Young-Yun Choi

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FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Economics, Urban & Regional Economics, Economic History

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics — Expected 2027
Georgia State University, GA, U.S.
Advisors: Alberto Chong, Tom Mroz

M.A., Public Policy – Magna Cum Laude — 2019
KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Korea

B.A., International Relations – Summa Cum Laude — 2012
Keimyung Adams College, Keimyung University, Korea
Four-year merit scholarship and one-year living stipend awarded upon admission

WORKING PAPERS

1. Information Frictions and the Expansion of Markets: Evidence from Mobile Phone Access in North Korea *(Job Market Paper)*
2. Measuring Market Activity with AI and High-Resolution Satellite Imagery: Evidence from North Korea (with Jeasurk Yang, Sumin Lee, and Meeyoung Cha) *(Under review)*
   Media coverage: JoongAng Ilbo [English] [Korean] | Chosun Ilbo [English] [Korean]
3. When Support Is Selective: Targeted Training, Stipends and Volunteer Attrition (with Alberto Chong) *(Under review)*

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. How Does Place Shape Inequality? Long-Run Effects of Childhood Exposure to Historical Residential Regulations
2. Housing Conditions and Public Health: Evidence from Early 20th-Century U.S. Cities (with Lauren Hoehn-Velasco and James Feigenbaum)
3. Mobile Connectivity and Market Price Dispersion
4. Measurement Error in Satellite-Derived Economic Activities
5. Spatial Barriers and Economic Opportunity (with Kenji Moreno)

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

External

Smith Richardson Foundation, World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship — 2026

Economic History Association (EHA), Graduate Dissertation Fellowship — 2025

Mercatus Center, George Mason University, Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship — 2025

Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS), Social Innovation Research Award — 2026
Funded by SK Group, one of South Korea's largest companies (PI: Jeasurk Yang)

Atlanta Economics Club (AEC) — 2026

Internal

Suttles Fellowship, Georgia State University 2026
Awarded annually to one graduate student selected across all disciplines at GSU

Coca-Cola Scholarship Fund, Georgia State University 2026

Ramsey Chair Research Grant (Data Purchase), Georgia State University 2025

Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR) Fellowship, Georgia State University 2025

HONORS & AWARDS

E.D. (Jack) Dunn Fellowship Award, Georgia State University 2024, 2025

Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award, Georgia State University 2022

Outstanding Supervised Research Project Award, KDI School of Public Policy and Management 2019

Dean's List with Distinction, KDI School of Public Policy and Management 2016 (Fall)

Dean's List, KDI School of Public Policy and Management 2016 (Spring)

Merit-Based Tuition Scholarship (All Semesters), KDI School of Public Policy and Management

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2105), Georgia State University 2024

Guest Lecturer, Development Economics (ECON 4600), Georgia State University 2026
Economic Development and Institutions; New Sources of Economic Data

Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2106), Georgia State University 2022–2024

Teaching Assistant, Development Economics (ECON 4600), Georgia State University 2023–2026

SERVICE

Judge (Economics), Undergraduate Research Day, Spelman College 2026

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS (presenter†; scheduled*)

6th Southeast Exchange of Development Studies (SEEDS) Conference, Georgia Tech † 2026

Southern Economic Association (SEA) † 2025

Markets & Society Conference, Mercatus Center †

Atlanta Ph.D. Summer Symposium, Emory University †

DevSouth: Development Economics in the South Workshop

5th Southeast Exchange of Development Studies (SEEDS) Conference, Georgia Tech †

POLICY PUBLICATIONS (in Korean*)

Choi, Y. (2018). Rice Prices in North Korea: A Comparative Analysis of Price Levels and Trends in North Korea and China. *KDI Review of the North Korean Economy*, vol. 20, no. 8, pp. 25–36.*

Choi, Y., and Han, B. (2018). A Comparative Analysis of the First Three Inter-Korean Summits. *KDI Review of the North Korean Economy*, vol. 20, no. 5, pp. 65–79.*

Choi, Y. (2018). An Overview of North Korea's Economic Statistics in 2017: GDP, Trade, Exchange Rates, Rice Prices, and Grain Production. *KDI Review of the North Korean Economy*, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 97–132.*

Choi, Y. (2017). A New Approach to Measuring North Korean Overseas Labor Deployment: Evidence from Labor and Visa Statistics. *KDI Review of the North Korean Economy*, vol. 19, no. 2, pp. 101–121.*

Choi, Y. (2017). Policy Implications of North Korea's New Year Addresses, 2013–2017. *KDI Review of the North Korean Economy*, vol. 19, no. 1, pp. 113–119.*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Korea Development Institute (KDI), Korea [link] 2016–2021
Senior Research Associate, Department of North Korean Economy Studies
- *Conducted research on the North Korean economy and inter-Korean economic relations; constructed and analyzed data (e.g., GDP, international trade, agricultural production, overseas workers, and market prices); contributed to research reports and policy recommendations.*
- *Field Visit: China*

KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Korea 2015–2016
Project Manager, Department of International Cooperation and Capacity Building
- *Designed and led international development and capacity-building programs with partner governments across Asia and North Africa to share Korea's economic development experience*
- *Field Visit: China*

Rural Development Administration (RDA), Korea [link] 2012–2014
Project Manager, Asia Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI)
- *Implemented and evaluated rural development and technical cooperation programs with government agricultural agencies across 13 Asian countries*
- *Field Visits: Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Nepal*

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Thailand [link] 2011
Program Assistant (Intern), Thai Affairs Section, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- *Assisted in drafting Thailand's Country Programming Framework (CPF) and supported rural development projects focused on post-flood recovery and off-season income generation*
- *Field Visits: Thailand and Cambodia*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, Python, ArcGIS Pro, ArcPy, QGIS, Google Earth Engine, LaTeX
Methods: Geospatial analysis, remote sensing, machine learning

REFERENCES

Alberto Chong (Advisor)
Professor
Economics, Georgia State University
achong6@gsu.edu

Tom Mroz (Advisor)
Emeritus Professor, Ramsey Chair
Economics, Georgia State University
tmroz@gsu.edu

Robert Gonzalez
Associate Professor
Economics, Georgia Institute of Technology
robert.gonzalez@gatech.edu

Lauren Hoehn-Velasco
Assistant Professor
Economics, Georgia State University
lvelasco@gsu.edu

Pierre Nguimkeu
Professor
Economics, Georgia State University
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