Joonho Oh

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February 14, 2023

Dear NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp Committee,

My name is Joonho Oh, a fourth-year Ph.D. student of Public Policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I have been studying the dynamics of entrepreneurial ecosystems, primarily concentrating on entrepreneurship support organizations such as accelerators. I am applying to NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp with a wish to have the precious chance to develop my research on accelerators, one of the most prominent private entrepreneurship support organizations.

I believe the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp aligns perfectly with my research. Specifically, I have been working on my dissertation that explores the mechanisms through which accelerators boost technology-based startups' growth and survival. Additionally, I also have been conducting two other research projects that examine the impacts of makerspaces and government support programs on latent entrepreneurs. The insights and knowledge of scholars and fellow students that will be shared during the boot camp will provide valuable guidance for my research.

I also have experience in the field of entrepreneurship, which helped me to develop my research interests in entrepreneurship support organizations. I believe my work and research experiences will contribute to richer discussions in the boot camp.

I attach my curriculum vitae, a one-page essay, and a list of completed Ph.D. courses to this application. My advisor, Dr. Maryann Feldman, directly sent a letter of recommendation for my application via email. I truly appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joonho Oh

Joonho Oh

Department of Public Policy
The *University* of *North Carolina* at *Chapel Hill* Phone: (919) 903-4650
131 S. Columbia St., Abernethy Hall. Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3435 E-mail: joonho@unc.edu

Education

Ph.D. in Public Policy, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2019 - Present
Master of Public Policy, Seoul National University 2019
B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Seoul National University 2012

Research Interests

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, Entrepreneurship Support Organization, Organizational Learning
Concentration: Seed Accelerator, Social Learning

Publication

Oh, J., Clayton, P., & Feldman, M. (2022). "Accelerator Niches in an Emerging Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: New York City." *Local Economy*, 37(4), 233-258.

Book Chapter

Feldman, M. & Oh, J. *Forthcoming.* "Policies Creating Entrepreneurial Ecosystems.". In R. Huggins, F. Kitagawa, D.Prokop, C.Theodoraki, & P. Thompson, editors *Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Cities and Regions: Emergence, Evolution, and Future.* Oxford University Press.

Working Papers

"Makerspaces, Venture Social Focus, and Resource Acquisition" with J. Bao & B. Lou. Preparing for submission.

"Accelerator as an Agent of Organizational Actions: Renewed Research Agendas for Accelerator Research". Drafting manuscript.

"Peers as a Source of New Knowledge and Information: Exploring Evidence and Conditions for Peer Learning in Accelerators". Analyzing data.

"Entrepreneurs as a Resource: How Do Seed Accelerator Managers Muddle through to the Limited Supply of Qualified Entrepreneurs?". Collecting data.

Conferences and Seminars

"A Life is Determined by People You Meet: How Do Startups Learn from Peers in Accelerators?"
APPAM Fall Research Conference 2022

"Exploring Conditions When Pre-entry Experiences Facilitate Startups to Seek Investors"
Carnegie School of Organizational Learning Academy 2022 2022

"How Disparity in Industry-Academia Collaboration Exacerbated after the Launch of LINC"
STEPI 2021 Korea Innovation Survey Research Conference 2021

"Support Organization Evolution in an Emerging Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: Accelerators in New York City" with M. Feldman and P. Clayton.
APPAM 2021 Student Research Online Seminar Series (Session cancelled) 2021

Professional Experiences

Secretary to the Minister of Science and ICT 2017 – 2019

Deputy Director, Creative Economy Planning Bureau, Ministry of Science and ICT 2015 – 2017

- Established and operated Centers for Creative Economy and Innovation (CCEIs)
- Launched Startup-Customized Job Matching Program and K-Startup Grand Challenge

Deputy Director, R&D Policy Bureau, Ministry of Science and ICT 2012 – 2013

- Planned and launched Supercomputer R&D Project, Super Korea 2020

Teaching Experiences

Department of Public Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Teaching Assistant

- PLCY 460: Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy; Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Guest Lecturer

- PLCY 460: Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy; Spring 2022

Research Experiences

Department of Public Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Research Assistant 2022 – Present

- Project: *Impacts of Social Safety Net Policies on STEM Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Underrepresented Populations and Underserved Regions.* National Science Foundation.
- Principal Investigator: Jiayi Bao

Awards and Scholarships

APPAM Entrepreneurship Policy Student Fellowship, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation 2022

Best Student Paper Award, Science and Technology Policy Institute of Korea 2021

Best Reviewer Award, TIM Division of the Academy of Management 2021

Korean Government Long-Term Fellowship for Overseas Studies, South Korea 2019 – 2021

Industrial Development Prize, Minister of Employment and Labor, South Korea 2016

GSPA Academic Scholarship, Seoul National University 2015

National Scholarship for Science and Engineering, Korea Scholarship Foundation 2006 – 2009

Professional Affiliations

Academy of Management (AOM), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Strategic Management Society (SMS)

