

WONSEOK LEE

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Contact:

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Council on East Asian Studies

The MacMillan Center

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024-present	Postdoctoral Associate at the Council on East Asian Studies and Lecturer in the Department of Music at Yale University
2023–2024	Lecturer in Korean Studies, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures Washington University in St. Louis

EDUCATION

2023	The Ohio State University, USA Ph.D. in Musicology (emphasis on Ethnomusicology) Dissertation: <i>K-Pop Resounding: Korean Popular Music beyond Koreanness</i>
2018	Bowling Green State University, USA M.A., Popular Culture Thesis: <i>Diversity of K-pop: A Focus on Race, Language, and Musical Genre</i>
2013	Kyung Hee University, South Korea M.M., Jazz & Contemporary Music Thesis: <i>A Research on the Relationship between John Lennon and the Fluxus: A focus on Musical Works and Performance</i>
2009	Kyung Hee University, South Korea B.M., Postmodern Music (Jazz Performance)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles and Book Chapters:

2026 (forthcoming)	Lee, W. “Next Level”: aespa’s Storyworld and Cultural Significance.” in <i>Critical Approaches to Transmedia Storytelling in K-Pop</i> , edited by Nicholas E. Miller. Lexington Books
2026 (forthcoming)	Lee, W. “From Policy to Pop: Navigating South Korean Cultural Policies and their Impact on Korean Popular Music.” <i>Korean Studies</i> .
2025 (forthcoming)	Lee, W. and PH Kim. “A Century in the Making: Korean Popular Music’s Abbreviation to K-Pop.” in <i>Contemporary Korean Culture from the Edge</i> , edited by Jooyeon Rhee, Hong Kal, and Thomas R Klassen. Bloomsbury Publishing

- 2024 Lee, W. [“Tradition, Transition, and Trends: Contextualizing of BTS’s *Kugak-Inspired Performance of ‘Idol.’*”](#) in *Bangtan Remixed: A Critical BTS Reader*, edited by Patty Ahn et al. Duke University Press
- 2023 Lee, W. and G. Kao. [“I Need U’: Audience Participation in BTS’s Online Concerts During COVID-19.”](#) *Journal of Popular Music Studies* vol. 35 (1): 46–66.
- 2022 Lee, W. [“‘This Is How We Support K-pop Stars’: From Unilateral Support to Mutually Inspired Partnership.”](#) *Korean Journal of Popular Music* 30: 77–115.
- 2021 Lee, W. and G. Kao. [“‘Make It Right’: Why #BlackLivesMatter\(s\) to K-pop, BTS, and BTS ARMYs.”](#) *IASPM Journal* vol. 11 (2): 70–87.
- 2021 Kim, PH. and W. Lee. [“Industrial Hip Hop against the Hip Hop Industry: The Critical Noise of XXX.”](#) *Journal of World Popular Music* vol.7 (2): 186–204.
- 2020 Lee, W. and G. Kao. [“‘You Know You’re Missing Out on Something’: Collective Nostalgia and Community in Tim’s Twitter Listening Party during COVID-19.”](#) *Rock Music Studies* vol.8 (1): 36–52. DOI: 10.1080/19401159.2020.1852772
- Book Review:
- 2024 Lee, W. [A review of *The Cambridge Companion to K-Pop*](#). Edited by Suk-Young Kim. Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2023. In *Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 83.3.
- 2022 Lee, W. [A review of *Pop City: Korean Popular Culture and the Selling of Place*](#) by Youjeong Oh. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press. 2018. In *Journal of Asian Studies*, vol.81.1.
- 2019 Lee, W. [“Live from Korea, live from anywhere: A review of *K-pop Live: Fans, Idols and Multimedia Performance* by Suk-Young Kim.”](#) *SINONK*.
- Other (op-ed):
- 2024 Lee, W. [“확장성의 역사 케이팝: 가상 아이돌의 의미와 가능성 \(K-Pop’s Expandability: The Meaning of Virtual Idols and its Possibility\)”](#) *HallyuNow* 58.
- 2020 Kao, G. and W. Lee. [“Can BTS Protect Asian Americans from Xenophobia in the Age of COVID-19?”](#) *Contexts* (April 1)
- Works in Progress:
- Journal article (revise and resubmit) Kao, G. and W. Lee. “Are Friends Electric? The Influence of 1980s British New Wave on 2020s K-pop.” *Journal of Popular Culture*.
- Monograph Lee, W. *The Expandability of K-Pop: Popular Music, Race, and Digital Media*
- Monograph (contracted) Lee, W. and PH Kim. *K-Pop: The Global Soundwave from Asia*. Key Issues in Asian Studies by the Association for Asian Studies and Columbia University Press.
- Journal article Lee, W. and G. Kao. “The Influence of Reggae on K-Pop”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Yale University

