# Jody Youjeong Park

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## Research Interests

American Politics: Bureaucratic Politics; Agency Ideology; American Institutions; Policy Diffusion; Racial/Ethnic Diversity; Socioeconomic Inequality

## Education

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

**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: Chungeun Yoon (chair) & 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). Does Presidential Alignment Amplify Favoritism Risk? Agency Ideology, Campaign Contributions, and U.S. Contracting. *Pennsylvania State University.*

**Park, J. Y.** (2026). Agency Alignment in Congress: Questioning Networks and Interbranch Information Sharing.

**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.*

## Conference Presentations

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 Presentation)

**Park, J. Y.** (2023, Aug 26). *Affirmative Action, Racial Diversity, and Representation.* 2023 Korean Economic History Society Summer International Conference. (Poster Presentation)

Min, S., **Park, J. Y.**, & Yoon, H. (2023, Jun 29). *A Regional Typology of International Students in Korea.* 2023 Korean Educational Research Association Annual Conference. (Paper Presentation; in Korean)

**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 Researcher: How to Become a Researcher at National Research Institutes*. KDI School Job Information Session - Spring 2025.

## 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 Policy Consultation** Aug 2021–Dec 2021
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 (Two 60-min sessions per week for each student).

## Honors & Awards

**KDI School of Public Policy and Management**

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|---|---|
| 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**

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|---|---|
| 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

## Professional Experience

**Fitzpatrick & Co. Charlottetown** May 2020–Aug 2020
Junior Accountant

## Skills

Programming: R, Python, Stata, LaTeX, ArcGIS, QGIS
Languages: English (Fluent); Korean (Native)
Certifications: 3rd-Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo (World Taekwondo Headquarters)

*Last update: October 28, 2026*