The Effect of Adult Children’s Hours Worked on Elder Support: A Natural Experiment in Korea

8 April 2016, Fri | 12nn - 1.30pm | Ventus Evans Room

ABSTRACT

Despite its significant implications, little is known about the causal impact of adult children’s working time on their support for elderly parents. This paper examines how hours worked affect how often workers visit their parents, using a natural experiment in Korea. The government reduced its legal workweek from 44 to 40 hours, gradually from larger to smaller establishments between 2004 and 2011. The data from 2005 to 2012 waves of the Korea Labor and Income Panel Study, a nationally-representative annual survey, was used. Using a binary instrumental variable (IV), indicating whether a worker’s legal workweek has been reduced, we estimate the impact of hours worked with two-stage regressions as well as the impact of the four-hour reduction in the legal workweek with reduced-form regressions. For comparison, we estimate regressions on actual workweeks without the IV also. Results from the IV regressions show that adult children’s working time have negative impact on the time support. In contrast, no significant relationship between the two was found in the models without the IV. We suggest that previous observational studies tend to understated the causal impact, and that long working time has implications on the well-being of the extended family.

About the Speakers

Dr. Erin Hye-Won Kim is an Assistant Professor in the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Dr. Kim is also a faculty associate in the Centre for Family and Population Research and the Asia Research Institute at NUS. Before joining the NUS faculty, she earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in Public Policy from Duke University. Dr. Kim’s research focuses on social policy and social demography in developed Asian countries. Her research has been published or accepted for publication in leading journals such as the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Demographic Research*, and *Ageing and Society*.

Dr. Lee Changjun is a Research Associate in the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS. He received his PhD in Economics from Seoul National University in 2015. Dr. Lee’s research focuses on the social problems caused by high-technology such as digital divide or smart-phone addiction. He is also working on projects related to public policy and family demography, examining how long working time in East Asia affects various family outcomes.

Chaired by: Dr. Yi Junjian, Department of Economics, NUS

Register by 4 Apr 2016 at [http://goo.gl/forms/yiQ08dgtDc](http://goo.gl/forms/yiQ08dgtDc). Light lunch will be provided.