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.

**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

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

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. [KCI]

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*. [KCI]

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 Korean gay men: 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, 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** 2024  
Korea Employment Information Service

**Semester High Honors** 2023

College of Education, Seoul National University

* 4.3/4.3 GPA, tuition waiver

**Brain Korea 21 (BK-21) Plus Scholarship** 2022 – 2023  
Seoul National University

**Superintendent’s Citation of Merit** 2021  
Seoul Metropolitan Superintendent of Education

**Scholarship for CAU Alumni Association** 2017  
Chung-Ang University Alumni Association

**Semester High Honors** 2017

College of Education, Chung-Ang University

* 4.5/4.5 GPA, tuition waiver

**Mentorship Grant** 2016

Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Creativity (KOFAC)

**National Scholarship** 2012 – 2017

Korea Student Aid Foundation

Leaderships, SERVICES, And Related Experiences

Advocacy & Activism

**Operational Board** Jul 2022 – Present

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

**Certified Teacher Member** Feb 2020 – Present

LGBTQ Youth Crisis Support Center “Ddingdong”, Seoul, South Korea

**Junior Ombudsperson** May 2022 – Aug 2022

SNU Human Rights Center, Seoul National University

**Chairperson** Sep 2015 – Feb 2016

QUV: Solidarity of University Queer Societies in Korea

**President** Mar 2015 – Feb 2016

LGBTQ+ Student Club “Rainbow Fish”, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, South Korea

Professional Services

**Special Counselor** May 2019 – Feb 2021

National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea

**Editorial Committee** May 2020 – Nov 2020

Task Force for National School Counseling System(“Wee Project”), Korea Educational Development Institute (KEDI)

Community Services

**Program Facilitator** Jun 2023 – Jul 2023

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

**Instructor** May 2022 – Jul 2022

Every Underachieving Student Succeeds Program, Seoul National University

**Instructor** Jul 2016 – Dec 2016

Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Creativity (KOFAC)

**Teaching Staff** Jul 2013 – Aug 2014

Pyeongtaek Regional Support Center for Children, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

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, M*plus*, 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.

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Amanda Case, Ph.D.

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