Taewoo Kang

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(Last update: July, 2025)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Large Language Models, Platformization, Digital Politics, Algorithmic Gatekeeping, Civic Infrastructure, Computational Methods, Mediation/Moderation

EDUCATIONS

2022-present **Ph.D Candidate** in Communication Arts and Sciences, Information and Media, ***Michigan State University***, East Lansing, Michigan, the U.S.
Committee: Kjerstin Thorson (chair), Tim Vos, Dan Hiaeshutter-Rice, Wei Peng.
[GPA 4.0] [Phi Kappa Phi (Invited in 2024)]

2019-2020 **M.Sc.** (Research Master's) in Communication Science (Political Comm.),
University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
Supervisor: Judith Möller.
[Distinction (Highest Honor)]

2009-2010 **Exchange Program** in Media, Cognition and Communication,
University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.
Academic Reference: Klaus Bruhn Jensen.

2005-2011 **B.A**. in Mass Communication,
Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea
2nd Semester, 2006 [Highest Honors]
1st Semester, 2009 [High Honors]

PUBLICATIONS

[7] **Kang, T.** (2025). Empowered by Curation: Spatial Differentiation in the Interrelationship Between Social Media Political Curation, Political Competence, and Trust—The Case of Michigan. *Communication Research*, 0. https://doi.org/10.1177/00936502241311943

[6] **Kang, T.**, Battocchio, A.F., Thorson, K., Dong, C., & Sharma, P. (2025). Trade-Offs in a Bigger Pie: How the Relationships Between Digital Civic Infrastructure and Political Participation Vary Across Rural and Urban Communities in the US—The Case of Michigan. *Information, Communication & Society, 0.* https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2025.2524579

[5] **Kang, T.**, Thorson, K., & Pak, C. (2025). Truth Default or Generalized Skepticism? The Role of Overconfidence in the Relationship Between Social Media News Use and Traditional Media Use. *Social Media + Society, 11*(1). 20563051251315255. https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051251315255

[4] **Kang, T.**, Thorson, E., & Mourão, R. (2025). Subtle divergence, distinct paths: partisan variations in verification approaches. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, 1-18. https://doi.org/10.1080/19331681.2025.2511051

[3] **Kang, T**., & Thorson, K. (2024). Who would extraterrestrials side with if they were watching us on social media? *U.S. Election Analysis 2024: Media, Voters and the Campaign* (p. 102). In Ed. D. Jackson et al. Centre for Comparative Politics and Media Research, Bournemouth University. https://www.electionanalysis.ws/us/

[2] Edgerly, S., Chen, Y., Thorson, K., & **Kang, T.** (2024). Everyone Has an Opinion and there are No Rules: How US Journalists Articulate the Impact of Social Media on Journalism. *Journalism Studies*, 1-19. https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2023.2246075

[1] Kim, J., Bang, H., Shin, W., **Kang, T.**, Gwan, M., Kim, J. (2011). A study on correlation between smart media efficacy and effectiveness of learning through iPad. *Proceedings of HCI Korea,* 1019-1024.

WORKING PAPERS

[7] **Kang, T.**, Vos, T., Hanitzsch, T., Thurman, N., Henkel, I., Thäsler-Kordonouri, S. & Loosen, W. (2025). Going with the Mainstream: Exploring GPT Representation of Journalistic Culture. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*. [Re-submitted]

[6] **Kang, T.**, Thorson, K., Peng, T., Hiaeshutter-Rice, D., Lee, S. & Soroka, S. (2025). Embracing Dialectic Intersubjectivity: Coordination of Differential Perspectives in Content Analysis with LLM Persona Simulation. *Social Science Computer Review*. [Re-submitted]

[5] Vos, T., Mourão, R., Thorson, E., Robertson, R., & **Kang, T.** (2025). Journalistic epistemologies and journalism culture in the US, *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*. [Under R&R]

[4] **Kang, T.** (2025). Development of a Generic Scale for Artificial Intelligence Cognitive Offloading Propensity. *Technology, Pedagogy and Education*. [Under Review]

[3] **Kang, T.**, Dong, C., & Thorson, K. (2025) "I'll Be Okay as I Am Not Alone": How Interpersonal Neighborhood Storytelling Enhances Residents' Well-being—Evidence from Michigan. [In Progress]

[2] Lee, H., **Kang., T.**, & Park, S. (2025). Developing and Validating the Self-Oriented Model of Digital Publics (SOMP) Scale: A Multi-Public, Multi-Phase Study [In Progress]

[1] Vos, T., **Kang, T.**, Thorson, E., Mourão, R., & Antolini, M. (2024). Place Matters: Variations in U.S. Journalism Culture. [In Progress]

THESIS

MSc's: Imagination Evoking Delusion: How Technological Affordances of Social Media Platforms Lead Users to Obtain Surveillance Gratification Through News-Finds-Me Perception. *University of Amsterdam.* Reviewed by Judith Möller and Linda Bos *(Distinction)* Link↗

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS ([n]* *Top paper awarded*)

[12] **Kang, T**., Thorson, K., Peng, T., Hiaeshutter-Rice, D., Lee, S. & Soroka, S. (2025). Embracing Dialectic Intersubjectivity: Coordination of Different Perspectives in Content Analysis with LLM Persona Simulation. *The 75rd Annual Conference of the ICA.*

Computational Methods Division. 2025. Denver, CO.

