

Suha Kim

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Citizenship and Visa Status

South Korea (F-1 Visa)

Education

Ph.D. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2027 (*expected*)
Dissertation: "*Learnings in the choice process*"
Committee: Professor John Rehbeck (Chair), Professor Paul J Healy, Professor Aldo Lucia
M.A. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2022
M.A. Economics, Sogang University, 2021
B.A. in Economics with Honors & B.S. in Mathematics,
Honors in Economic Theory, Sogang University, 2019

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary fields: Microeconomic Theory, Experimental Economics
Secondary fields: Behavioral Economics

Publications

Iris, Doruk and Suha Kim (2025). "Reciprocal Preferences and Expectations in International Agreements." *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 238: 107243.

Abstract. This paper investigates the impact of reciprocal preferences and countries' fairness-based expectations of each other in the context of international agreements aimed at providing global public goods. Reciprocal countries reward kindness (positive reciprocity) while retaliating against unkind behavior (negative reciprocity). We introduce a model where countries decide not only whether to participate in a coalition but also determine the extent of their effort. We demonstrate that reciprocal preferences can exert both positive and negative effects on the effort of both signatories and non-signatories of a treaty, depending on their expectations of others. In the non-cooperative game, there are three possible Nash equilibria, which depend on the degree of reciprocal concerns and expectations: no contribution, full contribution by all, and an interior solution. In the coalition formation game, if countries have limited yet sufficiently strong reciprocal concerns and low expectations, the grand coalition – where all countries sign the treaty (and exert efficient effort levels) – becomes stable. Interestingly, we find that signatories positively influence non-signatories' efforts. Anticipating this response, signatories have an additional strategic incentive to increase their efforts, thereby enhancing the overall level of cooperation.

Research Papers

"Information Representations and Choices in Costly Information Acquisition," (**Job Market Paper**)
with Hyeonggyun Ko and Jason Tayawa

Abstract. Do people acquire the same information when asked in accuracy or sampling size terms? Rational inattention models often treat information choice as choosing an accuracy level, yet the same choice can also be represented as choosing a sampling size. Theory treats these representations as equivalent, so revealed information-cost structure should be stable across them. We design a laboratory environment to test whether it is. Subjects choose from the same feasible information set, either by accuracy level or by the corresponding sampling size. We vary priors, rewards, and

representation of information and evaluate behavior using the two major classes of models—Prior-Invariant (PI) and Uniformly Posterior-Separable (UPS) costs. Furthermore, we let subjects select the information from their preferred representation. Both classes of models are empirically valid in either representation of information, with PI observed more often in the sampling representation and UPS in the accuracy representation. Behavior is consistent: 60% of subjects are best fit by the same model in either representation. Even when consistent, different representations can reduce overall information. Representation choice is also consistent: 75% of subjects choose a single representation more often, with a majority choosing the sampling-size representation, contrasting with the modeling approach of Rational Inattention. Theoretically equivalent representations need not be behaviorally equivalent. The results invite future study about transporting revealed information costs across elicitation environments.

Research in Progress

“Distinguishing different forms of complexity: Math and Correlation Neglect,”
with John Rehbeck

The complexity of a decision problem arises from various factors. We define and distinguish the factors of complexity: “Computational complexity,” “Implementation complexity,” and “Contextual complexity.” We design very simple experiment to distinguish the forms of complexity. We document behaviors in the context of Correlation Neglect (Enke and Zimmermann, 2019), a construct frequently used in experiments to assess the problem's complexity relative to the ability to identify and understand correlations. Based on the results of lab experiments, we suggest examining the different attributes of complexity across different experimental designs.

“Flex or Commit? Randomization Revealed by Menu Choice”

Individuals may not be certain about their own preferences, leading to a preference for a flexible menu. At the same time, when an option combined with recommendations is tempting, people often prefer to commit to the smaller menu. Focusing on the condition in which these two forces occur simultaneously, I conduct an experiment to document the correlation between an individual's ex-ante menu preference and the ex-post random choice. More specifically, the experiment tests the extent to which ex-post randomized choices are driven by a preference for flexibility or for commitment. From the experiment, we also verify whether the two driving forces can coexist and be reflected together in the ex-post choice.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2026	Economic Science Association (ESA) North America Meeting 2026 at Virginia U (Scheduled), Behavioral and Experimental Economists of the Mid-Atlantic 10 th (BEEMA10) Meeting at Penn State U, EEA-ESEM (Econometric Society European Meeting) 2026, 18th Maastricht Behavioral and Experimental Economics Symposium (M-BEES) 2026 in Maastricht, European Economic Review (EER) Summer School 2026 at ISEG Lisbon, Midwest Theory Conference 2026
2025	Behavioral and Experimental Economists of the Mid-Atlantic 9 th (BEEMA9) Meeting at Lehigh U, Midwest Experimental Economics Meeting for Graduate Students (MEEM-GS) at Indiana U, Economic Science Association (ESA) North America Meeting 2025 in Tucson
2024	Economic Science Association (ESA) North America Meeting 2024 at Ohio State U

2023	Economic Science Association (ESA) North America Meeting 2023 at UNC Charlotte
2021	Economic Science Association (ESA) North America Meeting 2021 in Tucson European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (EAERE) 26th Annual Conference, WEAI Virtual 96th Annual Conference

Research Experience and Other Employment

2019-2020	Research Assistant, for Young-Chul Kim (Sogang U.), Glenn Loury (Brown U.), - On "Social Network Externalities and the Dynamics of Group Inequality." - Working with KLIPS (Korean Labor and Income Panel Study) data, tested lasting regional inequality in Korea with wage gaps
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Professional Activities

"Graduate Women in Economics," Ohio State University, 2024-2026 President (2024-25), Vice President (2025-26) Organizer, "GWE Annual Research & Networking Forum" (2024-26) (Advisor: Prof. Meta Brown)
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Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2026	Larry and Shelia Kantor Award and Prize, Ohio State U.
2025	JMCB Grant for Graduate Student Research (\$4,500), Ohio State U. With Hyeonggyun Ko and Jason Tayawa
2025	Decision Science Collaborative Research Grant (\$3,000), Ohio State U.
2021-2022	Department of Economics Fellowships, Ohio State U.
2020	Award for Devotion, Center for Teaching and Learning, Sogang U. - Recognizing the service for the education of the school community after COVID-19 outbreak
2017	Dean's List Award, Department of Economics, Sogang U
2016	Sogang Research Grant for Undergraduate Students, Sogang U
2016	Mirae Asset Study Abroad Scholarships (7,000,000 KRW)
2014-2015	Academic Excellence Scholarships for Freshmen, Sogang U

Teaching Experience

SU 2026, SU 2025	Independent Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics, Ohio State U.
AU 2025, AU 2024, AU 2023	Recitation Leader, Microeconomics 1A (PhD-level), Ohio State U.
SP 2024, SP 2023	Recitation Leader, Principles of Microeconomics, Ohio State U.
AU 2026, SP 2026, AU 2022, SP 2022	Grader, Ohio State U. Principles of Microeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Current Economic Issues in US, Money and Banking
2019-2020	Teaching Assistant, for Prof. Yong Sakong, Sogang U. Economic Statistics, Agricultural Economics, Markets for Derivatives
2019-2020	Head Tutor, Economics Study Center at Sogang U.

References

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Prof. Paul J Healy
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