MINAH KIM

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EDUCATION

Georgetown University, Washington, DC
Ph.D. in Economics — Expected 2027
M.A. in Economics — 2022

Korea University, Seoul, Korea
M.A. in Economics — 2020

Emory University, Atlanta, GA
B.A. in Economics, Minor in Mathematics — 2016

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Migration Economics, Labor Economics, Environmental Economics, Applied Microeconomics

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Do Green Immigrants Foster Green Communities? Origin Countries' Comparative Advantage, Green Innovation, and Renewable Energy in the United States" [Link]

How does immigration contribute to the green economy? This paper examines the effect of immigration on green innovation and renewable electricity generation in the U.S., using patent and power plant data at the county level in 1995–2020. I differentiate between immigrants from countries with a comparative advantage in renewable energy goods ("green immigrants") and those from countries without ("nongreen immigrants"). I apply a leave-one-out push-pull 2SLS design using ancestry data: I predict immigration based on the coincidence between the timing of emigration waves from each origin country and when each U.S. county was historically attractive to other origins. Green immigrants increase green patenting, and when they go to counties where plants are operated, they also increase renewable electricity generation, whereas nongreen immigrants have no effect on either outcome. Moreover, green immigration does not increase fossil patenting or brown electricity. These findings indicate that immigration can be an important driver of the green transition on the production side, with contributions tied to origin countries' capabilities rather than to immigration in general.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

"Retaining Foreign Talent: The Impact of the OPT Extension on Employment in STEM Occupations" [Link]

This paper examines whether extending post-graduation work authorization helps retain foreign STEM graduates in STEM occupations in the United States. In 2016, the Optional Practical Training (OPT) reform increased the maximum work authorization period for eligible F-1 STEM graduates from 29 to 36 months, while leaving the 12-month period for non-STEM graduates unchanged. Using 2012–2023 American Community Survey data and a difference-in-differences design at the commuting-zone level, I find that the number of young foreign-born graduates working in STEM occupations increases more for those with STEM degrees than for those with non-STEM degrees after the reform. No statistically significant difference between degree groups is observed in non-STEM occupations. A triple-difference analysis further shows that this relative increase within STEM occupations is significantly larger among foreign-born graduates than among graduates who are U.S. citizens. Among U.S. citizens working in non-STEM occupations, I also find suggestive evidence that the number of

STEM graduates increases relative to that of non-STEM graduates. This pattern is consistent with occupational specialization based on comparative advantage. These findings suggest that longer post-graduation work authorization can help retain foreign graduates in STEM occupations, alongside possible occupational reallocation within the same local labor markets.

"From Climate Shocks to Green Careers – Supporting Workforce Transitions in the Western Balkans"

with Kevwe Sylvester Pela, Alicia Marguerie, and Sarah Coll-Black (Working paper, forthcoming.)

Climate change and the low-carbon transition are intensifying labor market vulnerabilities in the Western Balkans. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events are shifting sectoral employment patterns with the potential to deepen structural inequalities. At the same time, the green transition is driving structural shifts in employment, placing new demands on workers and employers. This working paper analyzes labor market vulnerabilities in the Western Balkans and assesses whether current social protection and employment systems are prepared to support these labor transitions. It identifies integrated policy responses—combining social protection and labor market programs—that can help build worker resilience and ensure inclusive, climate-resilient growth.

"The Effect of the Clean Air Act on the Internal Migration of Green and Non-Green Workers"

(Work in progress.)

Using American Community Survey and Environmental Protection Agency data, I examine how the 2015 ozone standard under the Clean Air Act relates to the geographic distribution and internal migration of workers in green and non-green occupations.

POLICY REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

World Bank. (2025). Western Balkans Regular Economic Report No. 27, Spring 2025: Adapting for Sustainable Growth. [Link]
Contributed empirical analysis and drafting to the spotlight chapter; acknowledged as a member of the contributing team.

World Bank. (2024). Western Balkans 6 Country Climate and Development Report. CCDR Series. [Link]
Provided empirical analyses and analytical inputs for the report.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Short-Term Consultant, The World Bank — Washington, DC

- **Social Protection & Jobs** (Global Engagement) — 2025
- **Poverty & Equity** (Europe & Central Asia) — 2024–2025
- **Social Protection & Labor** (Europe & Central Asia) — 2024
- **Poverty & Equity** (Europe & Central Asia) — 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Georgetown University

Principles of Microeconomics — Summer 2022

Overall instructor rating: 4.73/5.00

Teaching Assistant, Georgetown University

Institute for the Study of International Migration

International Migration and Development (Graduate Course) — Fall 2026

Department of Economics

The Economics of Immigration	Spring 2026
International Trade	Spring 2025
Intermediate Microeconomics	Spring 2024
Labor Economics	Fall 2023
Principles of Microeconomics (Head TA)	Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024
Principles of Microeconomics	Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant, Korea University

Monetary and Financial Economics	Spring 2018

PRESENTATIONS

Korea-America Economic Association (KAEA) Job Market Conference	2026
International Trade Lunch, Georgetown University (Scheduled)	2026
Georgetown Center for Economic Research (GCER) Alumni Conference	2026
Applied Microeconomics Seminar, Georgetown University	2026
Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Conference	2024
EGSO Seminar, Georgetown University	2023

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Ph.D. Fellowship, Georgetown University	2020–Present
Funded Participant, Summer School in The Economics of Migration, UC Davis Global Migration Center	2025
Summer Non-Service Stipend Supplement, Georgetown University	Summer 2024
Summer Research Grant, Georgetown University	Summer 2023
Brain Korea 21 Plus Research Scholarship, Korea University	2019
Research Assistant Scholarship, Korea University	2018

SKILLS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: English (fluent), Korean (native), Chinese (basic; HSK Level 5, 2014)
Computer Skills: R, Stata, SQL, LaTeX
Citizenship/ Visa Status: South Korea/ F1

REFERENCES

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