Referee Experiences

Academy of Management Annual Meeting (2021–2023), Research Policy

Skills and Personal

Programs: Stata, R, Python, SAS, SPSS, LaTeX

Languages: English (fluent), Korean (native)

Military Service: Sergeant, Republic of Korea Army 2013 – 2015

References

Professor Maryann Feldman (Advisor)
Arizona State University
Maryann_Feldman@asu.edu

Professor Y. Sekou Bermiss (Committee)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Sekou_Bermiss@kenan-flagler.unc.edu

Professor Susan Cohen (Committee)
University of Georgia
susan.cohen@uga.edu

Professor Jiayi Bao (Committee)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
jiayibao@email.unc.edu

Professor Abhisekh Ghosh Moulick (Committee)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
abhisekh@email.unc.edu

Last Updated: February 2023

List of Current and Completed Ph.D. Courses

Applicant: Joonho Oh (joonho@unc.edu)

February 14, 2023

Term	*Class Code*	*Class Title*
Fall 2019	GRAD 755	Fundamentals of Technology Commercialization
	PLCY 700	Mathematical Preparation for Public Policy and Economics
	PLCY 716	Politics and Public Policy Theory
	PLCY 788	Advanced Economic Analysis for Public Policy I
Spring 2020	HPM 881	Linear Regression Models
	PLCY 717	Institutional Analysis for Public Policy
	PLCY 789	Advanced Economic Analysis for Public Policy II
Fall 2020	PLCY 780	Normative Dimensions for Policy Analysis and Research
	PLCY 801	Design of Policy-Oriented Research
	PLCY 882	Advanced Panel Data Methodology for Public Policy
Spring 2021	BUSI 853	Macro Organizational Behavior
	HPM 883	Analysis of Categorical Data
	PLCY 810	Public Policy Seminar
	PLCY 901	Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Public Policy
Fall 2021	PLCY 901	R&D and Entrepreneurial Activities within Organizations
	PLCY 994	Doctoral Research and Dissertation
Spring 2022	PLCY 994	Doctoral Research and Dissertation
Fall 2022	PLCY 994	Doctoral Research and Dissertation
Spring 2023	PLCY 810	Public Policy Seminar
	PLCY 994	Doctoral Research and Dissertation

Research Statement

Applicant: Joonho Oh

Entrepreneurship support organizations play a crucial role in the growth and survival of startups. Among various forms of organizational support for entrepreneurship, accelerators would be one of the types that have received significant scholarly attention. Prior studies have shown that accelerators support the fast growth of startups and that accelerated startups benefit from knowledge transferred from mentors during the acceleration period.

However, while the impacts of accelerators on accelerated startups' outcomes have been widely examined, we still lack our understanding of the roles of the unique organizational design elements of accelerators (e.g., cohort-based learning and program directors dedicated to each cohort) in enabling startups to achieve fast growth and survival. Vibrant interactions with peers in the same accelerator cohort, which distinguish accelerators from other types of entrepreneurship support organizations, may serve as a valuable source of learning for nascent startups that lack robust experiential learning routines and knowledge management structures. Additionally, the roles of program directors—despite findings from prior studies that elucidate the strong associations between program directors' background experiences and accelerated startups' outcomes—have been underappreciated.

In light of the knowledge gap, my dissertation aims to uncover how such underappreciated mechanisms and elements of accelerators shape accelerated startups' innovation activities and outcomes. As the first part of my dissertation, I have been conducting a systematic review of accelerator studies to identify gaps in the literature. In addition, I am working on making connections between those gaps and opportunities to develop existing management theories, such as social learning, performance feedback, regulatory focus, and principal-agent theories, to name but a few.

Based on the literature review, I explore how accelerated startups obtain benefits from the knowledge and experience of peers in the same cohort in the second essay. By employing a variety of variables that can capture the diverse dimensions of firm behavior and outcomes, such as the adoption of new web technologies, changes in website codes, web traffic, patents, and fundraising, I aim to shed light on the mechanisms through which knowledge and experience of peers are transferred to accelerated startups, enhance outcomes. I hand-collected a novel dataset that includes information about the financial histories, founding backgrounds, and adopted web management technologies of 739 accelerated startups in 66 accelerator cohorts. Now I am developing a novel machine-learning-based matching method to analyze the peer-learning effect in a rigorous manner.

For the final essay in my dissertation, I attend to the program directors of accelerators, with a focus on how they select startups, react to feedback from returns on their prior investments, and manage relationships with their sponsors and employers. This study will be a mixed-method descriptive paper that incorporates both qualitative in-depth interviews with program directors and quantitative analyses of their investment outcomes.

Meanwhile, entrepreneurship support organizations—particularly those with public purposes such as makerspaces and university incubators—function as gateways to entrepreneurship by attracting and supporting latent entrepreneurs. Interactions with various

stakeholders in an entrepreneurial ecosystem, as well as resources provided by entrepreneurship support organizations lower psychological and financial hurdles to entrepreneurship. Furthermore, entrepreneurs' value orientations are likely to be shaped by the characteristics of entrepreneurship support organizations. Accordingly, research on interactions between latent entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship support organizations can provide valuable opportunities to better understand how latent entrepreneurs develop their interests in entrepreneurship and form their value orientations.

