JISUB SHIN

Southern Methodist University
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Updated as of 2026-05-15

Education

2022 – **Ph.D. in Economics**
Southern Methodist University, USA
Advisor: Michael Sposi

2017 – 2020 **M.A. in Economics**
Seoul National University, South Korea
Advisor: Biung-Ghi Ju

2011 – 2017 **B.A. in Economics and Finance**
Sangmyung University, South Korea

Research

Research Interests: Urban and Spatial Economics, Population Economics (Aging and Fertility), and Macroeconomics.

Working Papers

1. **JMP:** "On the Spatial Allocation of College Seats"

   Abstract: I study how the spatial allocation of college seats affects students' educational opportunities, parental location choices, and welfare. The project develops a spatial-equilibrium framework in which households choose where to live and how much to invest in children, while college admissions are shaped by regional competition. The analysis quantifies the trade-off between merit-based sorting and regional equality in access to higher education.

Publications

1. "A Study on the Long-Term Trend of Inequality of Opportunity for Income Acquisition in Korea using KLIPS and HIES," with Biung-Ghi Ju. *The Korean Journal of Economic Studies*, 69(1), 51–95, 2021.

Work in Progress

1. "The long-term effect of birth control policy in South Korea" with Michael Sposi and Wookun Kim.
2. "Internal Migration and Socially Efficient Age-Skill Composition"

Completed Courses

Urban Economics, Labor Economics, International Economics I, Growth and Development, Market Structure, Experimental Economics, Mathematical Economics, Econometrics I-III, Microeconomic Theory I & II, Macroeconomic Theory I & II, Intro to Quantitative Eco.

Teaching

Southern Methodist University (The United States)

Teaching assistant: International Macroeconomic Theory and Policy (ECO-4358)

Seoul National University (South Korea)
Teaching assistant: Economic History; Inequality and Social Justice; Public Economics.

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Southern Methodist University 2024 – 2026
Professor Klaus Desmet
Data analysis on spatial distribution of ethno-linguistic groups across country.

Research Assistant, Center for Distributional Justice, Seoul National University 2018 – 2021
Professor Biung-Ghi Ju
Conducted data analysis and literature reviews for research projects in public economics, inequality, and social economics.

Research Assistant, Daegu Catholic University 2020 – 2021
Professor Anna Kim
Conducted data management and literature reviews for research projects on public policies.

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

2026	Graduate Student Session Nominee, Southern Economic Association
2025 – 2026	Cook Family Fellowship, Southern Methodist University (SMU)
2025	Third-Year Paper Award, Department of Economics, SMU Research & Innovation Week Graduate Poster Session Award, SMU
2023	Inducted to the Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society in Economics
2019 – 2020	Research Grant for Postgraduate Student, Center for Social Science
2018 – 2019	Brain Korea 21 Research Scholarship, Korean Research Foundation
2018	Work-Study Scholarship, Seoul National University
2015 – 2016	Merit-Based Scholarships, Sangmyung University

Presentations

2025	NTxEC, University of Texas at Arlington R&I Week Graduate, Southern Methodist University
2021	The Virtual Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, HCEO Working Group
2019	"Opportunity Inequality in Korea," Center for Distributional Justice, South Korea
2018	"Income Distribution and Economic Growth: Effects of Functional Income Distribution on the Productivity of Domestic Industry," Summer Workshop 2018 Fukuoka, Japan

Academic Service and Activities

2019 – 2021	Data Manager, Center for Distributional Justice, Seoul National University
2019	Contributor, *Campus Impact 2019*, Center of Society Innovation Education Research
2015	Tutoring, *Monetary Economics*, Sangmyung University
2014 – 2015	President, Sangmyung University Finance Debate Club

Other

Citizenship	Republic of Korea
Languages	Korean, English
Software Skills	Stata, MATLAB, Python, LaTeX, MS Office

References

Michael Sposi
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Klaus Desmet
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Wookun Kim
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Research Interests and Motivation for Attending the Mentoring Workshop

My research interests lie at the intersection of macroeconomics, spatial economics, demography, and the economics of aging. I study how policy and economic incentives shape fertility, human capital investment, and the spatial distribution of households, and how these decisions contribute to long-run demographic and regional inequality. I am especially interested in the Korean context, where rapid fertility decline, intense educational competition, regional concentration, and population aging are closely intertwined.

My main ongoing research project studies the Regional Admission Quota System (RAQS) in South Korea. The RAQS provides students from non-capital regions with preferential access to certain university admissions slots, with the goal of reducing regional inequality in educational opportunities. I analyze this policy using a spatial overlapping-generations framework in which parents choose where to live, how many children to have, and how much to invest in private education. In the model, college admission prospects affect the return to educational investment and therefore influence parental location choices, fertility decisions, and child human capital accumulation. Although the project is centered on education and fertility, it is closely related to aging economics because persistent low fertility and spatial concentration are important drivers of regional population aging and future demand for elderly services.

A second ongoing project studies birth control policy and social norms in Korea. This project examines how government family planning policies may have affected fertility not only through direct constraints or incentives, but also by changing social norms regarding desired family size. I am developing an overlapping-generations model in which fertility decisions are shaped by both economic tradeoffs and intergenerational norm transmission. The Korean experience is particularly relevant because the country moved from active fertility-reduction policies to one of the lowest fertility rates in the world within a few decades.

As a future research agenda, I am also interested in studying the socially efficient age-skill composition across regions. The idea is to compare the decentralized spatial allocation of young and old individuals, as well as high- and low-skill workers, with the allocation chosen by a social planner. This project would incorporate age-specific amenities, demand for local services and elderly care, agglomeration forces, housing costs, and regional welfare. I hope to understand whether market forces generate inefficient spatial concentration or dispersion of elderly households, and how this affects local labor demand and caregiving needs.

The NBER Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research would be highly valuable for my development as a researcher. My current work is strongly connected to demographic change, but I would benefit from guidance on how to frame these questions more directly within aging and health economics. I would especially value mentorship on relevant data sets, empirical strategies for studying the local consequences of population aging, and ways to connect fertility, education policy, social norms, spatial inequality, and aging into a coherent dissertation agenda. Interacting with senior scholars and other doctoral students would help me refine my current projects and identify promising directions for future research.