

BYUNGKI MUN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Virginia Tech, USA	Expected May 2025
M.A. in Economics, Virginia Tech, USA	December 2021
Ph.D. in Economics, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea	Course Completion 2018
M.A. in Economics, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea	2007
B.A. in Economics, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea	Summa Cum Laude 2005

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, International Trade, Development Economics, Economic Policy

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

1. Frederic Bastiat Fellow at Mercatus Center, George Mason University, Aug 2022 – Aug 2023
2. Rising Scholar Research Award, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech, 2023
3. Best Third-year Paper Award, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech, 2023
4. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance (MOF) of Korea Award, for “Contribution to the National Economic Development through Promotion of Export.” 2018
5. Minister of Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of Korea Award, for “Contribution to the National Economic Development through Promotion of Export.” 2015
6. Korea International Trade Association Chairman Award, for “Outstanding Performance.” 2015
7. Graduate Research Assistantship, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea, 2005 – 2007
8. Graduate Tuition Scholarship, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea, 2006, 2017
9. Undergraduate Tuition Scholarship, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea, 2003 – 2004

WORKING PAPERS

1. **“COVID-19 Pandemic and Changes in Employer Skill Requirements: Evidence from the US.”**
Abstract: Using online job vacancy data, I study how the dramatic local employment shock due to the pandemic changed labor demand and how the COVID-19 pandemic differs from the impact of the Great Recession on the labor market. I find that the downskilling of education and experience requirements during the pandemic sharply contrasts with persistent upskilling after the Great Recession. The downskilling effects are more prevalent in industries with traded products and routine-manual jobs such as healthcare, logistics, retail, and construction. Labor shortages promote job automation and downskilling, and firms’ adoption of new technologies and workers’ acquisition of new skills are concentrated on practical skills such as Business Systems, Data Analysis, Specialized Software, ML/AI, not education degrees, during the pandemic.
2. **“Impact of COVID-19 Immigration Restrictions on the US Labor Market and Skill Demand.”**
3. **“U.S. Exports, Imports, and Internal Migration: A Balanced View of China Syndrome.”**
4. **“Will Foreign Direct Investment Accelerate the Economic Integration of East Asia?”** KITA (2015)
Citations: [Energy Economics](#) (2019), [Environmental Science](#) (2016), [SWP Research Paper](#) (2017)
5. **“Intra-Regional Trade in East Asia.”** (with Seongdae Cho), KITA (2014)

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. **“The effects of the US-China tariff war on U.S. Firms Skill Demand.”**
2. **“Travel Costs and International Trade: Evidence from Korea’s High Speed Railway System.”**

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech Principles of Microeconomics (In-person, 30 students, 5.20 ¹)	Spring 2024
Assistant Director, Center for Future Work Places and Practices, Virginia Tech	Fall 2023
Student Affiliate, Center for Future Work Places and Practices, Virginia Tech	Fall 2023 – present
Graduate Research Assistant, Virginia Tech (Dr. Suqin Ge) Work in an NSF (National Science Foundation) granted project	Fall 2021 - Summer 2023
• Project Topic: “The Impact of Technological Change on the Future of Work”	
Graduate Research Assistant, Sungkyunkwan University (Dr. Kyung Hwan Baik) Master Research Project (Advisor: Kyung Hwan Baik)	2005-2007
• Project Topic: “Effort Levels in Public-Good Contests with Budget Constraints”	
Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech	
Big Data Economics (Undergraduate) (Dr. Bo Zhou)	Fall 2024
Advanced Big Data Economics (Graduate) (Dr. Bo Zhou)	Fall 2024
Managerial Economics (Dr. Kowk Ping Tsang)	Fall 2024
Principles of Macroeconomics (Dr. Zhou Yang)	Spring 2021
Senior Researcher, Korea International Trade Association (KITA)	2011 – 2020
Analysis & Forecasting Department, KITA	2014 – 2020
FTA & Regional Studies Department, KITA	2011 – 2013
• KITA was established in 1946 with the objective of advancing the Korean economy through trade, and is currently the largest business (non-profit) organization in Korea with over 73,000 member companies for whom it offers a range of services and manages policy issues.	

