

# Minkyung Lee

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Houston, TX.

[Email](#) / [Homepage](#)

## EDUCATION

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### **Penn State University**

Ph.D., Learning Design and Technology (Defended: Dec 2024) Department of Learning and Performance Systems

Dissertation: “*The Impact of Scripted Roles on Learner Engagement and Knowledge Construction Assignment in Asynchronous Discussion: A Comparative Study of Structured vs. Unstructured Collaborative Learning*”

Advisor: Priya Sharma, Roy Clariana

### **Lesley University**

M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction (2014)

Department of Education

Thesis: “*Consideration in the improvement of Korean students’ English proficiency and their perceptions to public English education*”

### **Hanyang University**

B.A., French Language and Culture (2009) Minor:

English Language and Culture Department of  
Liberal Arts

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

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### **Director**

Feb 2025- Current

Institutional Data Analytics, Office of Institutional Effectiveness University  
of Houston, Downtown

- Lead institutional research and analytics projects to inform student success, retention, and equity initiatives.
- Developed machine learning models using six years of institutional data (645,000+ records across 50,000 students and 127 variables) to predict dropout and enrollment trends.
- Conducted temporal analyses of enrollment and retention patterns, identifying long-term trends and early indicators of academic disengagement.
- Utilized EAB Navigate and other systems to streamline learner data collection and reporting for decision-making.
- Prepared and supported grant proposals focused on data-informed interventions to enhance student success.

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

June 2022 – Dec 2024

Leonhard Center for Engineering Education College  
of Engineering, Penn State University

- Conducted quantitative data analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of VR applications in educational settings, ensuring data quality and reliability

- Analyzed student preferences and learning outcomes for the NSF-Boeing PEER Grant project on online learning in advanced manufacturing and data science
- Collaborated with faculty to interpret data analysis results and provided insights to guide enhancements in course design and instructional strategies

### **Graduate Research Fellow**

Aug 2018 – May 2022

World Campus Learning Design World

Campus, Penn State University

- Collaborated with faculty and learning designers to design and develop online course content.
- Conducted needs assessments to identify instructional goals and develop effective course materials tailored to diverse learning environments
- Applied social network analysis to study collaborative learning dynamics, using findings to inform course design and improve group interactions in online discussions
- Utilized natural language processing techniques to perform lexical network analysis on synchronous discussions, enhancing understanding of student discourse patterns
- Designed and refined asynchronous discussion activities and rubrics to improve student engagement and learning outcomes

### **Researcher**

Dec 2017 – July 2018

Global Education Center for Engineering, Seoul National University

- Designed and implemented STEM education programs for middle school students, integrating technology to enhance learning outcomes
- Managed flipped classroom projects using video conferencing tools, enabling interactive and student-centered learning
- Produced evaluation reports with actionable recommendations for program improvement, contributing to the center's strategic goals

### **Researcher**

Smart Center for Teaching and Learning, Hanyang University

Feb 2015– March 2016

- Organized and facilitated monthly workshops on innovative teaching strategies for technology-enhanced education, receiving high satisfaction ratings from participants
- Assisted in adapting and localizing a Futurelearn MOOC for a Korean audience, improving accessibility and relevance for local learners
- Co-authored a flipped learning guidebook in collaboration with Tokyo University, sharing best practices in international contexts

### **English Instructor**

Daejin Woman's High School | Grade 11

2014–2015

- Developed and implemented curricula to prepare students for college entrance exams, emphasizing critical reading, writing, and comprehension
- Conducted mock exams and provided tailored feedback, improving students' readiness for high-stakes assessments
- Led collaborations with other instructors to align lesson plans and introduced student-centered learning strategies

### **English Instructor**

Garak Middle School | Grades 7–8

2009–2011

- Taught grammar, vocabulary, and conversational fluency using interactive teaching strategies and multimedia resources

## RESEARCH SKILLS

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### Programming & Data Analysis

- **Python:** pandas, scikit-learn (predictive modeling), networkx (network analysis), NLTK, spaCy, gensim (NLP/topic modeling), matplotlib, seaborn, pyLDAvis (visualization)
- **R:** caret (predictive modeling), igraph (network analysis), ggplot2 (visualization), tm (text mining)

### Statistical & Modeling Tools

- SPSS (statistical tests)
- Mplus (structural equation modeling)

### Qualitative & Text Analysis

- NVivo (coding, thematic analysis)

### Visualization & Dashboards

- Gephi (network visualization)
- Power BI (interactive dashboards)

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

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Penn State World Campus Graduate Research Fellowship	Fall 2018 - Spring 2022
Penn State World Campus Learning Design, Summer Research Fellowship	2019 - 2021
Penn State UPAC Graduate Student Travel Grant	2021, 2023

