Junho Kim

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Research Fields

International Trade, Geoeconomics, Political Economy

Education

Indiana University Bloomington — Bloomington, IN
Ph.D. in Economics, Expected May 2027
M.A. in Economics, 2025

Yonsei University — Seoul, South Korea
B.A. in Economics, 2014

Job Market Paper

"Latent Statecraft: Political Alignment in the Shadow of Tariffs"
with Mostafa Beshkar

Abstract: Tariffs have long been understood as a tool of economic statecraft, used not only to manage trade but to extract political returns from trading partners. This may be why tariff-cut commitments so often look lopsided: a hegemon may offer periphery countries deeper cuts than it receives in return, with the imbalance possibly compensated on a different margin, namely political concessions. Using the United States as the hegemon and UN General Assembly voting as our measure of political concessions, we measure economic concessions as the terms-of-trade effect of bilateral tariff cuts and exploit variation in their value over time. We find that periods of larger tariff concessions from the US are also periods of greater political concessions by periphery countries. This holds even absent new tariff policy: a tariff schedule's economic value is continuously revalued by shifting trade patterns, and the political returns to a concession made years earlier track this revaluation.

Working Papers

"Rebalancing Supply Networks after a Geopolitical Shock" (solo-authored)

Abstract: This paper studies how importers rebalance their supply networks when an established supplier becomes a source of geopolitical risk, using the 2019 Korea–Japan trade dispute. Products with more concentrated alternative supply saw larger declines in imports from Japan but neither added supplier countries nor expanded imports from other countries more than other products. Instead, sourcing was rebalanced within existing supply networks: purchases of these products became relatively less concentrated across existing suppliers, and, across all products, imports shifted away from suppliers whose own geopolitical risk rose.

"Trade Imbalances and Reciprocity in the WTO: A Rule-Based Adjustment Framework"
with Mostafa Beshkar

Abstract: Using a multi-country, multi-sector structural trade model, we quantify the tariff adjustments required to restore the balance of concessions prevailing at the establishment of the WTO. The required increases are systematically larger for partners with which the United States runs larger bilateral deficits. Building on Keynes's principle of symmetric adjustment, we propose a framework that sequences targeted tariff reductions by surplus countries, imbalance-based fees with redistribution, and tariff increases by deficit countries as a last resort.

Work in Progress

"Middle-Power Coalitions and Trade Bargaining with the U.S." (with Yuting Gao)
"Geopolitical Risk and Domestic Innovation"

Policy Papers

"Steady Growth of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Chungbuk", *BOK Golden Book*, Bank of Korea, December 2018 (in Korean).
"Protectionism Status and Its Impact on Korean Exports" *with J. Park and B. Kim*, *Economic Outlook*, Bank of Korea, January 2017 (in Korean).
"Import Growth Outlook of Trading Partners Considering Changes in the Global Trade Structure" *with H. Lee*, *Economic Outlook*, Bank of Korea, October 2016 (in Korean).

Presentations

Annual Tobias Center Research Symposium, Indiana University — *(scheduled)* 2026
Hoosier Economics Conference, Indiana University — 2025
Microeconomics Seminar, Indiana University — Spring, Fall 2024

Teaching Experience

Indiana University Bloomington
Instructor of Record: Fundamentals of Economics for Business II — Spring 2025, Fall 2025
Teaching Assistant — 2022–2026
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory; Introduction to Applied Econometrics; Statistical Analysis for Business and Economics; Introduction to Macroeconomics

Research and Professional Activities

Referee, *European Economic Review* — 2026
Research Assistant to Prof. Mostafa Beshkar — Summer 2025

Professional Experience

Bank of Korea — Seoul, South Korea
Economist, Office of Bank Examination — 2020–2022
Junior Economist — 2014–2020
Research Department (Korean export outlook); Economic Statistics Department (Balance of Payments compilation); Chungbuk Branch

Fellowships, Honors & Awards

Lloyd Orr Graduate Fellowship, Indiana University — Fall 2026
Tobias Center Research Fund Grant, Indiana University — Fall 2025
Susan C. Thrasher Fellowship, Indiana University — Spring 2025, Fall 2025
Governor's Encouragement Award, Bank of Korea — June 2019

Other Information

Citizenship: South Korea (F-1 visa; eligible for OPT)
Languages: English (Fluent), Korean (Native) **Programming:** MATLAB, Stata, R, Python

References

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