In this vein, I have been developing two research projects that examine the consequences of makerspaces and entrepreneurship voucher programs in my research pipeline, in addition to my dissertation. To explicate, I have been studying how the emergence of makerspaces shapes fundraising activities in entrepreneurial ecosystems—as a co-authored research project. So far, my co-authors and I have found that makerspace establishments benefit socially-focused startups more in acquiring financial resources, using a novel text-similarity approach that measures the socialness of ventures on a continuous spectrum. Our findings suggest that network gains and social capital in communities facilitated by such community-based entrepreneurship support organizations are particularly beneficial for social ventures by attracting potential investors' attention, which may promote the entries of latent entrepreneurs with a stronger social focus.

Also, I just started exploring the effects of entrepreneurship vouchers provided via public incubators on latent entrepreneurs, using Portugal's policy experiment as a case study. Based on a set of archival data that include latent entrepreneurs' monthly notes and voucher usage records, I am going to explore how voucher support changes latent entrepreneurs' attitudes toward entrepreneurship and enables them to figure out new market niches by agile pivoting.

I believe my research has great potential to contribute to the theoretical development of entrepreneurship research. My dissertation will be able to elucidate how organizational support for entrepreneurship is endogenously formed based on the participation of various ecosystem stakeholders, including accelerated startups and program directors. The other research in my pipeline can also uncover the dynamics of latent entrepreneurship, which has been underexplored due to limitations in access to data. The findings from my research will contribute to developing important implications for policymakers and entrepreneurs.

I believe NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp will be essential for realizing such potential because the series of lectures on entrepreneurship research and interactions with prominent scholars and colleagues will provide precious guidance to my research and broaden my horizons. Interacting with researchers such as professors Yael Hochberg and Scott Stern, who have conducted influential studies on accelerators and supervised accelerator programs, will provide me with invaluable guidance to develop my dissertation on peer-to-peer interactions and program directors in accelerators. Moreover, my research on program directors in accelerators will benefit greatly from renowned entrepreneurial finance scholars, such as professors Josh Lerner, David Robinson, and Antoinette Schoar, given that many of these program directors possess motivations to invest in promising ventures. Additionally, advice from distinguished policy researchers such as professor Nick Bloom will be crucial for me to develop my research on the entrepreneurship voucher policy program in Portugal. I sincerely hope there will be an opportunity to develop my work through NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp.

ASU School of Public Affairs
Arizona State University

February 12, 2022

Dear NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp committee,

I write to provide a recommendation for **Joonho Oh**, who has applied for the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp program. Joonho Oh is a student in good standing in his fourth year at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Department of Public Policy. I am his primary advisor. Joonho passed all qualification exams with the highest honors. He defended his dissertation proposal on November 15 and is now about to receive a Ph.D. candidacy this month.

Joonho's research investigates the creation and viability of spatially defined entrepreneurial ecosystems. He concentrates on entrepreneurship support organizations, which emerge and co-evolve along with entrepreneurial ecosystems. As part of the coursework, Joonho analyzed the emergence of accelerators in New York City through the lens of organizational theories. He successfully captured the influence of policy support in the emergence of accelerators in the city's ecosystem, and now the paper is published in *Local Economy*. In addition, he conducted an independent study under my guidance with an exhaustive reading list on the role of public policy in entrepreneurial ecosystems. He thoroughly reviewed the literature and made suggestions to extend the literature, which was developed into a book chapter.

For his dissertation, Joonho is studying organizational issues underlying seed accelerators. Based on a comprehensive review of the accelerator literature, he explores the mechanisms and outcomes of peer learning during acceleration. He examines how accelerated startups benefit from the knowledge and diversity of peers in the same cohort, using a novel machine-learning approach to match accelerated startups with non-accelerated startups. He has hand-collected a novel dataset that includes comprehensive information on accelerated startups, founders, program managers, and local institutions. He is also planning to study the roles of accelerator managers by a mixed-method approach.

Joonho possesses the ability to conduct original research. To my specific lab, he brings novel perspectives to the study of innovation and entrepreneurship. Overall, Joonho is a promising researcher, with interesting projects in the pipeline. Joonho has shown excellent capabilities enough to carry out research and has good taste in crafting research questions. He is keen to use his strong quantitative skills in his research. Indeed, he is the perfect candidate for the program.

Joonho is also equipped with strong professional experiences in the entrepreneurship and innovation field. He worked for the Korean government on entrepreneurship policy for several years, which helped him develop several interesting and important research ideas, including his current dissertation topics.

I strongly recommend Joonho for the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp program. He will benefit greatly from the program and introduction to the network of scholars. I believe his experiences will be beneficial for scholars and fellow students who will participate in the program and yield constructive synergies in the program.

Sincerely,

Maryann P. Feldman

Maryann P. Feldman
Watts Professor of Public Policy
Arizona State University

Maryann P. Feldman, Watts Professor of Public Policy| Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions
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