

Sungjoon Kwon

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Citizenship and Visa Status

Republic of Korea (F-1 visa)

Education

Ph.D. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2019 (expected)
Dissertation: "Essays on Child Care and Child Development"
Committee: Professor David Blau (chair), Professor Audrey Light, Professor Bruce Weinberg
M.A. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2014
M.A. Economics, Korea University, 2013
B.B.A., Korea University, 2011
B.Ec., Statistics, Korea University, 2011

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary fields: Labor Economics
Secondary fields: Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics

Research Papers

"Parental Choice of Child Care, Child Development and the Effects of Child Care Subsidies and Income Transfers" (**Job Market Paper**)

There is large variation across countries in the allocation of public funds used to support families with children between child care subsidies and cash transfer programs. This raises a fundamental question: what are the effects of cash versus in-kind transfer programs on the outcomes targeted by these programs? This paper addresses this question in a specific context: the effects of child care subsidy versus income transfer programs on child cognitive and non-cognitive skill development in Australia. To answer the question, I specify and structurally estimate a model of household decisions about labor supply and child care, jointly with cognitive and non-cognitive skill production functions, using data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children. Counterfactual simulations show that child care subsidies have a positive impact on cognitive skill, and a negative effect on non-cognitive skill. The simulation results for income transfers show that income transfers improve both types of skills, but the effects per dollar of government expenditure are smaller than the effects of child care subsidies. The results also suggest that child care subsidies are more effective in improving child skills when they are used for low income families, and that imposing a maternal work requirement is important for income transfers to be effective for improving child skill development.

"The Effect of Non-Maternal Childcare Time on Children's Cognitive Development"

This paper studies the effect of non-maternal childcare time on children's cognitive achievement, using data from the Child Development Supplement of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. Using a specification that carefully distinguishes non-maternal child care and maternal work, I find sizable negative effects of non-maternal childcare, resulting mainly from use of informal childcare when children are very young. However, the negative effect of non-maternal childcare can be at least partially offset by the positive effect of maternal work and the positive effect of income from maternal work. The results also show that children in low income families have a negative impact of maternal work, and the adverse effects of non-maternal childcare and maternal work cannot be offset by the

positive impact of income from maternal work. Finally, I show that incorporating maternal work results in a 43% increase in the negative effect of non-maternal child care.

Research in Progress

“The Effect of Quality Rating and Improvement System on Children” (*with Kichan Kim and Minsub Kim*)

Quality of child care is important because of its impact on children. To assess and improve the quality of child care, many states in the US have introduced a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) since 1997. One important goal of QRIS is to improve child development, but no studies have examined the effects of QRIS on children. In this paper, we study the effects of QRIS on child development outcomes at kindergarten age, exploiting the variation in implementation dates of QRIS across states.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

“Parental Choice of Child Care, Child Development and the Effects of Child Care Subsidies and Income Transfers”

Econometric Society Asian Meeting, Seoul, Korea, June 2018

Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference, Montréal, Québec, Canada, June 2018

Ohio State University Applied Microeconomics Workshop, November 2016

“The Effect of Non-Maternal Childcare Time on Children’s Cognitive Development”

European Society for Population Economics Annual Conference, Glasgow, Scotland, June 2017

Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH, March 2017

H2D2 (Health, History, Demography, and Development) Research Day, Ann Arbor, MI, March 2017

Ohio State University Applied Microeconomics Workshop, April 2016

Professional Activities

Referee for: Social Service Review

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2018	JMCB Research-Travel Support, The Ohio State University
2013-2014	University Fellowship, The Ohio State University
2010, 2012-2013	STX Foundation Scholarships
2004-2005, 2009-2010	Honors Scholarships, Korea University

Teaching Experience

Independent Instructor	
Fall 2017	Intermediate Microeconomics, The Ohio State University
Spring 2018	Principles of Microeconomics, The Ohio State University
Teaching Assistant	
Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Fall 2015	Principles of Microeconomics, The Ohio State University,
Spring 2016	Principles of Macroeconomics, The Ohio State University,

Miscellaneous

Computer Skills
Stata, Matlab, R Fortran, MPI

References

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