

KUN LEE

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Tony Atkinson Fellow, LIS Cross-National Data Center; Research Associate, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)	2024-Present
Research Affiliate, Department of Social Policy and Intervention (DSPI), University of Oxford, UK	2025-Present
Visiting Researcher, Institute for Social Development and Policy Research, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea	August 2025

EDUCATION

DPhil	Social Policy, University of Oxford, UK	2020-2024
MSc	Comparative Social Policy (<i>Distinction</i>), University of Oxford, UK	2018-2019
BA	Social Welfare & Economics (<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>), Seoul National University, Republic of Korea	2012-2018

Visiting Research & Exchange

Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA (4 months, Host: Fabian Pfeffer)	2024
Finnish Centre for Pensions, Helsinki, Finland (1 month, Host: Kati Kuitto)	2023
Humboldt University of Berlin Germany (3 months, Host: Anette Fasang)	2023
University of Mannheim, Germany (4 months, Host: Bernhard Ebbinghaus)	2022
University College London, UK (Arts & Sciences, International Exchange)	2016-2017

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (* Corresponding author)

- Lee, K.** & Ebbinghaus, B. (forthcoming). ‘Converging or unequal retirement patterns? Late working lives, retirement trajectories, and pension income in Germany over three decades of cohorts’, *Social Forces*
- Oh, J., Son, S. & **Lee, K.*** (2025). ‘Exclusion from a ‘mandatory’ pension scheme: Late-stage dropouts from the National Pension System in South Korea’, *Journal of the Economics of Ageing*, 100578.
- Kim, K. & **Lee, K.** (2025). ‘Intra-couple allocation of paid and unpaid work, allocation perceptions, and life satisfaction in South Korea: An analysis based on the ‘equitable specialization’ framework’, *Korean Journal of Social Welfare*, 77(2), 213-237 [in Korean]
- Lee, K.** (2024). ‘Varying Effects of Public Pensions: Pension Spending and Old-age

Employment under Different Pension Regimes.' *Journal of European Social Policy*, 34(1).

- JESP/ESPA net Doctoral Researcher Prize 2023 (Best Paper)
- SASE 2023 Early Career Workshop Award

Lee, K. (2022). 'Old-age Poverty in a Pension Latecomer: The Impact of Basic Pension Expansions in South Korea', *Social Policy & Administration*, 56(7), 1022-1040.

Lee, K. & Zaidi, A. (2020). 'How policy configurations matter: a critical look into pro-natal policy in South Korea based on a gender and family framework', *International Journal of Sociology & Social Policy*, 40(7/8), 589-606.

Book Chapters

Kuitto, K. & **Lee, K.** (2025). 'How to make extending working lives in ageing welfare states socially sustainable', in M. Vaalavuo, K. Nelson & K. Kuitto (eds.), *Social Sustainability in Ageing Welfare States*, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

Ebbinghaus, B. & **Lee, K.** (2023). 'From early retirement to later exit from work: shifting towards active ageing', in D. Clegg & N. Durazzi (eds.), *Handbook of Labour Market Policy in Advanced Democracies*, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

Selected Working Papers

Old and new welfare states retaining older workers in the face of crisis: The case of COVID-19 in Europe (single author; Revise & Resubmit, *Socio-Economic Review*).

Context matters: The role of family policies shaping fertility and women's labor force participation across policy regimes (with Eunho Cha & Stacie Tao; *under review*)

Wealth inequality and welfare states: Pension systems, the public-private mix, and augmented wealth in old age (with Javier Olivera & Philippe Van Kerm)

Technological change, workers' anxiety, and pension savings behavior (with Ludivine Martin & Thuc-Uyen Nguyen-Thi)

A fragile social contract: The politics of an unpopular pension reform in South Korea (with Dong-kyun Im)

AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Social Policy Association Travel Grant (EASP-SPA Joint Annual Conference)	2025
KFAS-Salzburg Global Fellowship	2024
SustAgeable Consortium Project Grant, Helsinki, Finland	2023
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Doctoral Dissertation Grant	2023
JESP/ESPA net Doctoral Researcher Prize (Best Paper)	2023
SASE Early Career Workshop Award	2023
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Short-term Research Grant	2022
ICPSR Summer Program Scholarship for Public Administration, Public Policy, and Public Affairs, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA	2022

Centenary Scholarship, DSPI, University of Oxford, UK	2020
Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS) Doctoral Fellowship	2020
Republic of Korea Government Scholarship for Study Overseas	2018

SEMINARS & INVITED TALKS

- ‘The Luxembourg Income and Wealth Study: Introduction and Applications to Comparative Inequality Research’, Special Lecture at the Annual Symposium of the *Korean Inequality Research Network*, 16 July 2025
- ‘Pension systems and wealth inequality in old age: Revisiting the Paradox of Redistribution’, *Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy*, University of Antwerp, 15 May 2025; (*LIS*)²ER-SHARE Workshop: *Pensions and Old-age Well-being*, 27-28 November 2025
- ‘Technological change, workers’ anxiety, and pension savings behavior’, *East Asian Political Economy Workshop*, King’s College London, 26 June 2025
- ‘Convergence or continued stratification? Late working lives and retirement trajectories in Germany’, *Sequence Analysis Association Webinar Series*, 17 October 2024; *LISER Seminar Series*, Luxembourg, 7 November 2024
- ‘Panel Data Analysis’, *DSPI Methods Meetup*, University of Oxford, 18 October 2023
- ‘Introduction to the South Korean Pension System: History, Current State and Challenges’, *ETK Research Seminar*, Finnish Centre for Pensions, Helsinki, 4 October 2023
- ‘The Impact of Basic Pension Expansions on Older People’s Income and Poverty in South Korea’, *BSA Social Statistics Group Brown Bag* (online), 30 September 2021