## HONORS & AWARDS

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AERA SIG Instructional Technology Graduate Student Paper Award	2024
Penn State College of Education Graduate Student Travel Award	2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024
Summer Tuition Assistance Funding, Penn State University	2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN FUNDED PROJECTS

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### Research and evaluation with quantitative and qualitative data analysis

Leonhard Center-funded Educational Innovation, 2024

- Project Title: VR Application for Mechanical Engineering Courses
- Principal Investigator: Daniel Cortes, Andrea Gregg, Laura Pauley
- Tasks: Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis, Publications
- Relevant published works:

Cortes, D., Gregg, A., **Lee, M.K.**, Pauley, L., Osunbunmi, I (2024, October). By students, for students: Development of custom Virtual Reality applications for teaching and learning in engineering courses, FIE (Frontier of Education), Washington DC 2024

Gregg, A., Cortes, D., Pauley, L., **Lee, M.K.**, Osunbunmi, I (2024, June). Designing and evaluating virtual reality applications for a machine design course, accepted as a presentation, ASEE, Portland

### Research and evaluation with qualitative analysis

NSF-REU Project 2022, 2023, 2024

- Project Title: Integration of Biology and Materials in Chemical Engineering
- Principal Investigators: Stephanie Velegol, Esther Gomez
- Tasks: Data collection (interviews), qualitative data analysis to evaluate the program.
- Relevant published works : Xia, Y., Cutler, S., Osunbunmi, I., Zappe, S. E., Gomez, E., Velegol, S., &

Lee, M.K. (in press). The impact of applied improvisation on undergraduate engineering students' professional development. *Advances in Engineering Education*.

### Evaluation with qualitative analysis

Leonhard Center-funded Educational Innovation, 2023

- Project Title: A New Sustainable Lab Ambassador Program within the College of Engineering
- Principal Investigators: Rachel Brennan, Kristen Dreyer, Lydia Vandenburg, David Jones
- Tasks: Qualitative report to evaluate the program by Interviews for Sustainable Lab Ambassadors and focus groups for the lap PI to understand their sustainable lab experiences.

### Evaluation with quantitative data Analysis

NSF-Boeing PEER Grant, 2023, 2024

- Project Title: Engineering Online Learning in Advanced Manufacturing and Data Science
- Principal Investigator: Samuel Spiegel
- Tasks: large-scaled quantitative survey data analysis and publication.
- Relevant published work: Lee, M.K., Cutler, S., Osunbunmi, I., Zappe, S. E., Samuel, S (2024, June). Student preferences and performance in active learning online environments, accepted as a presentation, ASEE, Portland 2024.

## CERTIFICATES

TESOL Certificate, University of California at San Diego.	2009
Massachusetts ESL Initial license (expired).	2014

## TEACHING & COURSE DESIGN EXPERIENCE

### Teaching Assistant

*'Seminar for Engineering Teaching Assistants'*

Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024

College of Engineering, Penn State University

- Graded and provided the feedback for any asynchronous discussion and collaborative projects
- Assisted in F2F classroom instruction and grading
- Developed asynchronous collaborative discussion generated by Louvain algorithm

### Research-based Course Designer

*'Introduction to Business Information Systems'*

Fall 2021, Spring 2022

World Campus, Penn State University

- Designed two modules for enhancing asynchronous discussions in the *'Introduction to Business Information Systems'* course, which were formally accepted into the curriculum

### Teaching Assistant

*'Global Engineering Technology Exchange'*

Fall 2017, Spring 2018

College of Engineering, Seoul National University

- Managed IP-based video conferencing for "flipped classroom" models and assisted collaboratively designed engineering MOOC classrooms with Tokyo university

### Course Design Assistant

*'Korea in a Global Context'*

Fall 2016

Smart Center for Teaching and Learning, Hanyang University

- Assisted in refining MOOC (Futurelearn) course materials to align with pedagogical objectives, ensuring both quality and relevance

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- Lee, M., Sharma, P. (2025) Beyond posting frequency: how network metrics and textual readability relate to engagement in online discussion (SSCI, Scopus Q1). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10494820.2025.2550035>
- Lee, M., Sharma, P. (2024). Applying a community detection algorithm to examine group formation in online discussions: Exploring network characteristics and dynamics. *International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education* (SSCI, Scopus Q1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41239-024-00495-w>
- Xia, Y., Cutler, S., Osunbunmi, I., Zappe, S. E., Gomez, E., Velegol, S., & Lee, M. (2024). The impact of applied improvisation on undergraduate engineering students' professional development. *Advances in Engineering Education*. <https://doi.org/10.18260/3-1-1153-36069>
- Lee, M., Clariana, R. B. (2022). The influence of external concept structures on an individual's knowledge structures. *Educational Technology Research and Development* (SSCI, Scopus Q1). 70(5), 1657-1674. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11423-022-10144-6>

### **In revision**

- Sharma, P, Lee, M. (in revision). The quality of student cognitive engagement across different levels of social engagement in online discussions. *Education and Information Technologies*.
- Lee, M., Clariana, R. (in revision). Implementing sociograms in online learning: examining their influence on community of inquiry elements. *Learning Environment Research*.

