

# SOOHYUNG LEE

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Stanford University. 2002-2008 (expected)  
Thesis Title: *Essays on Household Formation and Income Inequality*  
B.A. in Economics, Seoul National University, 1994-1998 (*Summa Cum Laude*)

## PH.D. THESIS COMMITTEE

Professor Pete Klenow  
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Department of Economics  
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Professor Luigi Pistaferri  
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Professor Michèle Tertilt  
(Advisor)  
Department of Economics  
tertilt@stanford.edu  
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## RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary : Labor Economics, Economic Growth and Development  
Secondary: Applied Econometrics, Macroeconomics, Family Economics

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Winter 2006 Teaching Assistant for Professor Keun-kwan Ryu , Stanford University  
Econ 102B (Introduction to Econometrics)  
Spring 2005 Teaching Assistant for Professor Pete Klenow, Stanford University  
Econ 52 (Introduction to Macroeconomics)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Spring 2006 Research Assistant for Professor Michèle Tertilt, Stanford University  
2005 Summer Intern, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.)  
2003-2005 Research Assistant for Professor Mark Wright, Stanford University  
1999-2002 Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance and Economy (South Korea)

## HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2007-2008 B.F. Haley and E.S. Shaw Fellowship, SIEPR, Stanford University  
2006 Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship, Stanford University  
2006 Taube Fellowship, SIEPR, Stanford University  
2002-2005 Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Kwanjeong Educational Foundation  
1998 Award for Academic Excellence, Seoul National University  
1995-1998 Department Fellowship, Seoul National University

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

March 2007 Pacific Development Conference, UC Davis  
July 2006 Society of Economic Dynamics Meeting, Vancouver, Canada

## RESEARCH PAPERS

### *Preferences and Choice Constraints in Marital Sorting: Evidence From Korea* (Job Market Paper)

#### *Abstract*

Marital sorting along education, income and other salient dimensions is well-documented for many countries. Understanding the mechanisms behind such sorting is important because the degree of marital sorting may influence income inequality, intergenerational mobility, and household labor supply, as well as other economic outcomes. Marital sorting is often thought to arise from some combination of people's preferences and constraints on their choice sets. However, separating these two causes of marital sorting is difficult because typical data sets provide information on either a person's spouse or a person's dating partners, but not both. This paper circumvents this difficulty by using a novel data set from a major Korean matchmaking company which contains both types of information. The paper analyzes gender-specific marital preferences by estimating a marriage model. Using the estimated model, I find that constraints on people's choice sets may account for a substantial fraction of observed sorting along education and industry in the general population. The recent development of new search technologies, such as online dating services, alleviates these constraints and thus may reduce marital sorting along these dimensions. I also find evidence that changing individual-level income inequality has a very limited impact on marital sorting, implying that such changes are unlikely to be amplified at the household-level by endogenous marital sorting.

### *The Effects of Education on Labor Reallocation and Economic Growth*

#### *Abstract*

This paper quantifies the contribution of rising educational attainment to China's economic growth by examining its role in facilitating the reallocation of labor from the agricultural to the non-agricultural sector. After controlling for individuals' endogenous choices of education and sector, I estimate that completing middle school increases the probability of working in the non-agricultural sector by 36 percent and that an individual can earn several times more income by switching from the agricultural to the non-agricultural sector. The magnitude of these estimates suggests that rising educational attainment can account for about 14 percent of the growth of China's real GDP per worker from 1978 to 2003. Of this 14 percent, 11 percent can be attributed to labor reallocation between sectors and 3 percent to increased human capital in both sectors. Therefore, considering the enabling role of education in economic growth through its effects on labor reallocation suggests that education's contribution to growth is significantly greater than previously estimated.

## RESEARCH PAPERS IN PROGRESS

*Program Evaluation with Multiple Outcomes* (with Azeem Shaikh and Joanne Yoong)

*Education and China's Structural Transformation: A General Equilibrium Approach*  
(with Benjamin Malin)

*The Effects of Temptation on the Optimal Provision of Education*  
(SIEPR Discussion Paper:05-003)

## COMPUTER SKILLS

C++, Matlab, Mathematica, SAS, STATA and other software packages

## OTHER INFORMATION

Gender: Female

Citizenship: South Korea (F-1 Visa holder)

Languages: English (Fluent), Korean (Native)

*Last Updated: November, 2007*