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- LIS2ER-SHARE Luxembourg Joint Workshop, Luxembourg, November 27-28 2025
- ISI Wealth Inequality Conference, Munich, Germany, October 9-11
- Research on East Asian Demography & Inequality, Seoul, Korea, July 18-19
- Social Policy Association Annual Conference, York, UK, July 2-4
- Netspar International Pension Workshop, Leiden, Netherlands, June 18-20
- PAA Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA, April 11-13
- ISA-RC28 Spring Meeting, Milan, Italy, March 25-27
- Comparative Economic Inequality Conference, Luxembourg, February 27-28
- Annual ESPAnet Conference, Tampere, Finland, August 28-30 2024
- EASP-FIIS Joint Annual Conference, Kyoto, Japan, June 13-14
- PAA Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, USA, April 17-20 (poster)
- Annual ESPAnet Conference, Warsaw, Poland, September 7-9 2023
- ISA-RC28 Summer Meeting, Ann Arbor, MI, USA, August 17-20 (poster)
- SASE Annual Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 20-22
- Social Policy Association Annual Conference, Nottingham, UK, July 5-7
- ISA-RC28 Spring Meeting, Paris, France, May 24-26

ESPAnt PhD Workshop, Berlin, Germany, March 16-17	
ESA-RN26 Mid-term Conference, Berlin, Germany, October 7-8	2022
Annual ESPAnet Conference, Vienna, Austria, September 14-16	
FISS Annual Conference, Sigtuna, Sweden, June 6-7	
Annual ESPAnet Conference, online, September 1-3	2021
BSA Work, Employment & Society Conference, online, August 25-27	
EASP-FISS Joint Annual Conference, online, July 2-4	
EASP Annual Conference, Taipei, Taiwan, July 2-3	2019

TEACHING

<i>LIS Summer Workshop, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg</i>	
(Macro-) Panel Data Analysis using LIS data – <i>Instructor</i>	Summer 2025
<i>University of Oxford, Oxford, UK</i>	
Social Policy (Undergraduate) – <i>Seminar Leader</i>	Fall 2023; 2021-2022
Quantitative Analysis (Postgraduate) – <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Fall 2023
Training for Advanced Teaching & Learning, Higher Education Academy (UK Professional Standards Framework)	Winter/Spring 2022
<i>University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany</i>	
Reform Dynamics in European Welfare States (Undergraduate) – <i>Co-Instructor</i> (with Bernhard Ebbinghaus)	Spring 2023
‘Analyzing Panel Data in Comparative Research’ – <i>Guest Lecturer</i> for Comparative Research Methods (Graduate)	Fall 2022

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Journal Referee: Ageing & Society, Asian Social Work & Policy Review, International Journal of Social Welfare, International Journal of Sociology & Social Policy, Journal of the Economics of Ageing, Journal of Governmental Studies, Nature Scientific Data, Poverty & Public Policy, Social Policy & Administration, Social Science Research, Socius	
Core Member, Pensions Policy Research Group, Social Policy Association UK, 2023-Present	
Organizing Committee, (LIS) ² ER-SHARE Luxembourg Joint Workshop: “Pensions and Old-age Well-being: Policy Challenges in Ageing Societies”, 27-28 November 2025	
Organizing Committee, 5th (LIS) ² ER Workshop: “Fighting Poverty: Measurement and Policy Challenges”, 11-13 December 2024	
Organizing Committee, Symposium for Early Researchers in Social Policy & Intervention, Nuffield College, Oxford, 27 May 2022	
Co-chair, Young Scholar Session: Labour market and social policy responses to the pandemic, The COVID-19 Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) Conference, 6 October 2021	

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- 2nd KFAS-Salzburg Global Leadership Initiative: Technology, Growth & Inequality, 2024-25
Contributions to Oxford Supertracker: A global database for COVID-19 policy trackers
Organizing Committee, Oxford-Korea Forum, Wolfson College, Oxford, 12 November 2021
'Myths and Truths of the South Korean National Pension', *Oxford Korean Academic Society* Public Lecture Series, 1 December 2023
'Changes in European Countries', in Sang-jin Han (ed.), *An International Comparative Study on Citizen Participatory Governance Model and Health and Welfare Policies in the COVID-19 Era*, Policy Report for the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea
'Europe's Policy Responses to the Labour Market Crisis during the Pandemic', *Oxford Korean Academic Society* Public Lecture Series, 21 October 2021
Treasurer, Oxford Korean Academic Society, University of Oxford, 2020-21

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, University of Oxford, UK	2021
Research Assistant, Seoul National University, Korea	2021
Research Assistant, King's College London, UK	2020
Administrative Assistant, Seoul National University, Korea	2019-2020
IARU Global Intern, Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, Oxford, UK	2019
Social Work Trainee, Hanwoori Rehabilitation Center, Seoul, Korea	2018
Military Service, National Assembly Police Officer, Seoul, Korea	2014-2015

OTHER SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), Korean (native)

Statistical Software: R, Stata

REFERENCES**Bernhard Ebbinghaus**

Professor & Chair of Macrosociology
University of Mannheim
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Relationship: PhD Supervisor

Marek Naczyk

Associate Professor in Comparative Social Policy
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Relationship: PhD Faculty Mentor

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