

# Youngsun Lee

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Maryland**, College Park, MD, United States Expected 2027

**Ph.D.** Candidate in Education Policy and Leadership

Dissertation Title: “Three Essays on School Discipline and Student Absenteeism”\*

Committee: Drs. Jing Liu (Chair), Campbell Scribner, David Blazar, Meghan Comstock

*\* Awarded 2026 AERA/NSF Dissertation Grant*

**Seoul National University**, South Korea 2020

**M.A.** in Educational Administration

Dissertation Title: “The Effect of High School Career and Technical Education Policy in South Korea: Differential Effects of Parent Education”

**Kyungpook National University**, South Korea 2018

**B.Ed.** in Education, **B.A.** in English Education, Minor in Economics

*Graduated with Honor of Highest GPA*

**Dalhousie University**, Halifax, NS, Canada 2014

Exchange Student in Economics

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Absenteeism, School Discipline, Asian American Youth, K-12 Education Policy, Economics of Education, Causal Inference, Historical Review

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Manuscripts under review*

1. Comstock, M., Kaul, M., Dym, A., **Lee, Y.**, & Kim, S. (Under Review). Behind the Push for Teacher Licensure Reform: How Beliefs About the Teaching Profession Unite and Divide Coalitions.

### *Manuscripts in progress*

4. **Lee, Y.**, Liu, J., & Penner, E. (Manuscript in Preparation). Discipline Beyond Suspensions: Racial/Ethnic Disparities Across the Full Spectrum of Disciplinary Actions.

3. **Lee, Y.** (Analysis in Preparation). Does Punishment Reduce Student Absenteeism? Documenting Absenteeism-Related Discipline Referrals and School Effects.

2. **Lee, Y.** (Analysis in Preparation). Banned from Coming for Not Coming? The Historical Origin of Suspension for Truancy in American Public Schools.

1. **Lee, Y.**, Chung, A., & Xin, Y. (Analysis in Preparation). School Experiences of Asian-Origin Adolescents from Low Socioeconomic Backgrounds: A Systematic Review. (Protocol: [10.17605/OSF.IO/PT8NS](https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/PT8NS))

***Published peer-reviewed journal articles***

\* denotes publications written in Korean

+ denotes co-first author

7. An, Y., **Lee, Y.**+, Oh, S. & Lee, J. Y. (2024). How Can Young Adults Be Civically Engaged? The Role of Academic Achievement Standards in Enhancing Civic and Social Engagement in the Case of South Korea. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 110, 103115.

6. **Lee, Y.**, Lee, G., Kim, J., & Lee, M. (2021). Equity in Career Development of High School Students in South Korea: The Role of School Career Education. *Education Sciences*, 11(1), 1-20.

\*5. Moon, C., Moon, H., **Lee, Y.**, & Jeong, D. W. (2021). The Effects of the Educational Capacity Enhancement Policy in General High Schools: Evidence from the High Schools in Seoul, South Korea. *Korean Journal of Educational Administration*, 39(1), 117-141.

\*4. **Lee, Y.** (2020). The Relationship between High School Students' Career Maturity and Career Maturity of Their Classmates: Does Classmate Peer Effect on Career Maturity Exist?. *Journal of Vocational Education & Training*, 23(1), 69-104.

\*3. Moon, C., Jeong, S., **Lee, Y.**, & Jeong, D. W. (2020). The Analysis of the Relationship between the Implementation of the Free Semester and Academic Achievement in Middle Schools. *Korean Journal of Educational Administration*, 36(5), 219-245.

\*2. Moon, C., **Lee, Y.**, Lee, J., & Jeong, D. W. (2019). The Impact of Adolescent-Parent Career Congruence on Student Learning Experiences and Career Development. *Asian Journal of Education*, 20(3), 617-645.

\*1. Moon, C., Nam, I., **Lee, Y.**, Lee, J., Han, S., & Jeong, D. W. (2019). The Effects of Diversity of Workers' Educational Backgrounds on Corporate Financial and Non-Financial Performances. *Journal of Vocational Education & Training*, 22(2), 91-127.