[11] **Kang, T.** (2025). Development of a Generic Scale for Artificial Intelligence Cognitive Offloading Propensity. *The 75rd Annual Conference of the ICA. Communication & Technology Division. 2025.* Denver, CO.

[10] **Kang, T.**, Vos, T., Hanitzsch, T., Thurman, N., & Henkel, I. (2024). AI in the Shoes of Journalists: Which Journalists' Perspectives Do LLMs Reflect? *The 10th International Journal of Press/Politics (IJPP) Conference. 2024. Edinburgh, UK.*

[9]* Kang, T., Battocchio, A.F., Thorson, K., Dong, C., & Sharma, P. (2024). Trade-Offs in a Bigger Pie: How the Relationships Between Digital Civic Infrastructure and Political Participation Vary Across Rural and Urban Communities in the US—The Case of Michigan. *The 74rd Annual Conference of the ICA. Political Communication Division. 2024. Gold Coast, Australia.*

[8] **Kang, T.** (2024). Empowered by Curation: Addressing Spatial Polarization of Political Trust through Social Media Political Personalization Acts. *AEJMC. Political Communication Division. 2024.* Philadelphia, PA.

[7]* Kang, T., Thorson, E., & Mourão, R. (2024). Curated Verification: Partisan Differences in Audiences' Information Validation Strategies. *AEJMC. 2024.* Philadelphia, PA.

[6] Kang, T., Battocchio, A.F., Dong, C. & Thorson, K. (2024). The Multidimensionality of being "Rural": Geography, Media Use, and Mental Health. *AEJMC. 2024.* Philadelphia, PA.

[5]* Vos, T., **Kang, T.**, Thorson, E., Mourão, R., & Antolini, M. (2024). Place Matters: Variations in U.S. Journalism Culture. *AEJMC. 2024.* Philadelphia, PA.

[4] Mourão, R., Vos, T., Thorson, E., Antolini, M., & **Kang, T.** (2024). Beyond Survey: Challenges and Possibilities of Connecting Worlds of Journalism to Other Datasets, Methods and Epistemologies. *AEJMC. 2024.* Philadelphia, PA.

[3]* Kang, T. (2023). Users as Naïve Scientists: Decoding the networked authenticity of political information. *AEJMC. 2023. Washington D.C.*

[2] **Kang, T.**, Thorson, K., & Pak, C. (2023). "Is it authentic?": The role of overconfidence in the relationship between social media news use and institutional media use. *The 73rd Annual Conference of the ICA. 2023. Toronto, Canada.*

[1] Edgerly, S., Chen, Y., Thorson, K., & **Kang, T.** (2023). Elaborated negativity: How U.S. journalists assess the impact of social media. *The 73rd Annual Conference of the ICA. 2023. Toronto, Canada.*

AWARDS / GRANTS (YYYY* *Top paper awarded*)

<u>ACADEMIC</u>

2025   Dissertation Completion Fellowship,
Michigan State University, Graduate School
-    Grant: USD <u>4185.5</u>

2024*   Top Student-led Paper Award, Political Communication Division,
the 74th Annual ICA Conference, Gold Coast, Australia.

- 1st Author
- with Ava Francesca Battocchio; Kjerstin S. Thorson; Chuqing Dong; Pooja Sharma

2024   Michael Haley Travel Grant, the 74th Annual ICA Conference
- Grant: USD 1,250

2024   ICA Political Communication Division Travel Award
- Grant: USD 500

2024*   Top Faculty Paper (Second place), Newspaper and Online News Division,
AEJMC, 2024. Philadelphia, PA.
- 1st Author
- with Esther Thorson; Rachel Mourao
- Grant: USD 350

2024*   Top Faculty Paper, Community Journalism Interest Group,
AEJMC, 2024. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2nd Author
- with Tim Vos; Esther Thorson; Rachel Mourao; Marialina Antolini

2024   Graduate Office Fellowship: Conference Travel Grant for ICA2024,
Michigan State University, Communication Arts & Sciences Dean's Office
- Grant: USD $2,768

2024   Summer Research Funding, Michigan State University,
Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Title: AI Cognitive Offloading
- Supervisor: Dr. Maria Molina
- Grant: USD 2,505.27

2024   Janet L. Loria Scholarship, Michigan State University,
Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 940

2023*   Chaffe-Mcleod Top Paper Award, Comm. Theory & Methodology Division,
AEJMC, 2023. Washington D.C.
- Sole Author
- Grant: USD 250

