Research Proposal

My research interests are motivated primarily by policy-driven questions in the field of social welfare policy with an emphasis on human capital development. While these questions encompass a broad range of topics, they are generally centered around the effects of anti-poverty programs on reduction in poverty and income inequality and how gains from the reduction translate into improvements in socio-economic outcomes such as education, income and health.

My dissertation seeks to better understand the long-run economic effects of governmental investments in children's well-being. I exploit state variations in government spending on education and transfer programs to examine their influence on the association between income inequality and intergenerational income mobility. I apply panel data methods using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth-1979 (NLSY79). My findings suggest that rising income inequality in the United States decreased intergenerational income mobility. However, government spending prevented the decrease in intergenerational income mobility by offsetting the consequences of rising income inequality. My dissertation will advance existing literature wherein evidence on the long-term economic effects of government investment in early childhood remains scarce.

In line with my dissertation, I am interested in focusing on intergenerational income mobility for future research. Specifically I will focus on measurement issues on intergenerational income mobility because the degree of intergenerational income mobility is very sensitive to identification strategies and model specifications, data and sample selection, and other factors producing sizable biases, such as life-cycle bias and attrition-related bias. In this research, I will pay more attention to the importance of age in estimating the degree of intergenerational income mobility. To estimate optimal ages for permanent income to minimize life-cycle biases, I will use administrative data such as the Statistics of Income Mobility Panel (SOI-M) and the Survey of Income and Program Participation Synthetic Beta (SSB). This research will provide the evidence on age-earning profiles for applied researchers who use current income variables as proxies for unobserved lifetime income.

Furthermore, the future research I aim to pursue during my time at the NBER includes the following topics: 1) the long-term effects of government investments, 2) methodological challenges—participation misreporting and selection bias, and 3) poverty and economic insecurity. Looking ahead, I plan to expand my research agenda outlined above by collaborating with current colleagues at Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC) as well as researchers at your institution.

My research on the long-term effects of government investments focuses on the effects of tax credit transfers on long-term economic outcomes. Specifically, I will employ a novel identification strategy of tax-reform-induced variation in the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to examine the effects of the substantial increase in income for low-income families on later adult economic outcomes. I will use data from NLSY79 Children and Young Adults and the main NLSY79 sample of mothers because the data are ideal for studying the effects of family income on children for several reasons—e.g., a larger sample of families eligible for the EITC and rich information on income resources and welfare benefits. This proposed study will help researchers and policymakers understand the long-term effects of anti-poverty programs such as the EITC.

In addition, I am interested in understanding the effects of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on child health and cognitive development while addressing two methodological challenges: (1) selection bias and (2) participation misreporting. Program selection is a critical issue in most studies seeking to estimate the causal effects of SNAP, and underreporting of SNAP in surveys is particularly prevalent. To address selection into the program, I will exploit state variations in SNAP policies to instrument for SNAP participation conditional on household and state-level characteristics. To address misreporting I borrow an approach based on parametric methods for misreported binary dependent variables that produces more consistent estimates when using instrumental variables. I expect that this study adds to the existing literature by estimating the degree of SNAP participation misreporting while also establishing more accurate estimates of the impacts of SNAP participation on child health and cognitive outcomes.

Another avenue of research I intend to pursue concentrates on measuring poverty and economic insecurity using an improved measure of poverty, such as the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). I am very fortunate to study and train under Dr. Jane Waldfogel at the Columbia University School of Social Work who is a well-known expert in child poverty, social policy, and education. I have gained valuable knowledge and insight into child poverty, income inequality, and economic mobility by conducting comprehensive literature reviews and data analysis. I with co-authors have conducted research using the SPM on child poverty, young adult poverty, deep poverty, and the impact of the safety net. Our current work in progress exploits the state-level variation in welfare policy to assess opportunities for child poverty reduction. We do so by simulating the child poverty reductions that would occur if all states were as generous as the most generous state in four key policy areas: SNAP, the EITC, the CTC, and TANF. I would like to expand on this line of research for my future work, which will contribute to the policy discussion that will further guide and inform government programs and policies. Potential funders for this study include the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, and the UC Davis Center for Poverty Research.

My research training at the CPRC provides me with opportunities to collaborate with a diverse group of researchers. I recently was funded as co-investigator on two externally funded grants. The first comes through Feeding America and the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research which examines the intersection between the food environment and food insecurity across counties nationwide. The second comes from the Institute for Research on Poverty RIDGE/USDA which focuses on the effects of SNAP on non-food household expenditures. My involvement with these projects has been invaluable as I have gained worthwhile experience in all aspects of the research process - including participation in everything from the grant-writing stage through analysis and writing, and presentation of the findings.

