour demand toward white-collar workers. Therefore, increasing share of white-collar workers contributes to more variety but not necessarily to GDP growth.

"White-collar Labour, Firm Scale and Lumpy Adjustment" (working paper)

- It is found that employment share of white-collar workers is positively correlated with firm size across cross-section, but negatively over time. This paper proposes that this is due to the partial fixity of white-collar labour; fixed input is biased toward white-collar workers. Therefore, those firms with larger fixed input are both larger in size and higher in share of white-collar workers, which causes a positive cross-sectional correlation. However, short-run output expansion increases only variable labour, and therefore decreases the employment share of white-collar workers.

"Utility of social class" (working paper)

- Using KLIPS data in South Korea, it is found that self-reported social class is positively correlated with the life satisfaction. As it was also found that income level is positively correlated with the self-reported social class variable, it is expected that increased income can improve happiness indirectly via its effect on social status. It was also found that the source of income matters: capital income improved happiness and social status more than other types of income given the same amount. Additional finding is that the effect of risk attitude on happiness is found to be significant: risk takers are unhappier.

Teaching:

- Teaching seminar groups of "Introduction to Quantitative Economics" module since 2012.

- This module includes both micro and macro part (undergraduate level).

References:

Professor Michael Waterson (Supervisor)
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Dr. Roberto Pancrazi
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Visa Status:

Tier 4 student Visa

Language:

Korean (native), English

IT Skills:

- Worked for several computer software development projects as a computer programmer
- Past member of Samsung Software Membership
- Programming language: C/C++, Visual C++, Visual Basic, Fortran
- Math & Statistics: Matlab, Stata, R, Gauss