

Jody Youjeong Park

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Research Interests American Politics: Bureaucratic Agency Ideology; American Institutions; Policy Diffusion; Race, Ethnicity, and Politics; Social Inequality

Education

Pennsylvania State University 2025–Present
Dual-title Ph.D. in Political Science & Social Data Analytics
MA Committee: Bruce A. Desmarais (chair) and Tracee M. Saunders

KDI School of Public Policy and Management 2022–2024
Master of Development Policy (M.D.P.)
Specialization in Data Science (*Summa Cum Laude*)
Thesis: Does Banning Affirmative Action Hurt Racial Diversity?
Evidence from U.S. Universities (*Best Thesis Award Winning*)
Committee: Chungun Yoon (chair) and Inbok Rhee (Yonsei University)

Ottawa University 2023
Undergraduate Mathematics, Non-Degree Seeking
Cumulative GPA 4.0/4.0 for Linear Algebra I and Calculus I

University of Prince Edward Island 2018–2021
Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.)
Honors in First Standing

Working Papers

Park, J. Y. (2026). U.S. Bureaucratic Agency Ideology: Racial and Ethnic Diversity and Federal Contracting. *Pennsylvania State University*.

Park, J. Y., & Saunders, T. M. (2026). Efficiency for Whom? The Politics of SSA Field Office Closings and Racialized Administrative Burden.

Min, S., & **Park, J. Y.** (invited to revise & resubmit). Exploring the factors affecting workforce integration of international graduate students in South Korea. *International Journal for Education and Vocational Guidance*.

Park, J. Y. (2024). Does banning affirmative action hurt racial diversity? Evidence from U.S. universities. *KDI School of Public Policy and Management*.

Min, S., **Park, J. Y.**, & Yoon, H. (2023). Characteristics of international students in Korea by region. *Korean Educational Research Association 2023*. (in Korean)

Conference Presentations

Park, J. Y., & Saunders, T. M. (2026, Nov 5). *Efficiency for Whom? The Politics of SSA Field Office Closings and Racialized Administrative Burden*. APPAM 2026 Fall Research Conference. (Paper Presentation)

Lee, C., **Park, J. Y.**, & Lee, H. H. (2023, Aug 26). *K-Developedia: Telling history through visualization*. 2023 Korean Economic History Society Summer International Conference. (Keynote)

Park, J. Y. (2023, Aug 26). *Affirmative action, racial diversity, and representation*. 2023 Korean Economic History Society Summer International Conference. (Poster)

Park, J. Y. (2023, Jun 20). *The impact of ethnic/racial diversity of students on tuition: Evidence from U.S. universities and colleges*. 2023 Korean Association for Public Administration Conference. (Paper Presentation)

Invited Talks

Park, J. Y. (2025, Mar 7). *From graduate student to a researcher: How to become a researcher at national research institutes*. 2025 KDI School Job Information Session.

Research Experience

Pennsylvania State University Aug 2025–Present

Research Assistant, PI: Dr. Tracee M. Saunders

Assisted in BRFSS and PLACE data cleaning and analysis using R.

Developed U.S. Social Service Accessibility & Local Racial and Ethnic Diversity Map using ArcGIS and Python.

Korea Development Institute (KDI)

Oct 2024–Jul 2025

Researcher, Dept. of Public Finance & Social Policies

Assisted in education panel datasets cleaning and k-means clustering analysis using R, Python, and Stata.

Korea Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET)

Jun 2022–Aug 2024

Researcher, Center for Tertiary & Continuing Education Research

Served as one of the National Project Managers of the [OECD PIAAC](#) Cycle 2 Main Study.

Prepared Korean PIAAC datasets; data cleaning using R and Stata.

Translated PIAAC survey questionnaires and interviewer training materials (ENG–KOR).

KDI School: K-Developedia

Dec 2022–Aug 2023

Research Assistant, KDI School of Public Policy & Management

Built data visualizations and research articles on Korean ODA history.

Redesigned UI/UX of the [K-Developedia](#) website.

Organized data science bootcamp: “Techniques for Building and Analyzing Historical Data using Machine Learning” (Seoul, Feb 12–15, 2023).

	KDI School: Collaboration Network Oct 2022–Mar 2023 Research Assistant, KDI School of Public Policy & Management Built cross-country datasets on the U.S. Visa Waiver Program and non-immigration statistics from 40+ years of DHS yearbooks (Stata). Web-scraped co-authorship network data (Python).
	KDI School: Kurdistan Regional Government Aug 2021–Dec 2021 Policy Consultation Intern, Cooperative Research Division Contributed to English policy consultation reports for the Kurdistan Regional Government in northern Iraq.
	Government of Prince Edward Island Jan 2020–Apr 2020 Research Assistant, Public Service Commission Supported focus group interviews and literature reviews on DEI policies for the PEI Diversity & Inclusion Policy (2020).
Teaching Experience	KDI School of Public Policy and Management May 2023–Jul 2023 Teaching Assistant, Korean Economic Development (Summer 2023) Developed data visualization class materials using R, Stata, and Notion. Consulted students' data visualization projects, particularly for cleaning quantitative data and designing research articles.
	English Tutoring Service Apr 2021–Apr 2022 Private Tutor (Self-Employed) Taught elementary/middle school students and adults English speaking and writing (60-min sessions, two sessions per week per student).
Honors & Awards	KDI School of Public Policy and Management Outstanding Thesis Award (Class of 2024) Aug 2024 Student Community Service Award Aug 2023 Dean's Honors List (Every Semester) 2022–2023 Dean's Honors List (With Distinction) Mar, Jul 2023
	University of Prince Edward Island Dean's Honors List (Every Semester) 2018–2021 Academic Excellence Award (1,000 CAD) 2018–2021 Ambrose Lee International Student Prize (500 CAD) Mar 2019, 2021 Diamond Awards (500 CAD) Apr 2020 Student Adversity Awards (500 CAD) Apr 2020 Roderick Stirling Macdonald Scholarship Prize (1,000 CAD) Dec 2019 University Prize, First Year Business (Highest) (1,000 CAD) Oct 2019

Grants & Fellowships	Penn State Miller-LaVigne Graduate Fellowship	Aug-Dec 2026
	Selected based upon academic performance and exceptional promise in political science (15,930 USD)	
	Penn State Summer Research Funding	May-Jul 2026
	Summer research funding award from the department of political science (5,000 USD)	
	Penn State Political Science Department	2025–2030
	Fully funded graduate assistance scholarship for the doctoral program	
	KDI School Academic Excellence Scholarship	2022–2024
	Fully funded scholarship for the master’s program (28,000,000 KRW; 21,320 USD)	
Leadership	KDI School of Public Policy and Management	Feb 2022–May 2022
	Student Ambassador, PR Division	
	UPEI–PEI Fencing Club	Dec 2019–Dec 2020
	Vice President	
	Soup for the Soul (UPEI Faculty of Arts)	Sep 2019–Dec 2020
	Volunteer Manager	
	Fitzpatrick & Co. Charlottetown	May 2020–Aug 2020
	Junior Accountant	
Skills	Programming: R, Stata, Python, L ^A T _E X, ArcGIS, QGIS Languages: English (Fluent); Korean (Native) Certifications: 3rd-Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo (World Taekwondo Headquarters)	

Last update: August 23, 2026