

HOEUN LEE

Visiting Researcher, Center for the Study of Asia
Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

Political scientist specializing in comparative political behavior, with a focus on how elite cues and media framing shape public opinion during national crises. Research addresses democratic accountability and polarization, with an empirical focus on South Korea and East Asia. Methodologically grounded in survey research, computational text analysis, and qualitative case studies.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

VISITING RESEARCHER, Center for the Study of Asia, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies
Boston University, Boston, MA | *July 2025 – Present*

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR (AFFILIATED), Department of Political Science
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT | *September 2023 – June 2025*

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT | *August 2023*

- Major: Comparative Politics | Minor: International Relations | GPA: 3.79/4.0
- Dissertation: “Partisan Perceptions at Critical Moments: Evidence from South Korea.”
- Committee: Matthew M. Singer (Chair), Lyle Scruggs, Thomas Hayes, Oksan Bayulgen, Robert N. Lupton

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT | *August 2018*

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, Yonsei University
Seoul, South Korea | *August 2014*

- Major: Comparative Politics | Minor: International Relations & Foreign Policy Studies | GPA: 3.77/4.3
- Thesis: “A Comparative Study on the Political Effects of Operating Different Proportional Representation Systems: Focusing on the Electoral System Reforms of Korea and Japan.”
- Committee: Youngjae Jin (Chair), Sangjoon Kim, Kitae Lee

BACHELOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, Sookmyung Women’s University
Seoul, South Korea | *August 2012*

- Major: Political Science and International Relations | Minor: Japan Studies | GPA: 4.41/4.5
- Top Graduate, College of Social Sciences
- Student Honor List: Spring & Fall 2007, Spring & Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2012

RESEARCH INTERESTS

SUBSTANTIVE AREAS: Comparative Political Behavior, Public Opinion, Political Communication, Political Polarization, Partisan Bias, Government Accountability

TOPICAL INTERESTS: Crisis Politics, Elite Cues, Media Framing, Crisis Communication

REGIONAL FOCUS: Korean Politics, East Asian Politics

METHODS: Survey Research, Text Mining, Mixed Methods

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Lee, Hoeun. 2025. "Crisis and partisan bias: Economic evaluations during South Korea's COVID-19 downturn." *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20578911251355727>
- Lee, Hoeun. 2025. "Partisan bias amid crisis: public evaluations of South Korea's pandemic response." *Asian Journal of Political Science*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02185377.2025.2510936>
- Lee, Hoeun and Matthew M. Singer. 2022. "The Partisan Origins of Economic Perceptions in a Weak Party System: Evidence from South Korea." *Political Behavior* 44(1): 341–364. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-020-09622-5>

UNDER REVIEW

- Lee, Hoeun. "Framing the Pandemic: Partisan Media Bias in South Korea's COVID-19 Coverage." *Asian Journal for Public Opinion Research*
- Lee, Hoeun. "Why Some Crises Polarize and Others Don't: Evidence from South Korean Disasters." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Lee, Hoeun. "When Crises Polarize: Elite Cues, Media Framing, and Public Opinion after the Sewol Ferry and Muan Airport Disasters."
- Lee, Hoeun. "Crisis Recurrence and Democratic Accountability: Elite Cohesion, Media Polarization, and Democratic Context in South Korea's Presidential Impeachments."
- Singer, Matthew and Hoeun Lee. "How Many Independents? It Depends Upon the Party System but Also Upon How and When You Ask."
- Lee, Hoeun. "Political Narratives at Play: Personalization in South Korean Presidential Scandal Reporting."
- Lee, Hoeun. "The Political Pendulum in South Korea: How Media Outlets Frame the Economy with Shifting Governments."
- Lee, Hoeun. "Who Still Believes the Convicted President is Innocent?"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TEACHING ASSISTANT, Department of Political Science, University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT | 2016 – 2019

- Introduction to Comparative Politics (*Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2018*)
- Voting Behavior and Public Opinion Around the World (*Spring 2018*)
- Introduction to International Relations (*Fall 2016, Spring 2018*)
- Introduction to American Politics (*Spring 2019*)

Led discussion sections, graded assignments and exams, supported lecture activities, and held office hours.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Department of Political Science, University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT | *Spring 2019*

- Assisted Prof. Matthew Singer with data collection and statistical analysis on partisanship and party systems in Latin America.
- Assisted Prof. Jane Gordon's book project through literature review, content analysis, and data coding.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Department of Political Science, Yonsei University
Seoul, South Korea | *Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2013*

- Collaborated with Prof. Jungmin Seo on comparative politics projects involving East Asia and contributed to research publications and presentations.
- Awarded full research scholarships for academic excellence.

