Jody Youjeong Park

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Research Interests
American Politics: Race, Ethnicity, and Politics; State Politics; Bureaucratic Agency Ideology; Policy Diffusion; Social Inequality

Education

Pennsylvania State University 2025–Present
Ph.D. in Political Science & Social Data Analytics
    MA Committee: Bruce A. Desmarais (chair) and Tracee M. Saunders

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) and 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). U.S. Bureaucratic Agency Ideology: Racial and Ethnic Diversity and Federal Contracting. *Pennsylvania State University.*

Park, J. Y., & Saunders, T. M. (2026). Social Service Accessibility and U.S. Local Racial and Ethnic Diversity.

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.*

Min, S., **Park, J. Y.**, & Yoon, H. (2023). Characteristics of international students in Korea by region. *Korean Educational Research Association 2023.* (in Korean)

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)
	Park, J. Y. (2023, Aug 26). *Affirmative action, racial diversity, and representation.* 2023 Korean Economic History Society Summer International Conference. (Poster)
	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 a researcher: How to become a researcher at national research institutes.* 2025 KDI School Job Information Session.

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   Aug 2021–Dec 2021
Policy Consultation
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 (60-min sessions, two sessions per week per student)

Honors & Awards   **KDI School of Public Policy and Management**
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
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   Dec 2019
(1,000 CAD)
University Prize, First Year Business (Highest)   Oct 2019
(1,000 CAD)

Grants & Fellowships	**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, Stata, Python, LaTeX, ArcGIS, QGIS	
	Languages: English (Fluent); Korean (Native)	

Last update: February 14, 2026