2023   Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award,
National Honor Society in Journalism and Mass Communication,
AEJMC, 2023. Washington D.C.
- Grant: USD 113

2023   Graduate Office Fellowship: Conference Travel Grant for AEJMC2023,
Michigan State University, Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 1,551

2023   Summer Research Funding, Michigan State University,
Department of Advertising & Public Relation

- Title: Incidental News Apathy
- Supervisor: Dr. Esther Thorson
- Grant: USD 2,980

2023   Graduate Office Fellowship: Conference Travel Grant ICA 2023,
         Michigan State University, Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 1,500

2023   Bonnie B. Reece Graduate Scholarship, Michigan State University,
         Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 1,000

2022   Kaplan Fellowship, Michigan State University,
         Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 4,000

2021   Research Funding Grant, Seoul Foundation of Arts and Culture,
- Title: Reactions on Social Media to Relaxation of Social Distancing
- Grant: KRW 3m (Approx. 2,600 USD equivalent)

2009   University Designated Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Yonsei University,
- Grant: KRW 1.8m (Approx. 1,500 USD equivalent)

2006   University Designated Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Yonsei University,
- Grant: KRW 3.5m (Approx. 3,000 USD equivalent)

NON-ACADEMIC (Literary / Journalism)

2019   25th Munhakdongne Novel Award,
- Title of the Book: Shortest Path [최단경로] (Kang, 2019)
- Grant: KRW 50m (Approx. 43,000 USD equivalent)

2017   Best Program of the Year, SBS Committee of the Press Ombudsman,
- Sisters' Radio (Contribution to Gender Equality)

2013   Shortlisted for 25th Korea Producer Award for the Experimenting Spirit,
- Nomination Title: Master of the Music

2011   140th Producer of the Month, Korean Producers & Directors' Association,
- Award-Winning Title: A Single Mom: Everybody's Family

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

2025-present   Research Assistant, _American Community Project_

2024-present   Research Affiliate, _Worlds of Journalism Study_ **U.S. Team**.

2022-present   Brandt Political Communication Research Assistant, _Civic Infrastructure Lab_,
         Michigan State University

2021-2022   Researcher, Local Government Project,
         Kangwon National University, _S. Korea_
- Project: A research for facilitating metaverse industry
- Role: Co-author (Project-led: Dr. Mina Park)

2019-2020   Research Internship, _Computational Communication Science Amsterdam_,

University of Amsterdam, *the Netherlands*
- Project: Tracking the filter bubble (Advisor: Dr. Judith Möller)
- Role: Network analysis on Twitter and literature review

TEACHING & INVITED TALKS

Michigan State University
ADV 442 Digital Analytics (TA). 2024 - 2025

University of Florida
Artificial Intelligence Research (AIR) group (Invited Research Talk),
Embracing Dialectic Intersubjectivity: Coordination of Different Perspectives in Content Analysis with LLM Persona Simulation. Mar 7, 2025.

Korea University (Seoul, Korea)
JMCO248 Introduction to Media Data Science (Guest Lecture),
Large Language Model Augmentation. May 31, 2025 (Scheduled)

Kangwon National University (Korea)
Professional Journalism (Guest Lecture). July, 2022.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

REVIEWER

Selected Journal Review

[4] *Nature Portfolio: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. July, 2025

[3] *Nature Portfolio: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. Jun, 2025

[2] *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*. Mar, 2025

[1] *New Media & Society*. July, 2023.

Selected Conference Review

[6] Computational Methods & Political Communication Divisions for *the 75th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA).* 2025.

[5] Communication Theory & Methodology Division for *the 108th Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).* 2025.

[4] Political Communication & Journalism Studies Division for *the 74th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA).* 2024.

[3] Political Communication & Communication Theory and Methodology Division for *the 107th Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).* 2024.

[2] Journalism Studies Division for *the 73rd Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA).* 2023.

[1] Communication Theory & Methodology Division for *the 106th Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).* 2023.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
- DEI Representative, Information and Media Ph.D. program, *Michigan State University,* 2023-2024.

PROFESSIONAL/INDUSTRY EXPERIENCES

2010-2018   Radio Producer,
             SBS (a national TV and Radio network in Korea),
             - Selected Programs:
                        2017-2018   Sisters' Radio (Entertainment Show), Producer
                        2012-2013   Cultwo Show (Talk Show), Associate Producer
                        2011   Section Radio (Economic News), Producer
                        2010   SBS Observatory (News), Assistant Producer
2009   Correspondent Reporter, The Korea Herald,
             The Herald Media, Inc., (a major newspaper corp in Korea)
             - Covering 2009 UNFCCC Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark (COP15 and CMP5)

SKILLS

Language   Korean (native), English
Computer   Python, R, SPSS, AMOS, ATLAS.ti
Format   APA, MLA, IEEE, Chicago Style
Apps   Tobii Eye-Tracker, Noldus FaceReader, Adobe Platforms, Pro-Tools