PEER REVIEW SERVICE

- **POLITICAL BEHAVIOR** (2025): Reviewed a manuscript examining how issue salience among lower-income voters affects turnout and reduces income bias.
- **ELECTORAL STUDIES** (2024): Provided feedback on a manuscript analyzing electoral decision-making in South Korea's under-institutionalized party system.
- **ASIAN SURVEY** (2024): Evaluated a study on cultural values and public compliance with emergency policies during the COVID-19 pandemic in East Asia.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RESEARCHER, Research and Planning Division, National Museum of Korean Contemporary History
Seoul, South Korea | *August 2015 – June 2016*

- Edited and managed the distribution of the *Research Series of Korean Contemporary History Books*
- Served as Editorial Assistant for the *Journal of Contemporary Korean Studies* (English-language academic journal)
- Organized academic events, oversaw logistics, and supported editorial planning

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION
Philadelphia, PA | *September 2024*

- Poster Presentation: "*Navigating Economic Hardships: Partisan Perspectives in the COVID-19 Era*"
- Session: "Polarization, Cues and Information, and Public Opinion"

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION
Los Angeles, CA | *September 2023*

- Paper Presentation: "*Partisan Media as a Bridge between Elite Cues and Public Attitude: During the COVID-19 Pandemic in South Korea*"
- Panel Organizer: "Media, Bias, and Public Opinion"

HONORS & AWARDS

- **DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP**, University of Connecticut | *Summer 2022*
- **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AWARD**, University of Connecticut | *Spring 2022*
- **RESEARCH ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP**, Yonsei University | *Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013*
- **SUMMA CUM LAUDE**, B.A. Political Science, Sookmyung Women's University | *August 2012*
- **HONORS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**, Sookmyung Women's University | *Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2012*
- **SELF-LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**, Sookmyung Women's University | *Fall 2011, Spring 2012*

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC SERVICE

THE PEACEFUL UNIFICATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (PUAC)

Presidential advisory body under Article 92 of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, focused on policies for the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula.

21st Council Member, Boston Chapter, USA | *September 2023 – Present*

- Participated in policy discussions and served on the Recommendation Committee for the 21st Boston Municipal Chapter (*May 2023*)

16th and 17th Council Member, Yeongdeungpo-gu Chapter, Seoul, South Korea | *2013 – 2017*

- Led and supported local outreach and reunification policy initiatives

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

LANGUAGES

- Korean: Native
- English: Fluent
- Japanese: Intermediate (JLPT N2)

RESEARCH & TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Quantitative: STATA, SPSS, R
- Text Analysis: R (Text Mining, Content Analysis)
- Survey Methods: Questionnaire design, implementation, and statistical analysis

CERTIFICATIONS

- Junior Survey Analyst – Statistics Korea
- Korean History Proficiency Test (Level 1) – National Institute of Korean History
- Internet Information Administrator (Level 2) – Korea Association for ICT Promotion

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Political Science Association (APSA)
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
- Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA)

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

MATTHEW M. SINGER

- Alan R. Bennett Honors Professor, Department of Political Science
University of Connecticut
- E-mail: matthew.m.singer@uconn.edu | Phone: (860) 486-2615

THOMAS HAYES

- Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Political Science, University of Connecticut
- Email: thomas.hayes@uconn.edu | Phone: (860) 486-2536

OKSAN BAYULGEN

- Professor & Department Head, Department of Political Science
University of Connecticut
- Email: oksan.bayulgen@uconn.edu | Phone: (860) 486-2231