

Minju Lee

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Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Connecticut, expected 2026

- Dissertation: Ontological Security and Three Periods of South Korea-Israel Relations
Advisor: Jeremy Pressman
- Areas of specialization: international security, foreign policy, East Asian relations, ontological security, human rights, politics of memory

M.A. in Political Science, University of Connecticut, 2024

M.A. in Political Science & International Relations, Ewha Womans University, 2019

- Thesis: Incomplete State Sovereignty and Strategic Distrust: Comparing South Korean-Japanese Relations to Sino-Japanese Relations (written in Korean)
Advisor: Eunbong Choi

B.A. in Political Science & International Relations, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea, 2017 | *Summa Cum Laude*

Peer-Reviewed Publications

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| Forthcoming | Pressman, J., Richards, D., Hayes, S. & Lee, M. Advantageous Comparison: Israel's Response to Allegations of Human Rights Violations. <i>Journal of Human Rights</i> . |
| 2025 | Lee, M., Chacon-Hurtado, D. & Hertel, S. Engineers as Problem-Solvers for Sustainable Development? —Exploring Students' Learning Outcomes from Sustainability and Human Rights-Centered Approaches in Engineering Education. <i>European Journal of Education</i> , 60(2), e70137. https://doi.org/10.1111/ejed.70137 |
| 2020 | Choi, E. & Lee, M. Ontological Security and Critical Gubernatorial Elections in Okinawa -The Paradoxical Dynamics of Trust in the Japanese Government. <i>Journal of Japanese Studies</i> , (85), 69-100. DOI: 10.15733/jast.2020.85.69 (Written in Korean) |
| 2019 | Lee, M. & Choi, E. Chōsunjok as a Marginalized Diaspora in South Korea. <i>The Taiwanese Political Science Review</i> , 23(2), 197-237. https://doi.org/10.6683/TPSR.201912_23(2).0005 . |
| 2019 | Choi, E. & Lee, M. How Is Distrust Trap Pervasive in East Asia? Focusing on Incomplete Sovereignty with a Prospect Theory. <i>Journal of Peace and Unification</i> , 9(2), 1-36. DOI: 10.31780/jpu.2019.9.2.1 . |
| 2017 | Choi, E. & Lee, M. Politics of Memory in East Asia and Democratization of Memory in the Post-Cold War Era: Do the Wartime Memories of Jeju, Okinawa, and Nanjing Compete with? <i>Discourse</i> 201, 20(3), 37-77. DOI: 10.17789/discou.2017.20.3.002 . (Written in Korean) |

Work-In-Progress Research

- “Explaining the Fourteen-Year Hiatus in South Korea-Israel Relations: An Ontological Security Perspective.”
- “Too Dangerous to Be Welcomed – Anti-Immigrant/Refugee Movements in South Korea.”
- “Healing ‘trauma of land’: Unburying the wounds of Japanese colonialism in *Exhuma*.”

- “Rethinking Friends and Foes in International Relations: Comparing China-Israel and South Korea-Israel Relations Through the Lens of Ontological Security.”

