

# Joshua D. Merfeld

merfeld [at] kdis.ac.kr

KDI School of Public Policy and Management  
263 Namsejong-ro, Sejong-si, South Korea, Office 343  
+82-44-550-1023  
<https://sites.google.com/site/joshmerfeld>

## Academic Positions

---

KDI School of Public Policy and Management  
Assistant Professor (2020 - Present)

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Service (2018 - 2020)

Department of Global Economics, Sungkyunkwan University  
Lecturer (2017)

## Research Affiliations

---

Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)  
Research Affiliate (2020 - Present)

University of Washington Forum on Political Economy  
Fellow (2020 - Present)

## Other Positions

---

The World Bank  
Consultant (2019 - Present)

## Publications

---

“The importance of specification choices when analyzing sectoral productivity gaps” with Peter Brummund. The latest version can be found [here](#). Accepted, *Agricultural Economics*.

“Should Farmers Farm More? Comparing Marginal Products within Malawian Households” with Peter Brummund. [Forthcoming](#) at *Agricultural Economics*.

“Protecting Girls from Droughts with Social Safety Nets” with Jagori Chatterjee. [Forthcoming](#) at *World Development*.

“Moving up or Just Surviving? Non-Farm Self-Employment in India.” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 102(1), January 2020: 32-53.

“Spatially Heterogeneous Effects of a Public Works Program.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 136, January 2019: 151-167.

“Relating Seasonal Hunger, Coping and Prevention Strategies, and Household Nutrition: A Panel Analysis of Malawian Farm Households” with C. Leigh Anderson, Travis Reynolds, and Pierre Biscaye. *Journal of Development Studies*, 54(10), October 2018: 1737-1755.

## Working Papers

---

“Sectoral Wage Gaps and Gender in Rural India.” IZA Discussion Paper No. 14391, available [here](#). Revision requested, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

“Labor Elasticities, Market Failures, and Misallocation: Evidence from Indian Agriculture.” Most recent version (of IZA Discussion Paper No. 13682 and previously entitled “Smallholders, Market Failures, and Agricultural Production: Evidence from India”) available [here](#). *Under review*.

“Agricultural calendars and the school year: Timing, child labor, and schooling.” Draft available upon request.

## Works in Progress

---

“Poverty and Instability” with Jonathan Morduch.

“Decentralization and program implementation” with Ashwini Deshpande.

“Structural Transformation in a Changing Climate” with Rajeev Dehejia.

“Agricultural Labor Allocation and Labor Market Constraints: Evidence from India” with Marc Bellemare.

“Agricultural households and allocative efficiency” with Leah Bevis.

“Tracking Labor Market Outcomes using Remote Sensing Data: Estimation and Validation in Mexico” with David Newhouse, Michael Weber, and Partha Lahiri.

“Small Area Estimation of Monetary Poverty in Mexico using Satellite Imagery and Machine Learning” with David Newhouse, Anusha Pudugramam Ramakrishnan, Tom Swartz, and Partha Lahiri.

“Predicting Well-being using Real-time Indicators in Developing Countries” with Rachel Swindle, Shun Wang, David Newhouse, Utz Pape, Kibrom Tafere, and Michael Weber.

## Other Work

---

“Estimating Poverty in Borno State, Nigeria” with Ryan Engstrom, David Newhouse, and M. Abul Kalam Azad.

“Structural Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa” with Gildas Deudibe, Justin Ndoutoumou, and David Newhouse. Note prepared for the Sub-Saharan Africa Team for Statistical Development, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank.

## Funding

---

“The short-term effects of the Covid-19 lockdown on rural communities in India” Co-I with Ashwini Deshpande, Kritika Saxena, and Lore Vandewalle (£19,952)

KDI School research funding (KRW 35,160,000)

## Service

---

*Referee service*: Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, World Development, Food Policy, Journal of Official Statistics, Journal of Development Studies, Agricultural Economics, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Social Indicators Research, Agribusiness

## **Presentations (Including Scheduled)**

---

2022: Penn State

2021: Sungkyunkwan University; Korea University GSIS; Korea University Economics; Jobs and Development; Big4Small, SAE 2021; UN World Data Forum; ANU Crawford; Sogang University

2020: UC Dublin; KDI School, The Graduate Institute; Seoul National University

2019: NYU; Royal Economics Society; KDIS-3ie-ADB Conference on Impact Evaluation in Development Research; KER International Conference; NEUDC; Columbia; Econometric Society Winter Meetings

2018: AEA/ASSA; NYU

2017: Northwest Development Workshop; KEA/APEA; APPAM

2016: IATUR; Data for Policy; PNW Labor Day

2015: APPAM; STAARS

## **Teaching Experience (Including Scheduled)**

---

Development Economics (PhD)

Research Methods (PhD)

Analysis of Markets for Public Policy - Microeconomics (Masters)

Households and Development (Masters)

Statistical Methods (Masters)

Using Large Datasets in Policy Research (Masters)

Designing Data Collection for Program Evaluation (Masters)

Capstone: Advanced Research Projects in Quantitative Analysis (Masters)

Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy (Undergrad)

Mathematics for Economics (Undergrad)

## **Education**

---

### **University of Washington**

Ph.D. - Public Policy and Management (2018)

MS - Public Policy and Management (2015)

### **Georgia State University**

MPP - Public Policy (2013)

### **University of Georgia**

B.A. - Spanish (2008)

## **Languages**

---

English (Native), Spanish (Fluent), Korean (Beginner)