

Research Assistant Positions Announcement

Hyuncheol Bryant Kim (Cornell University), Syngjoo Choi (Seoul National University), and Yasuyuki Sawada (Chief Economist of Asian Development Bank (ADB)) are looking for two research assistants to help implementing randomized field experiments in Philippines and Tonga.

The research team will evaluate impacts of ongoing projects related to ADB. Key objectives are the investigation of the role of financial coaching and financial technology (fintech) in enhancing welfare of the poor (tricycle drivers) in Philippines, and impacts of team composition on labor productivity in power sector in Tonga.

The first project aims to provide an evidence on how fintech innovation improves a quality of life of low-income individuals (and their household members) who may not have records with formal financial institutions and the necessary assets to present as collateral. The key innovation is that the poor become able to access loans without collateral through fintech. We also study whether financial coaching and savings instruments affect saving behaviors and associated individual traits.

The second project aims to study whether the change of team composition affect labor productivity of a team and, if so, channels through which team composition affects team production. In collaboration with Tonga Power Limited, we plan to randomly form groups of three members--team leader, experienced worker, and trainee--in every two months. We are particularly interested in the role of gender and non-cognitive skills.

For both projects, 3rd or 4th year PhD candidates in Economics and Public Policy is preferred. Relevant research and/or field experience is a plus. The work includes literature review, developing survey instruments, and field trips (to Tonga or Philippines) for baseline and follow-up surveys, lab experiments, and implementation of the interventions. Baseline survey for both projects is scheduled on Aug 2019-Jan 2020. During the baseline survey, a candidate is expected to stay in the field at least for several weeks to manage study implementation. Travel expenses will be fully covered and appropriate remuneration will be offered by ADB. There is a scope of being a coauthor of the study for excellent research assistants.

In order to apply for the position, students must provide CV and cover letter including a brief explanation of applicant's interests and skill set (1 page max). Recommendation letter from adviser is not mandatory, but a plus. In the cover letter, please specify project that applicant are interested in. Please submit application materials to Professor Hyuncheol Bryant Kim at hk788@cornell.edu by noon ET, 30th July 2019.