

Youngsun Lee

ylee1245@umd.edu | [Personal Website](#)

EDUCATION

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, Seoul, 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, Daegu, South Korea 2018

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

Top Graduate of the Department

Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada 2014

Exchange Student in Economics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

School Discipline, Student Absenteeism, K-12 Education Policy, Economics of Education, Causal Inference

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts under review

2. Lee, Y., Liu, J., & Penner, E. Discipline Beyond Suspensions: Racial/Ethnic Disparities Across the Full Spectrum of Disciplinary Actions.

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

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.

- Press coverage: Maeil Business Newspaper [Korea]

*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.

Manuscripts in progress

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

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))

Policy reports

*2. Choi, S., Jeong, J., Hwang, S., Park, D., Go, Y., Park, C., Lee, M., **Lee, Y.**, Lee, J., & Hong, Y. (2022). *2021 Annual Report on 'Improving the Quality of Local Career Education Centers.'* Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training [Policy Report].

*1. Lee, M., Jang, H., Go, Y., Park, D., Hwang, S., Kim, J., Lee, G., & **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].

REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Underline denotes presenters

10. **Lee, Y.**, Liu, J., & Penner, E. (Under Review) Discipline Beyond Suspensions: The Spectrum of Disciplinary Actions and Racial/Ethnic Disparities.

- Paper presentation at the 2026 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, United States. (2026, March).

- Paper presentation at the 2025 Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, United States. (2025, October).
9. Xia, J., Lee, Y., Jang, Y., & Xiu, R. Understanding Contextual Effects in Educational Leadership and Administration: A Scoping Review.
- Paper presentation at the 2025 University Council of Educational Administration (UCEA) Annual Convention, San Juan, PR, United States. (2025, November).
8. Comstock, M., Kaul, M., Dym, A., Lee, Y., & Kim, S. (Under Review) Rationalizing Reform: The Coalitions and Beliefs Driving North Carolina Teacher Licensure Policymaking, 2021-2022.
- Paper presentation at the 2025 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, United States. (2025, April).
 - Paper presentation at the 2025 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., United States. (2025, March).
7. Lee, Y. High School Experiences of Low-Income Asian-Origin Students in the U.S.: A Systematic Literature Review.
- Roundtable presentation at the 2024 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, United States. (2024, April).
6. Lee, Y., & Koo, J. Who Succeeds Against the Odds?: Unpacking High-Achieving Middle School Students from Low Socioeconomic Backgrounds.
- Paper presentation at the student session of the 2023 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Research Conference, Atlanta, GA, United States. (2023, November).
- *5. Lee, Y., Lee, G., Kim, J., & Lee, M. (2021). Equity in Career Development of Students in South Korea: The Role of Career Education in School.
- Paper presentation substituted by proceedings. 2020 Korea Research Institute for Professional Education and Training Academic Conference, Seoul, South Korea. (2020, October). <https://www.krivet.re.kr/kor/sub.do?menuSn=19&pstNo=E120200947>
- *4. Lee, Y., & Jeong, D. W. The Effects of Vocational Education Programs in High School: New Alternatives or Avoidance of Problem Students?.
- Paper presentation at the 2020 Annual Conference of the Korea Education Research Association, Session for the Korean Educational Administration Society, Online. (2020, June).
- *3. 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.
- Paper presentation at 5th Seoul Education Longitudinal Study Conference, Seoul, South Korea. (2019, July).

*2. Moon, C., Jeong, S., **Lee, Y.**, & Jeong, D. W. (2020). The Analysis of the Relationship between the Implementation of the Free Semester Policy and Academic Achievement in Middle School.

- Paper presentation at the 2019 Annual Conference of the Korea Education Research Association, Session for Edu Data Service System (Large-Scale Data), Seoul, South Korea. (2019, June).

*1. Moon, C., **Lee, Y.**, Lee, J., & Jeong, D. W. (2019). The Impact of Adolescent-Parent Career Congruence on Student Learning Experiences and Career Development.

- Paper presentation at 5th Gyeonggi Education Panel Study Conference, Seoul, South Korea. (2018, December).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Center for Educational Data Science and Innovation

May2025–Present

University of Maryland

PI: Dr. Jing Liu

Projects: M-powering Teachers, School Discipline 2.0 (Co-PI: Dr. Emily Penner)

- Lead Data Analyst: Causal inference modeling and administrative data cleaning
- Research Assistant: Large Language Model (LLM) data annotation and qualitative interview coding for an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based coaching program

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

- Lead Data Analyst: Epistemic Network Analysis (ENA)
- Research Assistant: Qualitative data collection and data cleaning

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

- Assistant Researcher: Program coordination and monitoring, virtual conference management, and manuscript drafting

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland

TLPL250: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on Education, Undergraduate level, Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Teaching Assistant

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

TLPL774: Urban Education, Graduate level, Fall 2025, Guest Lecturer

Seoul National University, South Korea
Educational Administration and School Management, Undergraduate level, Winter 2019,
Teaching Assistant

HONORS & AWARDS

Grant & Fellowship & Scholarship

AERA/NSF Dissertation Grant, \$27,500 2026
American Educational Research Association & National Science Foundation

Investment in Excellence Fund, \$2,000 2025
University of Maryland, College of Education

Graduate School Dean's Fellowship, \$25,000 Aug2022–May2025
University of Maryland

Scholarship for Academic Excellence Mar2013–Feb2016
Kyungpook National University

Travel Grant

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

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

Award

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

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

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
Seoul National University

Community Outreach

Volunteer Teacher of Religious Education & Youth Retreat Director Aug2024–Aug2026
St. Andrew Kim Korean American Catholic Church

Session Organizer, Research Assistant Jun–Aug 2023, 2024
Promoting Meaningful Interaction and Social Engagement for
Asian Children and Youth with Autism (PROMISE)
University of Maryland, Autism, Family, Culture, and Communication Education Lab

SKILLS

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

MEMBERSHIPS

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