

SEUNG MO CHOI

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Pullman, WA 99164-6210
- Current Position** Assistant Professor, School of Economic Sciences, Washington State University, 2008-.
- Previous Position** Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Chicago, 2005-08.
- Education** Ph.D. in Economics, University of Chicago, 2008.
Committee Chair: Robert E. Lucas, Jr.
M.A. in Economics, University of Chicago, 2003.
B.A. in Economics, Seoul National University, 1999.
- Fields of Research** Macroeconomics, Asset Pricing, Money and Banking, Growth.
- Working Papers** “How Large are Learning Externalities?: Measurement by Calibration.” (Revise-and-
(available at my website) Resubmit status with *International Economic Review*)
- Abstract:** Quantitative features on human capital externalities are not fully understood. While static externalities (as in Lucas (1988)) are measured in some studies, learning externalities (as in Tamura (1991)) remain almost unmeasured. This paper measures learning externalities, through the calibration of a growth model. The calibration uses an equilibrium condition that equates private returns on physical capital and human capital. Results are in favor of sizable learning externalities, even in a conservative set-up. The social rate of return on human capital is 3.3% points higher than the private rate of return, 6.6%. Therefore, human capital externalities are an important source of economic growth.
- “Cross-Sectional Returns in a General Equilibrium: Is There a Momentum?”
- Abstract:** The quantitative features of cross-sectional stock returns, such as the momentum and a predictive power of dividend yields on future returns, are not fully understood within a general-equilibrium asset-pricing framework. Especially, the momentum is often considered to be hard to reconcile with the efficient market hypothesis. I calibrate a model with two Lucas trees and the recursive utility. Two trees represent an individual stock (or portfolio) and the rest of the stock market, respectively. The recursive utility is used to provide more realistic predictions on the equity premium and a risk-free rate. The model's predictions on an average individual stock's dividend yield, CAPM and C-CAPM betas, and the gain from a diversification, match reasonably with the data. More importantly, the model is able to generate the momentum profits reported by Lewellen (2002), as well as a cross-sectional regression

slope of returns on lagged dividend yields that is close to empirical observations.

Work in Progress	<p>“How Do Outputs Converge after Reunifications?: Reflections on Germany and Preparations on Korea”</p> <p>“Measuring International Knowledge Flows” (joint with Hagen Kim).</p> <p>“An Assessment of Cross-Country Fiscal Consolidations” (joint with Bruno Carrasco).</p>
Fellowships and Awards	<p>Esther and T.W. Schultz Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2007-08.</p> <p>Doolittle-Harrison Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2006.</p> <p>Martin and Margaret Lee Prize (for the performance in Money and Banking Preliminary Exam), University of Chicago, 2004.</p> <p>Doctoral Study Abroad Scholarship, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies, 2002-07.</p> <p>Undergraduate College Student Scholarship, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies, 1997-99.</p>
Courses Taught	<p>WSU: PhD-level Macro (2009-10), Money and Banking (2008-09), Development (2009).</p> <p>Chicago: Intermediate Macro (2005-08).</p>
Selected Seminar Presentations	<p>Asian Development Bank (2004), Korea Institute of Public Finance (2008), Singapore Management (2008), Texas A&M (2008), Chicago (2006-08), UW Milwaukee (2008), WSU (2008-09).</p>
Selected Conference Presentations	<p>Canadian Economic Association (2009), Econometric Society: North American Summer (2006), ASSA: Korea-America Economic Association (2010), Midwest Macro Meetings (2009), Royal Economic Society (2006), Southwestern Economics Association (2005).</p>
Selected Outreach Presentations	<p>Rotary Club of Wenatchee (2009), WSU Alumni Association in Wenatchee (2009), WSU Wenatchee Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center (2009).</p>
Refereeing Service	<p>Japan and the World Economy (2009).</p>
University/ Departmental Service	<p>WSU: Economic Advisory Committee (2008).</p> <p>School of Economic Sciences: Ph.D. Macro Qualifying Exam Committee (2008-10), Seminar Committee (2008-10).</p>
Professional Membership	<p>American Economic Association, Canadian Economics Association, Econometric Society, Korea-America Economic Association.</p>
Other Experience	<p>Webmaster and Server Administrator, School of Economics, Seoul National U., 2001-02.</p> <p>Military Service, 1999-2001.</p>

References

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