***Policy reports & brochures***

\*4. Choi, S., ... & **Lee, Y.** (2022). *2021 Annual Report on 'Improving the Quality of Local Career Education Centers.'* Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training [Policy Report].

\*3. Korean Ministry of Education & Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training. (2022). Guide to Operating 'Local Career Exploration Support Group' [Brochure].

\*2. Lee, M., ... & **Lee, Y.** (2021). *2020 Annual Report of 'Major and Career Exploration Program at Universities.'* (Report No. 2020-24). Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training [Policy Report].

\*1. Korean Ministry of Education & Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training. (2020). Guide to Developing ‘Major and Career Exploration Program’ for University Staff [Brochure].

## **REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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*Underline denotes presenters*

12. **Lee, Y.**, Liu, J., & Penner, E. (2026, Mar.). Discipline Beyond Suspensions: The Spectrum of Disciplinary Actions and Racial/Ethnic Disparities. Paper Presentation at 2026 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, United States.

11. **Xia, J., Lee, Y., Jang, Y.**, & Xiu, R. (2025, Nov.). Understanding Contextual Effects in Educational Leadership and Administration: A Scoping Review. Paper Presentation at 2025 University Council of Educational Administration (UCEA) Annual Convention, San Juan, PR, United States.

10. **Lee, Y.**, Liu, J., & Penner, E. (2025, Oct.). Discipline Beyond Suspensions: The Spectrum of Disciplinary Actions and Racial/Ethnic Disparities. Paper Presentation at 2025 Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, United States.

9. **Comstock, M., Kaul, M.**, Dym, A., **Lee, Y.**, & Kim, S. (2025, Apr.). Rationalizing Reform: The Coalitions and Beliefs Driving North Carolina Teacher Licensure Policymaking, 2021-2022. Paper Presentation at 2025 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, United States.

8. **Comstock, M.**, Kaul, M., Dym, A., **Lee, Y.**, & Kim, S. (2025, Mar.). Rationalizing Reform: The Coalitions and Beliefs Driving North Carolina Teacher Licensure Policymaking, 2021-2022. Paper Presentation at 2025 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference, Washington D.C., United States.

7. **Lee, Y.** (2024, Apr.). High School Experiences of Low-Income Asian-Origin Students in the U.S.: A Systematic Literature Review. Roundtable Presentation at 2024 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

6. **Lee, Y.**, & Koo, J. (2023, Nov.). Who Succeeds Against the Odds?: Unpacking High-Achieving Middle School Students from Low Socioeconomic Backgrounds. Student Paper Presentation at 2023 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Research Conference, Atlanta, GA, United States.

\*5. **Lee, Y.**, Lee, G., Kim, J., & Lee, M. (2020, Oct.). Equity in Career Development of Students in South Korea: The Role of Career Education in School. 2020 KRIVET Academic Conference, Seoul, South Korea, Paper Presentation substituted by conference proceedings due to the pandemic. [Published in 2021]

\*4. **Lee, Y.**, & Jeong, D. W. (2020, Jun.). Effects of Vocational Education Programs in High School: New Alternatives or Avoidance of Problem Students?. Paper Presentation at 2020 Annual Conference of Korea Education Research Association, Session for Korean Educational Administration Society, Webinar due to the pandemic.

\*3. **Moon, C.**, Moon, H., **Lee, Y.**, & Jeong, D. W. (2019, Jul.). The Effects of the Educational Capacity Enhancement Policy in General High Schools: Evidence from the High Schools in Seoul, South Korea. Paper Presentation at 5<sup>th</sup> Seoul Education Longitudinal Study Conference, Seoul, South Korea. [Published in 2021]

\*2. **Moon, C.**, Jeong, S., **Lee, Y.**, & Jeong, D. W. (2019, Jun.). The Analysis of the Relationship between the Implementation of the Free Semester Policy and Academic Achievement in Middle School. Paper Presentation at 2019 Annual Conference of Korea Education Research Association, Session for Edu Data Service System (large-scale data), Seoul, South Korea. [Published in 2020]

\*1. **Moon, C.**, **Lee, Y.**, Lee, J., & Jeong, D. W. (2018, Dec.). The Impact of Adolescent-Parent Career Congruence on Student Learning Experiences and Career Development. Paper Presentation at 5<sup>th</sup> Gyeonggi Education Panel Study Conference, Seoul, South Korea. [Published in 2019]

