

Hong Chong Cho Curriculum Vitae

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Personal: Born: June 30, 1973
Place of Birth: Republic of Korea
Citizenship: Republic of Korea
Visa Status: F1

Education:

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Pennsylvania, expected May 2008
M.A. in Economics, Seoul National University, February 2001
B.A. in Economics, Seoul National University, February 1999

Dissertation: “Essay in Health and Wealth among Married Couples”

Job Market Paper: “The Health Status Similarity among Elderly Married Couples”

Abstract: This study investigates similarity in health status between elderly married couples and a structural model is developed to analyze how characteristics of marriage, behavioral choices, and out-of-pocket medical expenditure allocations affect household health capital formations. The first question to answer is whether it is the case people in good health have healthy spouses and people in poor health have unhealthy ones. I find strong evidence supporting positive spousal health similarity using the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), a data set which contains individuals born in 1931-1941 and their spouses; two waves from 1994 to 1996 are used. A man whose wife is in poor health is likely to report poor health 3 times more. When I construct a numerical ordering (1 to 5), respectively from poor to excellent in corresponding self-reported health status, the correlation coefficient is 0.27 in 1994. The concept of correlation in health status comes from Wilson(2002), which documents correlations in health status among married couples in later life and provides a simple theoretical model. While Wilson(2002) uses reduced form regression models, this study constructs a structural model and out-of-pocket medical expenditures are introduced. The second question of this study is: how can spousal resemblance in health status be explained? I explore the extent to which likeness in health status is a consequence of resemblance in characteristics of spouses such as education and ages when couples got married, and behavioral risk factors like smoking and exercise or the result of living together. Individual characteristics at the time of marriage account for 47% of the correlation after controlling ages. Furthermore health behaviors of couples including smoking and exercise during marriage explain about 9% of spousal health resemblance. Household allocations of out-of-pocket medical expenditures and health insurances provided from their spouse affect extra 32% of the correlation. The importance of direct health effects between couples during marriage are captured in the unexplained portion of the correlation coefficient. Direct health effects exist, but there is only limited evidence.

Committee: José-Víctor Ríos-Rull (Chair), Dirk Krueger and Iourii Manovskii

Research Interests:

Macroeconomics, Quantitative Macroeconomics Theory, Health Economics, Wealth Distribution, and Econometrics

Teaching Interests:

Major: Macroeconomics, Health Economics

Minor: Econometrics

Research Papers:

“The Health Status Similarity among Elderly Married Couples”, Job market paper, University of Pennsylvania, 2007

“Optimal Retirement Timing in Married Households”, 2005

Honors and Awards:

Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2003 – Spring 2007

Research and Teaching Experience:

Research Assistant for Professor Elena Krasnokutskaya, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2004

Research Assistant for Professor Kyungchul Song, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2007 – Fall 2007

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Econometrics with Professor Yuichi Kitamura, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2003 and Fall 2004

Undergraduate Recitation Instructor, Introductory Macroeconomics with Professor Gwen Eudey, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2005

Undergraduate Recitation Instructor, Introductory Microeconomics with Professor Rebecca Stein, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2005 – Spring 2006

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, International Economics with Professor Iourii Manovskii, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2006

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Public Finance with Professor Uri Spiegel, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2006

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, International Finance with Professor Wilfred Ether, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2007

Additional Skills:

Languages: English, Korean

Extensive programming experience in: FORTRAN90, STATA, MATLAB, GAUSS and EViews

Employment Interests:

Academic, Government and Private Sector

Date of Availability:

June 2008

References:

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