

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 EXPERIENCES

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.

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

[KCI] denotes the Korean Citation Index, indicating that the article is in Korean.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

3. Kim, D., **Im, G.**, Chung, G., & Park, J. (2025). Impact of discussion activity in international youth exchange programs on global citizenship: Mediating role of multicultural competence. *Journal of Education & Culture*, 31(1), 597-613. [KCI]
2. Kim, D., Park, J., & **Im, G.** (2025). Research on developing a social enrichment program for young adults with borderline intellectual functioning. *Disability & Employment*, 35(1), 163-186. [KCI]

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. [KCI]

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW & IN PROGRESS

4. **Im, G.**, & Kim, D. (under review). Korean school counselors' counseling competencies and advocacy activities for LGBTQ+ youth: Latent profile analysis.
3. **Im, G.** (in progress). The relationship between perceived threat of COVID-19, internalized stigma, and depression among Korean gay men: Moderated mediating role of community connectedness.
2. Bae, I., & **Im, G.** (in progress). Relationship between decent education and decent work for youth: Mediating effects of work volition and career adaptability.
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

7. Kim, J., **Im, G.**, Kim, M., & Kang, S. (2025, August 7-9). *A decade later: Revisiting LGBTQ+ partner loss and bereavement in the post-same-sex marriage era*. Poster accepted at the APA 2025 Convention, Denver, CO, United States.
6. Tang, Y., **Im, G.**, & Zhang, Y. (2025, August 7-9). *Community efforts in promoting youth resilience: A systematic review of community-based intervention*. Poster accepted at the APA 2025 Convention, Denver, CO, United States.
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, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expressive Identities (SAIGE) 2023 Virtual Conference.

RESEARCH GRANTS

1. **Mary Bywater Cross and Robert P. Newman Research Award** Oct 2024 – May 2025
College of Education, University of Iowa
The relationship between perceived threat of COVID-19, internalized stigma, and depression among LGB individuals: Moderated mediating role of community connectedness
Principal Investigator
\$1,000

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Distinguished Student Research Award Korea Employment Information Service	2024
Semester High Honors College of Education, Seoul National University - 4.3/4.3 GPA, tuition waiver	2023
Brain Korea 21 (BK-21) Plus Scholarship Seoul National University	2022 – 2023
Superintendent's Citation of Merit Seoul Metropolitan Superintendent of Education	2021
Scholarship for CAU Alumni Association Chung-Ang University Alumni Association	2017
Semester High Honors College of Education, Chung-Ang University - 4.5/4.5 GPA, tuition waiver	2017
Mentorship Grant Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Creativity (KOFAC)	2016
National Scholarship 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
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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 Legal Office, Air Force Operations Command, Osan Air Base, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea	Aug 2012 – Aug 2014
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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 (<i>National Teacher Certification</i>)	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

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