

# Weonhyeok Chung

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE Associate Research Fellow, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), 2023  
- current

EDUCATION **Ph.D. Candidate in Economics**, University of Houston  
**M.A in Economics**, Seoul National University, 2018  
**B.A in Economics**, Sogang University, 2016  
- Exchange student, University of Mannheim, Fall 2014

FIELDS Primary: Labor Economics, Social Networks, Economics of Education  
Secondary: Health Economics, Environmental Economics, Public Economics  
Topics: Inequality, Mobility, Discrimination, Race, Gender

JOB MARKET PAPER **"Friendship Formation by Race and Abilities" [Draft]**

This paper studies friendship formation of adolescents, where students tend to associate with peers who share similar races and abilities. To investigate the problem, I employ dyadic regression, specifically looking at the interaction of race and abilities. The main finding is that the sensitivities to GPA differences in Black pairs and White pairs of students is similar, indicating that peer pressure concerning academic performance is comparable between the two groups. Additionally, I show that the students tend to sort themselves based on similar characteristics, and GPA differences are less critical across races than within races. Counterfactual exercises suggest that the lower number of friendships among high-achieving Black students compared to their White peers is not due to GPA differences but rather the rarity of minority students. Policies aimed at increasing racial diversity by reallocating Black students to predominantly White schools may negatively impact the number of friendships available to Black students.

WORKING PAPER **"Signaling or Favoritism? Referrals in the Youth Labor Market" [Draft]**

I investigate the role of referrals on wages of young workers at beginning of their career. I disaggregate referrals into referrals from relatives and referrals from non-relatives. Using NLSY79 data, I find that young male workers with referrals from relatives earn a wage premium, despite having lower AFQT scores, compared to those without referrals. On the other hand, those with referrals from non-relatives suffer an initial wage penalty. These gaps disappear when they reach five years of potential experience. Taken as a whole, the results suggest nepotism rather than signaling values for the referrals from relatives.

WORKS IN PROGRESS **"Air Quality Warnings and Birth Outcomes: The Role of Information and Behavior"** (with Jeonghyeok Kim)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE     **Research Assistant** for Professor Nathan Canen, University of Houston, Summer 2021  
**Research Assistant** for Professor Chinhui Juhn, University of Houston, Spring 2019  
**Research Assistant** for Professor Eleanor Jawon Choi, Hanyang University, Fall 2017-Spring 2018  
**Research Assistant** for Professor Jungmin Lee, Seoul National University, Fall 2016-Fall 2017

PRESENTATIONS     (2021) Southern Economic Association (2022) Southern Economic Association

TEACHING EXPERIENCE     **Instructor** *University of Houston*, Fall 2020, Fall 2021  
Principles of Microeconomics  
**Teaching Assistant** *University of Houston*, 2018 - 2022  
Panel Data and IV regressions (*Undergraduate*) Health Economics (*Graduate*) The Economics of Development (*Undergraduate*) Introduction To Econometrics (*Undergraduate*)  
Econometrics I (*Graduate*) Quantitative Methods (*Graduate*) Math Boot Camp (Linear Algebra) (*Graduate*) Labor Economics (*Graduate*) Labor Economics (*Undergraduate*)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS     Graduate Fellowship, University of Houston, 2018 -  
Brain Korea 21 (BK21) Scholarship, Korea Research Foundation 2016 - 2017  
Merit Based Scholarship (Undergraduate), Sogang University 2010

COMPUTER SKILLS     Stata, Python, R, SQL, Matlab, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X(Proficient), HTML, CSS, JavaScript (Familiar)

LANGUAGES     English (Fluent), Korean (Native)

CITIZENSHIP     Republic of Korea

VISA     F1 Visa

REFERENCES     **Professor Chinhui Juhn**  
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University of Houston  
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