Conferences

July 2025	KNU International Conference: From Research to Publication: Remapping Conversation in Social Sciences from East Asia and Beyond, “Ontological Security and Three Periods of South Korea-Israel Relations.”
July 2025	International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress, “Attempts to Politicize the Holocaust Memorial and the Resistance from Historians and Jewish Communities.”
April 2025	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, “Healing “trauma of land”: Unburying the wounds of Japanese colonialism in <i>Exhuma</i> ,” with Chloe M. Kwak
March 2025	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, “Ontological Security and Three Periods of South Korea-Israel Relations,” “How Do Narrative History Museums Affect Ontological Security of Jewish and Korean Societies?”
April 2024	MPSA Annual Conference, “Ontological Security’s Impact on South Korea’s Foreign Policy Toward Israel.” ISA Annual Convention, “The Role of Memory in Ontological Security: Comparing Jewish and Korean Museums.”
August 2023	American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, “Too Dangerous to Be Welcomed: Anti-immigrant/Refugee Movements in Asia.” “Evaluating Israel’s Claim of Exceptional Treatment about Human Rights Violations,” with Jeremy Pressman, David Richards, and Spencer Hayes.
April 2023	MPSA Annual Conference, “The Role of Ontological Security in Trilateral Relations - Focusing on Israel, South, and North Korea.”
July 2022	International Feminist Journal of Politics-Asian Center for Women’s Studies Conference, “Statues’ Agencies on Solidarity and Backlashes for/against Women’s Rights: Four Moments of Translation of Fearless Girl and Statue of Peace,” with Chloe M. Kwak and San Lee.
April 2022	MPSA Annual Conference, “How Strangers Become Friends: The Role of Sovereignty Disputes in Accumulating Political Trust Between States.” “Unexpected Women’s Solidarity and Anti-Feminist Backlashes Around ‘Fearless Girl’ and the ‘Comfort Women Statue,’” with Chloe M. Kwak and San Lee.
April 2021	ISA Annual Convention, “To Internationality and Beyond – the Potential of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) for Development into an International Organization,” with Eunbong Choi.
August 2019	APSA Annual Meeting, “Sovereignty Dispute Embedded in Regional Hegemonic Competition of East Asia” (iPoster).
June 2019	World Congress for Korean Politics and Society, “Trust Gap between Self-Confidence and Foreign Policy of Japan in the 1960s.”
April 2019	MPSA Annual Conference, “Distrust Trap, Incomplete Sovereignty, and East Asia,” with Eunbong Choi.
October 2018	Symposium of Korean Association of Contemporary Chinese Studies (KACCS), “Complexity of Chinese Great Power Politics – Belt & Road Initiative.”
June 2018	Korean Association of International Studies (KAIS)-Korean Political Science Association (KPSA) Joint Symposium, “Lack of Trust and Post-State Centrism Appearing in East Asia after the Cold War – South Korea, Japan, and China.”
April 2018	MPSA Annual Conference, “Marginalized Diaspora and Apathetic Legal System: Transformative Identity of the Chōsunjok in South Korea Since 1990s,” with

Eunbong Choi.
 July 2017 Ewha-Yonsei-Sogang Joint Seminar of Memory Studies, “Politics of Memory in East Asia after the Cold War: Jeju, Okinawa, and Nanking.”

Grants, Honors, and Awards

Spring 2025	Dr. Ilpyong Kim Fellowship in East Asian Relations, University of Connecticut. Howard L. Reiter Memorial Award for Political Science Graduate Education, University of Connecticut.
Summer 2024	Research Funding (Engineering for Human Rights Research Project), College of Engineering, University of Connecticut.
Spring 2024	Norman Kogan Scholarship, University of Connecticut. Political Science Tuition Scholarship, University of Connecticut.
Summer 2023	CLAS Grad PhD Fellowship, University of Connecticut. Research Funding (Engineering for Human Rights Research Project), College of Engineering, University of Connecticut.
Spring 2023	Howard L. Reiter Memorial Award for Political Science Graduate Education, University of Connecticut.
Spring 2022	POLS Best TA of the Year Award, University of Connecticut. Research Funding (Israel & Human Rights Project), Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut.
Spring 2022- Summer 2025	Predoctoral Fellowship, Dept. of Political Science, University of Connecticut
2019	Distinguished Graduate Dissertation Award, Ewha Womans University. Research Grant for Fieldwork in China, Ewha Womans University.
2018	Graduate Research Scholarship for Humanities and Social Science, Korea Student Aid Foundation (Nationally awarded), South Korea. Research Grant for Fieldwork in Japan, Ewha Womans University.
2017	Kim Aeda Prize, Ewha Womans University. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded to the student who achieved summa cum laude in the College of Social Sciences. Research Grant for Fieldwork in Singapore, Ewha Womans University.
2016	President Roh Moo Hyun Scholarship, Roh Moo Hyun Foundation.
2015	First Prize, 14 th Hwarangdae Collegiate Forum on National Security, The Korea Military Academy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded 1st place in a national-level debate competition on security and defense issues (Presentation title: Four Stages of Denuclearization for Peace). Ewha Global Frontier, Ewha Womans University. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed and led overseas fieldwork, “Sustainable Housing Policies of US Universities,” as a team leader.
2014- Present	Kohwa Special Scholarship, Kohwa Scholarship Committee, South Korea. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded to students selected as promising next-generation scholars in fundamental academic fields.
2013-2017	Honors Scholarship, Ewha Womans University.