PUBLICATIONS AS A SENIOR RESEARCHER AT KITA

“The Economic Impacts of the US-China Trade War on China and Korea.”	2018 – 2020
“The Impact and Prospects of Covid-19 on the Trade.”	2020
“Annual Report on Korea’s Trade: its Evaluation and Prospect.”	2014 – 2020
“Analysis on the Economic Impacts of the US imposing High Tariffs on Automobiles.”	2018
“An Analysis of New Industries in Creating Jobs and Competitiveness against China.”	2018
“An Analysis on International Competitiveness of Korea’s Semiconductor.”	2017 and 2019
“Paradigm Changes in Global Value Chain and the Future of Korea’s Trade.”	2019
“ Exports Trends and Prospects of Korea’s Automotive Industry. ” Industry Focus at KOTRA	2019
“Improvement of Trade Statistics Product Classification System (HS-MTI Code).”	2017
“Is Korea’s current account surplus driven by exchange rate depreciation?”	2017
“The Growth Strategy of Korea’s Exporting Companies and Implications on Policy Options.”	2018
“The Characteristics of Korea’s Exports and their Contributions to Korea’s Economy.”	2017
“Comparative Studies on International and Domestic firms in Job Creation and Innovation.”	2017
“Is Korea’s current account surplus driven by exchange rate depreciation?”	2017
“Export Trends and Competitiveness of New Industries in the era of 4th Industrial Revolution.”	2017
“Case Studies on the Japan and Germany Export Industries.”	2016
“Analysis on Korea’s major Exports’ Competitiveness on International Markets.”	2016
“Analysis on the Cause of Slowdown of Global Trade and the Prediction of its Future.”	2016
“Impacts of the US Interest rates’ hike to Korea Domestic Economy and Export.”	2015

¹The number is the mean values of SPOT evaluation scores (The instructor’s teaching was effective: min - 1, max - 6)

"Trends of Oil prices and their Implications to Korean Export."	2015, 2016, and 2020
"Comparative Analysis of Export Competitiveness of main items in the world market."	2016
"The Impacts of Off-shoring on Korea's Export."	2015
"Comparative Financial Statement Analysis between Exporters and Domestic Companies."	2015
"International Competitiveness as the No.1 Product in the World Export Market Share."	2015
"Impact of Japanese Yen Devaluation on Korean Exporters."	2014
"Current Status and Challenges of Korean Won Internationalization."	2014
"Analysis of Demand for Chinese Yuan of Export-Import Companies from China."	2014
"Market Expansion and Production Network Strengthening Opportunities with TPP."	2013
"Intellectual Property Disputes and US Protectionism."	2013
"Korea-US FTA Evaluation," and "Korea-Peru FTA 2 Year Achievement."	2013
"Technology Trade of Korea in accordance with OECD TBP Manual and the Creative Economy."	2013
"Latin America Infrastructure Market Trend and Promising Export Items."	2012
"The Status of Korea's Productivity and its Implications."	2014, and so and so forth
Press mentions: WSJ , VOA , Bloomberg #1 #2 #3 #4 , Al Jazeera , SCMP , Korea Times , Gulf Times	

PRESENTATIONS AS A SENIOR RESEARCHER AT KITA

Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea	December 2019
The Korean Research Institute of International Commerce Law, Seoul, Korea	February 2019
Bank of Korea, Seoul, Korea	2014 – 2019 (At least twice a year)
Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology, Seoul, Korea	2014 – 2019 (At least twice a year)
Korea Association of Machinery Industry, Seoul, Korea	2014 – 2019 (At least twice a year)
The Korea Economic Daily (Hankyung), Seoul, Korea	April 2018
Korea Banking Institute, Seoul, Korea	April 2018
Korea Health Industry Development Institute, Cheongju, Korea	January 2016
Korea Small Business Institute, Seoul, Korea	August 2015
Keimyung University, Daegu, Korea	July 2015
Korean Government bodies such as the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the National Assembly Budget Office (NABO)	2011 – 2020

OTHER EXPERIENCE AND INFORMATION

Military Service	Naval Officer (Lieutenant Junior Grade), Republic of Korea Navy	2007 – 2010
Other Skills	Stata, R, Matlab, L ^A T _E X, MS Office, International Trade Specialist (Certificate)	

REFERENCES

Dr. Suqin Ge Professor Department of Economics Virginia Tech Phone: +1 540-231-4378 Email: ges@vt.edu	Dr. Djavad Salehi-Isfahani Professor Department of Economics Virginia Tech Phone: +1 540-231-7697 Email: salehi@vt.edu	Dr. Xu Lin Associate Professor Department of Economics Virginia Tech Phone: +1 540-231-9298 Email: xulin88@vt.edu
Dr. Sergio Barrera Assistant Professor Department of Economics Virginia Tech Phone: +1 540-231-5764 Email: sbarrera@vt.edu	Dr. Kyung Hwan Baik Professor Department of Economics Sungkyunkwan University Phone: +82-2-760-0432 Email: khbaik@skku.edu	