Speaker: Dr. Choon Wang (Monash University)

Title of presentation: Do private high schools make a difference? Learning the causal effects of private schooling from a natural experiment in South Korea.

Abstract: This paper examines whether private high school students outperform public high school students in Seoul, where secondary school students are randomly assigned into schools within school districts. The results show that private high school students are more likely to attend college, less likely to be involved in violent incidents, less likely to be absent on test day, and perform better in standardized tests. Because private schools have greater controls over their personnel decisions and their principals and teachers face stronger incentives to perform, our findings suggest that the autonomy in making personnel decisions drives the differences in schooling outcomes.

Venue: School of Economics Boardroom

Time: 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Date: Friday August 23, 2013