I have intensively trained in econometrics so my primary research methods are based on causal inference approaches. I have also exposed myself to psychological and sociological approaches so that I may better understand and apply multidisciplinary approaches in statistics and research methods. One of my strengths is extensive knowledge and experience using multiple national, larger data. I have been exposed to national data such as the Current Population Survey (CPS), National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Consumer Expenditure Survey, Panel Study of Income Dynamics, Survey of Income and Program Participation. Additionally, I have used international

data such the Demographic and Health Survey, Korea Labor and income panel survey, and Korea Welfare Panel Study. So far, I have not had the chance to use the restricted version of administrative data such as IRS tax data extensively but I am currently preparing a proposal to use such data, and expect to benefit from the use of the administrative data in providing robust empirical evidence that is less affected by measurement errors.

The common theme throughout my career and my research activities is my resolve to find answers to policy-driven questions that will genuinely improve the well-being of current and future generations. After the doctoral program, my goal is to become a researcher conducting the novel research at a top research institution. I believe my research experiences and agenda have prepared me well for such a position and I would be honored to be able to join as a postdoctoral researcher at the NBER.

CURRICULUM VITAE

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New York, NY 10027
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Poverty, income inequality, and economic mobility

Child well-being and socio-economic development

Social welfare policy and programs

EDUCATION

PhD (exp.)	School of Social Work, Columbia University	May 2017
MSW	Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis	May 2013
MA	Department of Social Welfare, Kyungpook National University, Korea	Aug. 2008
BA	Department of Social Welfare, Daegu University, Korea	Feb. 2006

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Research Experience

2013-present	Research Fellow, Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC), Columbia University, United States
2012-2013	Research Assistant, Cross National Study on Aging, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, United States
2012-2013	Research Assistant, Brown School Research, Dr. Pandey, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, United States
2010-2011	Research Scientist, Korean Institute for Health and Social Affairs, Seoul, Korea
2006-2007	Research Assistant, Social Welfare Center of Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea

Teaching Experience

July 2013	Instructor: Topics in Advanced Statistics: Propensity Score Matching Method Using R, Center of Social Welfare, Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea (Graduate level)
Jan.-Feb.2008	Instructor: Statistics I, Department of Social Welfare, Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea (Graduate level)

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (select)

Grants & Contracts

2016-2017 Feeding America & UKCPR- $30,000
How do county-level measures of the food environment and food assistance participation intersect with food insecurity? (with Lorenzo Almada and Chris Wimer). Role: Co-Investigator & Research Assistant

2015-2016 IRP RIDGE & USDA - $40,000
The effects of SNAP on non-food consumption: An instrumental variables approach (with Lorenzo Almada and Chris Wimer). Role: Co-Investigator & Research Assistant

Fellowships & Awards

2013-present Doctoral Fellowship, Columbia University School of Social Work

Oct. 2014 Publication Honorarium, the Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences, the Russell Sage Foundation

2011-2013 Korean Government Scholarship for Overseas, Korean Government

2006-2008 Teaching Assistant Scholarship, Department of Social Welfare, Kyungpook National University, Korea

Feb. 2006 Distinguished Service Award in Graduation Ceremony, Daegu University, Korea

Conference & Workshop Grants

2014-2016 PAA Travel Grants, Columbia Population Research Center

2014-2016 SSWR Travel Grants, Columbia University School of Social Work

Aug. 2016 Advanced Workshop on the Survey of Income and Program Participation Synthetic Beta, U.S. Census Bureau and University of Michigan Institute for Social Research

Aug. 2015 Consumer Expenditure Survey's Data Workshop, Bureau of Labor Statistics

June 2014 Fragile Families and Child Well-being Study's Data Workshop, Princeton University and Columbia University Population Research Center

Jan. 2012 SSWR Travel Grants, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. Nolan, N., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., **Nam, J.**, Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. (forthcoming). Trends in child poverty by Race/Ethnicity: New evidence using an anchored historical Supplemental Poverty Measure. *Journal of Applied Research on Children*

2. Nolan, N., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., **Nam, J.**, Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. (forthcoming). A new method for measuring historical poverty trends: Incorporating geographic differences in the cost of living using the Supplemental Poverty Measure. *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*

3. Wimer, C., **Nam, J.**, Waldfogel, J., & Fox, L. (2016). Trends in child poverty using an improved measure of poverty. *Academic pediatrics, 16*(3), S60-S66

4. Fox, L., Wimer, C., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., **Nam, J.**, & Waldfogel, J. (2015). Trends in deep poverty from 1968 to 2011: The influence of family structure, employment patterns, and the safety net. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences, 1*(1), 14-34

5. **Nam, J.**, & Ansong, D. (2015). The effects of a dedicated education savings account on children's college graduation. *Economics of Education Review, 48*, 198-207

6. **Nam, J.** (2008). A study on the effects of public and private income transfers on poverty reduction in Korea. *Social Welfare Research at the KNU Center for Social Welfare Research. 9*(1), 79-107

Manuscripts under Review

1. **Nam, J.** Trends in intergenerational income mobility and its relationship with income inequality in South Korea. *Demography*

2. Wimer, C., **Nam, J.**, Fox, L., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., & Waldfogel, J. Young adult poverty in historical perspective: The role of policy supports and early labor market experiences. *Demography*