Teaching Experience

LEAD INSTRUCTOR

Fall 2025	POLS2998W Political Psychology in International Relations
Spring 2025	POLS2998 Political Psychology in International Relations
Fall 2024	POLS1202-701 Introduction to Comparative Politics POLS1202-702 Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2023 POLS1202 | Introduction to Comparative Politics

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Fall 2025 POLS1202 | Introduction to Comparative Politics
ENGR-HRTS 2300 | Engineering for Human Rights
Spring 2025 POLS 3012 | Modern Political Theory
POLS 3025 | Political Theory and Popular Music
ENGR-HRTS 2300 | Engineering for Human Rights
Spring 2024 POLS 1202 | Introduction to Comparative Politics
ENGR-HRTS 2300 | Engineering for Human Rights
Fall 2023 POLS 1002 | Introduction to Political Theory
Spring 2023 POLS 2450 | Nuclear Security
ENGR-HRTS 2300 | Engineering for Human Rights
Fall 2022 POLS 1602 | Introduction to American Politics
ENGR-HRTS 3257 | Assessment for Human Rights & Sustainability
Spring 2022 POLS 1402 | Introduction to International Relations
Fall 2021 POLS 1002 | Introduction to Political Theory

Research Experience

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Fall 2022- Present Engineering for Human Rights Research Project (working with Dr. Shareen Hertel and Dr. Davis Chacon-Hurtado)

- Participated in research on developing an Engineering pedagogy that integrates principles of human rights and sustainability.

Summer 2022- Present Israel and Human Rights Project (working with Dr. Jeremy Pressman, Dr. David Richards, and Spencer Hayes)

- Examined Israel's public diplomacy on social media, analyzing Tweets from government agencies, politicians, and Israeli- or US-based organizations and media to understand strategies used to counter criticism of human rights violations.

2020-2021 Research Assistant, Ewha Institute of Politics, Seoul, South Korea
2018 Ewha-Yonsei-Sogang Joint Seminar of Memory Studies, Seoul, South Korea
2018 Research Institute for Social Science at Ewha University, Seoul, South Korea
2017 Social Science Korea Project, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, South Korea
2017 Undergraduate researcher, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea

- Wrote the research paper entitled "The Possibility of Common Foreign and Security Policy for a Security Community in East Asia – Experience of the EU and Cases of Cooperation between Korea, China, and Japan."

CONFERENCE DISCUSSANT AND CHAIR ROLES

July 2025 Discussant (Panel: Contested Memories of Political Violence: Efforts to Achieve Transitional Justice and the Resurgence of Nationalism), 2025 IPSA World Congress, Seoul, South Korea.
March 2025 Chair (Panel: Public Opinion, Foreign Policy Outcomes, and International Politics), 2025 ISA Convention, Chicago, IL, USA.
2019 Discussant, the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, USA.

Academic Training

June 2024 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University

Leadership, Mentorship, and Employment

- Fall 2022- Secretary, Political Science Graduate Student Association, Dept. of Political
Spring 2023 Science, University of Connecticut.
- 2019-2020 Administrative Assistant, Korean Institute for National Unification, Seoul, South Korea.
- Assisted in managing the publication process of the institute's Korean-language academic journal and supported the evaluation of its research projects.
- 2018 Graduate Mentor, Undergraduate Researcher Supporting Program, Ewha Womans University.
- Supervised and advised three undergraduate students in the program, offering mentorship on formulating research questions, selecting appropriate cases, designing methodological frameworks, collecting data, and presenting results.
- 2017 Graduate Mentor, Real Social Science Research Program, Ewha Womans University.
- Mentored two undergraduate teams in preparing for an overseas field trip.
- 2015 Student President, Dept. of Political Science & International Relations, Ewha Womans University.
- President, YeoJeong (與政): Intercollegiate academic club for Political Science & International Relations students in South Korea.

Additional Skills

Computational Skills: R, NVIVO, STATA, SPSS, Qualtrics
Language: Korean (Native), English (Fluent), Japanese (Intermediate, JLPT 3), Chinese (Mandarin; Basic), French (Basic), Hebrew (Basic)

Memberships

American Political Science Association
International Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Midwest Political Science Association