2025 Spring EAST 424, EALL 277, MUSI 148, Music In Flux: Blendings, Exchanges, and Cultural Significances

Washington University St. Louis

2024 Spring KOR 365-01 and 02, The Korean Wave: Reading Korea Through Popular Culture and Media

(asked to repeat courses because of high enrollment) KOR 455, Global Korean Music Through A Cultural Lens

2023 Fall KOR 355, Introduction to K-pop: Korean Popular Music and Society
KOR 365, The Korean Wave: Reading Korea Through Popular Culture and Media
KOR 455, Global Korean Music Through A Cultural Lens

The Ohio State University

2023 Spring MUS 3348, Music on the Move (General Education Course, GE)

2022 Fall MUS 3348, Music on the Move (General Education Course, GE)

2022 Spring MUS 2250, Music Cultures of the World (GE)

2021 Fall MUS 2252, History of Rock 'n' Roll, (GE)

2021 Spring MUS 2252, History of Rock 'n' Roll, (GE)

2020 Fall MUS 3351, The Worlds of Music, (Music Major Course)

2020 Spring MUS 2253, Introduction to Jazz, (GE)

2019 Fall MUS 2250, Music Cultures of the World, (GE)

Bowling Green State University

2018 Spring POPC 1600, Introduction to Popular Culture (GE)

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

2025 (invited) East Asian Popular Culture and Media Conference at Marist University, April 23

2025 (invited) Special lecture about K-pop at KLCEI (Korean Language and Cultural Education Institute), March 29

2025 (accepted, panel organizer) "Jazz and the Perceptions of Blackness in Colonial Korea," paper presentation at Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in Columbus, March 14

2025 (invited) The Kim Center Colloquium Series at University of Pennsylvania, February 6

2024 (co-organizer) The International K-Pop Conference at Yale, November 13-14

2024 (invited) "What Makes K-pop? The Importance of K-pop Fandom" for NCTA (National Consortium for Teaching About Asia) Workshop hosted by Ohio State, September 24

2024 (invited) "How US students react to WEBTOON," for WEBTOON Korean members at NAVER in Bundang, S. Korea, June 4

2024 (co-host) Co-host and Discussant for [KPRP Student Research Workshop](#) 2024
"Sociomusicology of K-Pop: Culture of (In)visibility" in Columbus, April 15

- 2024 (panel organizer) “Displacement and Belonging: Two African Korean Musicians in Korean Popular Music,” paper presentation at AAS in Seattle, March 17
- 2023 (invited) “Complicated As, Appropriation, Appreciation, and Authenticity” for Diversity and Inclusion Panel by PL4Y (K-pop dance student organization at WashU), November 30
- 2023 “K-Pop's Posthuman Expandability: A Comparative Analysis of Virtual K-pop Groups,” Korean Literature Association annual conference in Los Angeles, November 11
- 2023 Presentation at K-pop and the West: Media, Fandom, and Transnational Politics Symposium in State University of New York at Buffalo, Oct 27
- 2023 “K as a Floating Signifier: The Meaning of K in Multiethnic K-pop,” IASPM International Conference 2023 in Minneapolis, June 30
- 2023 (invited) Virtual roundtable, “K-pop in the Diaspora, the Diaspora in K-pop,” hosted by the Korea Institute at Harvard University, April 6
- 2022 “Entrepreneurial State: The Impact of the South Korean Government on Musical Diversity of K-pop,” paper presentation at the AMS/SEM/SMT Joint Conference in New Orleans, November 11
- 2022 (invited) Presentation at the “When East Meets West Symposium: K-pop & American Music Culture” Symposium by the Humanities Department at Columbus State Community College and East Asian Studies Center at Ohio State University, September 30
- 2022 (panel organizer) “Extending K-pop Narratives: The Influence of the British New Wave, Gender, and Nationalism” by Wonseok Lee, Hyunseok Kwon, and Grace Kao. International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM) XXI 2022 Conference in Daegu, South Korea, July 8
- 2022 (invited) “Ethnomusicological approach to Korean Studies,” in *Methods in Korean Studies* class at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, April 17
- 2022 (invited) “Sounds beyond Currents,” School of Theater, Film & Television at UCLA, April 14
- 2022 “Sounds beyond Currents: The Impact of the South Korean Government on Musical Diversity of K-pop,” paper presentation at the annual meeting of the AAS in Honolulu, Hawaii, March 26
- 2022 (invited) “Introduction to Korean popular music, K-pop” In *Race and Place in British New Wave, K-Pop, and Beyond* class at Yale University, March 14
- 2022 (invited) “Sounds beyond Currents” at *Korea Remixed Festival* at Indiana University, February 25
- 2022 (invited) “Global Sensation of Korean Popular Music: What makes K-pop *K-pop*?” for an event in the Cultural and Community Centers at Virginia Tech, February 15
- 2021 “‘This Is How We Support K-pop Stars’: From Unilateral Support to Mutually Inspired Partnership,” at the Inaugural Conference of the Korean Studies Research Network at University of Iowa, November 6
- 2021 “Industrial Hip-hop against Hip-hop Industry: The Critical Sound of XXX,” paper presented at the virtual annual meeting of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM) US, May 20