3. Wimer, C., Fox, L., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., **Nam, J.**, & Waldfogel, J. Poverty, family structure and the safety net from 1968 to 2013. *Journal of Marriage and Family*

4. Pac, J., **Nam, J.**, Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. Young child poverty in the United States: Analyzing trends in poverty and the role of anti-poverty programs using the Supplemental Poverty Measure. *Children and Youth Services Reviews*

Manuscripts in Progress (draft available)

1. Almada, L., **Nam, J.**, & Wimer, C. The effects of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program on non-food consumption: An instrumental variables approach

2. Berenson, J., Bustillo, D., & **Nam, J**. Cost benefit analysis of expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit for childless workers

3. **Nam, J.** Identifying the effects of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program on child health

4. Nolan, N., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., **Nam, J.**, Pac, J., Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. State policy and child poverty: Simulating the impact of a race to the top.

Other Publications

1. Nolan, N., Pac, J., Wimer, C., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., **Nam, J.**, & Waldfogel, J. (forthcoming). State poverty fact sheet: New evidence using the Supplemental Poverty Measure. [Working paper from the Center on Poverty and Social Policy & the Columbia University Population Center]. New York, NY, United States

2. Kim, Y., **Nam, J**., Choi, U., & Park, E. (2007). The empowerment program for multicultural families. [Working paper from the Daegu Women's Education Center]. Daegu, Korea

3. Kim, H., Park, N., Park, J., & **Nam, J**. (2007). Social welfare provision for Daegu city. [Working paper from the Social Welfare Center at Kyungpook National University]. Daegu, Korea

4. Bae, S., Sohn, J., Park, N., & **Nam, J**. (2006). Social welfare provision for Seo-gu county in Daegu. [Working paper from the Social Welfare Center at Kyungpook National University]. Daegu, Korea

PRESENTATIONS (select)

Oral Presentation

1. Wimer, C., **Nam, J.**, Fox, L., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., & Waldfogel, J. (March 2016). Young adult poverty in historical perspective. Oral session presented at PAA Annual Conference 2016, Washington, DC, United States

2. **Nam, J.** (Jan. 2016). What do we know? The effects of food assistance programs on child health and cognitive development. Oral session presented at SSWR 2016, Washington, DC, United States

3. **Nam, J.**, & Ansong, D. (Jan. 2015). The impact of parents' savings on children's future education. Oral session presented at SSWR 2015, New Orleans, LA, United States

4. Fox, L., Wimer, C., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., **Nam, J.**, & Waldfogel, J. (Oct. 2014). Trends in deep poverty from 1968 to 2011: The influence of family structure, employment patterns, and the safety net. *Invited presentation to the Russell Sage Foundation, New York, NY, United States

5. **Nam, J.** (April 2013). Predicting the impact of savings on educational outcomes. Oral session presented at Research Seminar, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, United States

Poster Presentation

1. Nolan, N., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., **Nam, J.**, Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. (March 2016). Geographically adjusted poverty trends by state using the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure. Poster session at PAA Annual Conference 2016, Washington, DC, United States

2. **Nam, J.**, & Ansong, D. (May 2014). Predicting the impact of parents' savings for their children's future education on the children's educational outcomes. Poster session at PAA Annual Conference 2014, Boston, MA, United States

3. **Nam, J.**, Ansong, D., & Pandey, S. (May 2014). The determinants of women's health preferences and behavior: Evaluating the impact of cash incentive programs for safe childbirth on child vaccinations in Nepal. Poster session at PAA Annual Conference 2014, Boston, MA, United States

4. Shao, L., & **Nam, J.** (Dec. 2012). Mapping the outcomes of the hospital-community linkages project (HCL) in East Missouri. Poster session at Geographic Information System (GIS), George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, MO, United States. Accessible to http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/gis_poster/163/

SERVICE (select)

Volunteer Service

2012-2013 Volunteer, International Institute in St. Louis, Missouri, United States

July-Aug. 2007 Volunteer, Daegu Women's Education Center, Korea

Military Service

2000-2002 Sergeant of Artillery, Republic of Korea Army, Korea

University Service

2012-2013 Vice President, Korean Student Association, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, United States

June-Dec. 2006 Vice President, Graduate Student Association of Social Welfare, Kyungpook National University, Korea

Jan.-Dec. 2004 President, Social Welfare Student Association, Daegu University, Korea

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/ LICENSURE

Association Memberships

2014-Present Member, Population Association of America, United States

2014-Present Member, Society for Social Work and Research, United States

Licensure

2006-Present Licensed 1st Level of Social Worker in Republic of Korea

2006-Present Licensed 2nd Level of Social Worker in Republic of Korea

2006-Present Licensed 2nd Level of Lifelong Educator in Republic of Korea

REFERENCES

- Jane Waldfogel (sponsor), Columbia University School of Social Work
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  ig3@columbia.edu | 212-851-2383

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  nk464@columbia.edu | 212-851-2235

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