### **Under Review**

- Lee, M., Bhati, D. (under review). Early signals of undergraduate attrition: mapping first-year academic, financial, and support patterns in an urban public university. *Higher Education*.
- Lee, M., Sharma, P., Clariana, R, Strauss, S (under review). Which roles bridge, centralize, or synthesize collaboration in online courses? - Linking network metrics with knowledge construction in asynchronous discussions. *International Journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning*.
- Lee, M. Sharma, P., Clariana, R (under review) When does structure matter? social and cognitive outcomes in role-assigned vs. organic online groups. *Internet and Higher education*.
- Lee, M. Sharma, P. (under review). Predicting assigned roles and knowledge-construction processes in asynchronous discussion: a course-scale feasibility study. *Educational Technology Research and Development*.

## **PEER REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS**

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- Lee, M., Sharma, P (2025, April). Predicting roles and knowledge construction processes in asynchronous discussion using machine learning, AERA, 2025
- Cortes, D., Gregg, A., Lee, M., Pauley, L., Osunbunmi, I (2024, October). By students, for students: development of custom virtual reality applications for teaching and learning in engineering courses, accepted as a presentation, FIE (Frontier of Education), Washington DC, 2024
- Gregg, A., & Cortes, D., & Osunbunmi, I. S., & Pauley, L. L., & Lee, M. (2024, June), Designing and evaluating virtual reality applications for a machine design course, accepted as a presentation, ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Portland, Oregon. 10.18260/1-2--47139
- Lee, M., & Cutler, S., & Zappe, S. E., & Spiegel, S., & Osunbunmi, I. S. (2024, June), Student preferences and performance in active learning online environments. accepted as a presentation, ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Portland, Oregon. 10.18260/1-2—48018
- Lee, M., Roy B. Clariana (2024, April). Implementing sociograms in online learning: examining their influences on community of inquiry elements, accepted as a poster, AERA, Philadelphia.

10.3102/2107692

- Lee, M.,** Sharma, P. (2023, April). Applying community detection algorithms to examine group formation in online discussions, accepted as a presentation, AERA, Chicago <https://www.aera.net/Publications/Online-Paper-Repository/AERA-Online-Paper-Repository-Viewer/ID/2107692>
- Lee, M.,** Sharma, P. (2022, October). Applying the Louvain algorithm to examine emergent groups in asynchronous online discussion, accepted as a presentation, College of Education Research Conference, State College
- Clariana, R., **Lee, M.** (2022, October). An OER tool for writing-to-learn in undergraduate architectural engineering, accepted as a presentation, College of Education Research Conference, State College
- Lee, M.,** Garbrick, A., Clariana, R. (2021, November). Knowledge convergence in collaborative concept mapping, accepted as a presentation, Association for Educational Communications & Technology (AECT), Chicago
- Lee, M.,** Garbrick, A., Clariana, R. (2021, November). Lexical network analysis on synchronous discussion, accepted as a poster, Association for Educational Communications & Technology (AECT), Chicago
- Lee, M.,** Clariana, R. (2021, November). Students' perceptions in online courses with the Community of Inquiry Framework, accepted as a presentation, Association for Educational Communications & Technology (AECT)
- Lee, M.,** Garbrick, A., Clariana, R. (2021). Knowledge convergence in collaborative concept mapping, Association for Educational Communications & Technology (AECT), accepted as a presentation, Chicago, Selected Research and Development Papers Vol1, 106-120
- Lee, M.,** (2020, November). Social network analysis on online collaborative knowledge construction, accepted as a poster, Association for Educational Communications & Technology (AECT), Virtual
- Lee, M.,** Clariana, R. (2019, November). Knowledge structure measurement of cross-classification table as a visual external representation, accepted as a poster, Association for Educational Communications & Technology (AECT), Las Vegas
- Lee, M.,** & Jiyeon Lee. (2016, October). Examining affective variables within the EFL learner's interlanguage system, accepted as a presentation, KEFL (Korean Association of English as Foreign Language), Seoul