## **SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS**

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**Center for Educational Data Science and Innovation** May2025–Current  
*University of Maryland*

PIs: Drs. Jing Liu, Emily K. Penner

Projects: School Discipline 2.0, Mpowering

Roles: Primary Data Analyst (Causal Inference Modeling), Research Assistant (Human Annotation for Large Language Model, Qualitative Interview Coding)

**Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership** Aug2023–Dec2025  
*University of Maryland*

PI: Dr. Meghan Comstock

Project: Mixed Methods Study on NC Teacher Licensure Policy Discourse

Roles: Primary Data Analyst (Epistemic Network Analysis), Research Assistant (Qualitative Data Collection)

**Autism, Family, Culture, and Communication Education Lab** Jun–Aug 2023, 2024  
*University of Maryland*

PI: Dr. Veronica Kang

Project: Promoting Meaningful Interaction and Social Engagement for Asian Children and Youth with Autism (PROMISE)

Roles: Session Organizer, Research Assistant (Data Collection, Behavioral Support)

**Center for Vocational Education Research** Apr2020–Dec2021  
*Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training*

PIs: Drs. Minwook Lee, Su Hyun Choi

Projects: University Major Exploration for Students in Rural and Underserved Regions,  
 Fostering Research Practice Partnership for Local Career Education  
 Role: Assistant Researcher (Program Coordination, Virtual Conference Management, Drafting)

## **TEACHING**

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*University of Maryland*

TLPL250: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on Education, Undergraduate level, Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Teaching Assistant

TLPL774: Urban Education, Graduate level, Fall 2025 (Oct 22nd), Guest Lecturer

TLPL670: Economics of Education, Graduate level, Spring 2023, Teaching Assistant

TLPL250: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on Education, Undergraduate level, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Teaching Assistant

*Seoul National University, South Korea*

Educational Administration and School Management, Undergraduate level, Winter 2019, Teaching Assistant

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

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**AERA/NSF Dissertation Grant, \$27,500** 2026

*American Educational Research Association & National Science Foundation*

**Roe L. Johns Travel Grant** 2026

*Association for Education Finance & Policy*

**Student Travel Grant** 2026

*University of Maryland, Center for Educational Data Science and Innovation*

**Investment in Excellence Fund, \$2,000** 2025

*University of Maryland, College of Education*

**Conference Attendance Grant** 2025

*Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness*

**Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant** 2024

*University of Maryland*

**Annual Meeting Graduate Student Fund** 2024

*American Educational Research Association*

**Graduate School Dean's Fellowship, \$25,000** Aug2022–May2025

*University of Maryland*

**Best Paper Award, 3rd Place, Student Research Competition [Education Panel]** 2019

*Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training*

**Best Paper Award**, 1st Place, Student Research Competition [Corporate Panel] 2018  
*Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training*

**Scholarship for Academic Excellence** Mar2013–Feb2016  
*Kyungpook National University*

## **SERVICES**

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### **Reviewer**

AERAOpen (Journal), UCEA (Conference)

### **Leadership**

Head Representative of AAPI-ER SIG Graduate Student Representative Sep2024–May2026  
*American Educational Research Association (AERA)*  
*Special Interest Group: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Education and Research*

Representative of Graduate Student Organization Mar2019–Feb2020  
Department of Educational Administration, College of Education  
*Seoul National University*

Head Assistant of International Graduate Student Organization Aug2018–Aug2019  
International SNU College of Education (iSNUCE)  
*Seoul National University*

### **Community Outreach**

Volunteer Catechist (Middle School Religious Education) Aug2024–Aug2026  
*St. Andrew Kim Korean American Catholic Church*

## **METHODOLOGICAL SKILLS**

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Causal Inference & Quantitative Descriptive Analysis (Stata) • Multilevel Modeling (Stata) •  
Epistemic Network Analysis (ENA Webtool) • Systematic Literature Review (Rayyan) •  
Qualitative Coding (NVivo, Dedoose)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)  
American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)  
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)  
University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA)