

Gihun Im

Department of Psychological and Quantitative Foundations, University of Iowa
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student in Counseling Psychology

Aug 2024 – Present

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, United States
Advisor: Julie M. Koch, Ph.D.

M.A. in Educational Counseling

Mar 2022 – Feb 2024

Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea
Advisor: Dongil Kim, Ph.D.

Thesis: Korean school counselors' counseling competencies and advocacy activities for LGBTQ+ youth:
Latent profile analysis
GPA: 4.26/4.3

B.A. in English Education | B.A. in Psychology

Mar 2011 – Feb 2018

Chung-Ang University, Seoul, South Korea, *dual degree*
GPA: 4.14/4.5, *Magna Cum Laude*

PROFESSIONAL AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

Graduate Research Assistant

Mar 2025 – Present

Telepsychology Training Clinic, University of Iowa

- Manage administrative tasks related to clinic operations
- Maintain connections with community resources to support rural mental health
- Coordinate workshops and outreach activities

Graduate Research Assistant

Aug 2024 – Present

Department of Psychological and Quantitative Foundations, University of Iowa

- Assist the department coordinator with administrative tasks
- Organize and track research projects within the department
- Contribute to LGBTQ+ mental health research projects

Doctoral Trainee

Aug 2024 – Present

University Counseling Service, University of Iowa

- Provide brief individual therapy for undergraduate and graduate students
- Engage in outreach activities to promote campus mental health awareness
- Facilitate group therapy for graduate students and professionals

Certified School Counselor

Mar 2024 – Aug 2024

Dangsan Middle School, *Full-time*

- Provided counseling services for middle school students (for 450+ students)
- Delivered social-emotional learning (SEL) and anti-bullying programs

Intern Counselor

Jan 2023 – Feb 2024

SNU Center for Campus Life & Culture, Seoul National University

- Offered counseling services and conducted psychological assessments for undergraduate and graduate students (8 clients, 50+ sessions, 40+ intake interviews, 40+ psychological assessments)
- Collaborated in leading a group counseling program targeting Fear of Missing Out (10 hrs, 4 sessions)
- Led and co-led group counseling programs focused on enhancing interpersonal skills (30 hrs, 10 sessions)

Volunteer Counselor

Mar 2022 – Dec 2022

SNU Center for Campus Life & Culture, Seoul National University

- Provided counseling services and performed psychological assessments for undergraduate and graduate students (8 clients, 77 sessions)
- Led and co-led group counseling programs focused on enhancing interpersonal skills (90 hrs, 30 sessions)

Certified School Counselor

Mar 2019 – Feb 2022

Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education (headquarters), *Full-time*

- Contributed to creating government policies and guidelines for the school counseling system in Seoul
- Developed counseling and guidance programs for 1,300+ school counseling offices("Wee Class") and 26 centers("Wee Center") in Seoul
- Implemented crisis intervention programs and conducted counseling services for both students and staff members impacted by traumatic events (7 different occasions)
- Provided psychological consulting as a consultant to school staff members and caregivers
- Offered counseling services to students with mental, academic, and/or developmental issues (30+ elementary and secondary students, 200+ sessions)
- Delivered anti-bullying programs as a lecturer for students who have engaged in school violence, as well as their caregivers (72 hrs, 24 sessions)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

LGBTQ+ Partner Loss and Bereavement in the Post-Same-Sex Marriage Era

Dec 2024 – Present

Researcher, The EE-MM: Network for Queer and Transgender Counselors in Korea

PI: Soojung Kang, Ph.D.

Barriers to Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) Access

Sep 2024 – Present

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Iowa

PI: Julie M. Koch, Ph.D.

Experiences of Participants at the Global Youth Summit

May 2023 – Feb 2024

Research Assistant, Global Youth Summit, The National Council of Youth Organization in Korea

PI: Dongil Kim, Ph.D.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Rehabilitation Counseling Program Development for Borderline Intellectual Functioning Adults

Jan 2023 – Feb 2024

Research Assistant, Future for Youth Foundation, South Korea

PI: Dongil Kim, Ph.D.

Affirmative Training for Counselors in LGBTQ+ Neutral Countries

Oct 2022 – Present

Research Assistant, Seoul National University

PI: Julie M. Koch, Ph.D.

The Psychology of Working Theory and Korean LGB People

Sep 2022 – June 2024

Researcher, Equality in Counseling Research (ECR) Team, South Korea

PI: Jeongeun Park, Ph.D.

National Standardized Curriculum Reformation for Youth Counselor Training

Apr 2022 – Dec 2022

Research Assistant, Korea Youth Counseling & Welfare Institute

PI: Dongil Kim, Ph.D.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

1. Kim, D., Park, J., Lee, J., Park, I., & Im, G. (2023). Exploring subjects of standardized curriculum for youth counselors in South Korea by Delphi method. *Studies on Korean Youth*, 34(4), 141-162.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW & IN PROGRESS

7. **Im, G.**, & Kim, D. (under review). Korean school counselors' counseling competencies and advocacy activities for LGBTQ+ youth: Latent profile analysis.
6. Kim, D., Park, J., **Im, G.**, Chung, G. (in press). Impact of debate participation in international youth exchange programs on global citizenship: Mediating role of multicultural competence. *Journal of Education & Culture*.
5. Kim, D., Park, J., **Im, G.** (under review). Social skills development program for borderline intellectual functioning adults.
4. **Im, G.** (in progress). The relationship between perceived threat of COVID-19, internalized stigma, and depression among LGB Individuals: Moderated mediating role of community connectedness.
3. Bae, I., & **Im, G.** (in progress). Relationship between decent education and decent work for youth: Mediating effects of work volition and career adaptability.
2. Ko, J., Cheung, S., **Im, G.**, & Park, J. (under review). The role of social status and stigma on work volition among LGB college students in South Korea.
1. Koch, J. M., Shin, Y.-J., Lee, J., & **Im, G.** (in progress). Affirmative training for counselors in LGBTQ+ neutral countries: An example of South Korea.

PRESENTATIONS

5. Ko, J., Park, J., **Im, G.**, Cheung, S., & Reid-Marks, L. (2024, August 8-10). *Social stigma, social status, work volition, social support, and positive identity in LGB college students in Korea*. Poster presented at the APA 2024 Convention, Seattle, WA, United States.
4. Koch, J. M., Shin, Y.-J., Lee, J., & **Im, G.** (2024, July 21-26). *Affirmative psychological practice in LGBTQ-neutral countries*. Poster presented at the 33rd International Congress of Psychology, Prague, Czech Republic.
3. **Im, G.** (2024, July 19). *Relationships between perceived threat of COVID-19, internalized stigma, and depression among LGB people: Focusing on the moderating effects of community connectedness*. Paper presented at the 1st Conference of Junior Scholars Network of LGBTIQ Research, Seoul, South Korea.
2. **Im, G.** (2023, October 11-13). *Overcoming the limitations of school-based suicide post interventions: Focusing on the experiences of key staff members of "Wee Center"*. Poster presented at the 23rd International Conference of Educational Research, Seoul, South Korea.
1. Yoon-Lee, S., & **Im, G.** (2023, October 1-31). *"Are we in the same page?": The critical autoethnography of Korean queer counselors*. Paper presented at the Society for Sexual, Affective, Intersex, and Gender Expressive Identities (SAIGE) 2023 Virtual Conference.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Mary Bywater Cross and Robert P. Newman Research Award (\$1,000) College of Education, University of Iowa	2024
Distinguished Student Research Award (\$1,000) Korea Employment Information Service	2024
Semester High Honors (\$400) College of Education, Seoul National University - 4.3/4.3 GPA, tuition waiver	2023

Brain Korea 21 (BK-21) Plus Scholarship (\$5,000) Seoul National University	2022 – 2023
Superintendent's Citation of Merit Seoul Metropolitan Superintendent of Education	2021
Scholarship for CAU Alumni Association (\$1,000) Chung-Ang University Alumni Association	2017
Semester High Honors (\$3,500) College of Education, Chung-Ang University - 4.5/4.5 GPA, tuition waiver	2017
Mentorship Grant (\$600) Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Creativity (KOFAC)	2016
National Scholarship (\$10,000) Korea Student Aid Foundation	2012 – 2017

LEADERSHIPS, SERVICES, AND RELATED EXPERIENCES

ADVOCACY & ACTIVISM

Operational Board The EE-MM: Network for Queer and Transgender Counselors in Korea	Jul 2022 – Present
Certified Teacher Member LGBTQ Youth Crisis Support Center “Ddingdong”, Seoul, South Korea	Feb 2020 – Present
Junior Ombudsperson SNU Human Rights Center, Seoul National University	May 2022 – Aug 2022
Chairperson QUV: Solidarity of University Queer Societies in Korea	Sep 2015 – Feb 2016
President LGBTQ+ Student Club “Rainbow Fish”, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, South Korea	Mar 2015 – Feb 2016

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Special Counselor National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea	May 2019 – Feb 2021
Editorial Committee Task Force for National School Counseling System(“Wee Project”), Korea Educational Development Institute (KEDI)	May 2020 – Nov 2020

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Program Facilitator Global Youth Summit, The National Council of Youth Organization in Korea	Jun 2023 – Jul 2023
Instructor Every Underachieving Student Succeeds Program, Seoul National University	May 2022 – Jul 2022
Instructor Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Creativity (KOFAC)	Jul 2016 – Dec 2016
Teaching Staff Pyeongtaek Regional Support Center for Children, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea	Jul 2013 – Aug 2014

MILITARY SERVICE

Legal Assistant

Aug 2012 – Aug 2014

Legal Office, Air Force Operations Command, Osan Air Base, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

SKILLS

Language: Korean (native), English (fluent), Japanese (working proficiency)

Statistical Programs: SPSS(PROCESS macro), AMOS, *Mplus*, and R

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Counselor, Korean Psychological Association (KPA) 2023

- Clinical requirements: 1+ years of counseling experience, 20+ intake interviews, 50+ individual counseling sessions, 10+ psychological assessment cases, 15+ case presentations and supervisions

Survey Analyst, Human Resources Development Service of Korea 2021

Certified School Counselor, Korean Ministry of Education (*National Teacher Certification*) 2018

Certified Secondary English Teacher, Korean Ministry of Education 2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association

- Division 17, Society of Counseling Psychology
- Division 44, Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity

Iowa Psychological Association

Korean Psychological Association (KPA)

KPA Division 2 – Korean Counseling Psychology Association (KCPA)

Korean Counseling Association (KCA)

Society for the Psychological Study of LGBTQ+ Issues in Counseling (KCPA-affiliated)

Junior Scholars Network of LGBTIQ Research

LGBTQ Youth Crisis Support Center “Ddingdong”

The EE-MM: Network for Queer and Transgender Counselors in Korea

REFERENCES

Julie M. Koch, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Psychological and Quantitative Foundations, University of Iowa

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