2021	“This Is How We Support K-pop Stars: Focusing on BTS Fans’ One In An ARMY Charity Project,” paper presented at the virtual annual meeting of the AAS, March 26
2020 (co-organizer)	EASC/IKS “Popular Music and Social Activism Between South Korea and the US: From Civil Rights Protest Songs to K-Pop and Black Lives Matter,” at Ohio State University, Oct 14
2020	“This Is How We Support K-pop Stars: Focusing on BTS Fans’ One In An ARMY Charity Project,” paper presented at the 1 st Korean Studies Young Scholars Graduate Student Conference (KSYSGSC), University of Pennsylvania, Feb 21
2019	“Beyond Korean: K-pop as ‘Kommunity-pop,’” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM), in Bloomington IN, November 7
2019	“Industrial Hip-hop Against Hip-hop Industry: The Critical Sound of XXX,” paper presented at 2019 Korean Hip-Hp and New Explorations of Afro-Asian Identity Conference hosted by the Center for Critical Korean Studies, School of Humanities, University of California, Irvine, Oct 7
2019	“Diversity of K-pop focusing on Musical Genre,” paper presented at IASPM biennial Conference in Canberra, Australia, June 24-28
2019	“Breaking the Norm: Diversity of K-pop,” paper presented at the National Conference of Popular Culture Association (PCA) in Washington D.C., April 18
2018	“Diversity of K-pop focusing on musical genre,” at the annual local meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the Society of Ethnomusicology (CSA/MIDSEM) in Bloomington, April 21
2018	“The Meaning of non-Korean musicians in K-pop,” at the Popular Culture Association (PCA) National Conference in Indianapolis, March 29

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

2023	The Johnstone Award by the School of Music at OSU
2022	Korean Studies Grant (Individual Academic Research) by the Academy of Korean Studies
2022	Louise Zung-Nyi Loh Memorial Scholarship, East Asian Studies Center at OSU
2021	Ray Travel Award, Council of Graduate Students at OSU
2021	Research paper selected “The meaning of <i>Nakwon</i> Arcade in Korean Popular Music”, The 6 th RIKS Academy for Young Korean Studies Scholars, Korea University

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE (Selected)

Drum & Percussion (Professional)

2017	The Afro-Caribbean Ensemble Concert, Bryan Recital Hall, Bowling Green, OH, USA, Oct 30
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2015	<i>Lee Ju hang “Daegeum Graphy”</i> Performance, National Theater of Korea, May 31
2014	Green Plugged Festival Seoul <i>Honey G</i> session, Seoul, Jun 1
2013	<i>BuskerBusker</i> tour session, various Concert halls in various Cities in Korea, Oct–Nov
2013	MBC Radio Program, <i>Bae Chul-Soo’s Music Camp</i> , Seoul, Jun 28
2013	<i>Lee Hyori</i> Muse in City Festival session, Olympic Park, Seoul, Jun 15
2013	<i>Lee Hyori “Miss Korea” Music Video</i>
2013	<i>M.net TV program “2Hyori Show”</i> session, KINTEX, Ilsan, May 22
2012	<i>SG wannabe Asia Tour</i> Concert session, Seoul, Daegu, Busan, Tokyo, Kobe, and Osaka in Korea & Japan
2009-2011	<i>Super Star K</i> (K-pop audition program) aired by M.net TV House Band

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

2024–present	Member at Large for AKMR (Association for Korean Music Research) at SEM (Society for Ethnomusicology)
2024–present	Reviewer, <i>IASPM Journal</i> (International Association for the Study of Popular Music)
2024–present	Reviewer, <i>KJC</i> (Korean Journal of Communication)
2023–present	Reviewer, <i>Korea Journal</i>
2022–present	Reviewer, <i>Korean Journal of Popular Music</i>
2020–2022	Program committee for the XXI biannual IASPM Conference in Daegu, South Korea
2018–present	Treasurer, IASPM Korea Branch

CERTIFICATES

2015	Culture & Arts Education Instructor, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Korea
2015	Art Pass Card, Arts Council Korea

LANGUAGES

Korean	Native
English	Fluent
Japanese	Intermediate