Messi H.J. Lee

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Research Interests

AI Bias (e.g., Stereotyping in Large Language and Vision Language Models),
Behavioral Evaluation of LLMs, Computational Social Science, Text-as-data, Stereotyping, Prejudice

Experience

MTS Company | Technical Research Personnel | Republic of Korea   June 2025-

Developed end-to-end deep learning pipeline for automated medical report generation from whole slide images (WSIs), implementing Multiple Instance Learning (MIL) with attention mechanisms and Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG), demonstrating clinical-grade performance for assisting pathologists.

Education

Washington University in St. Louis | United States of America   May 2025
- PhD in Computational and Data Sciences (Psychological & Brain Sciences track)
- Dissertation titled, "Stereotyping in Language (Technologies): An Examination of Racial and Gender Stereotypes in Natural Language and Language Models" [[Link to Recording](#)]
- McDonnell International Scholar
- Graduate Student Affiliate, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology | Hong Kong   2017-2020
- BSc in Quantitative Social Analysis
- Capstone project titled, "Part-time Electoral Campaigns on Social Media"
- Academic Achievement Medal & First Class Honors

Full Conference & Journal Publications (Peer Reviewed)

Lee, M. H. J., Montgomery, J. M., & Lai, C. K. (June 2024). Large Language Models Portray Socially Subordinate Groups as More Homogeneous, Consistent with a Bias Observed in Humans. FAccT '24: Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency. [[Link](#)] [[Replication Materials](#)]

Lee, M. H. J., Montgomery, J. M., & Lai, C. K. (2024). America's racial framework of superiority and Americanness embedded in natural language. *PNAS Nexus*, pgad485. [[Link](#)] [[Replication Materials](#)]

Under Review

Lee, M. H. J., Montgomery, J. M., & Lai, C. K. (in prep.). Demographic Biases in Political Ideology Attribution by Vision-Language Models.

Lee, M. H. J. & Lai C. K. (under review). Implicit Bias-like Patterns in Reasoning Models. [[Pre-print](#)]

Lee, M. H. J., Jeon, S., Montgomery, J. M., & Lai, C. K. (in prep.). Visual Cues of Gender and Race are Associated with Stereotyping in Vision-Language Models. [Pre-print]

Lee, M. H. J. & Jeon S. (in prep.). Vision-Language Models Generate More Homogeneous Stories for Phenotypically Black Individuals. [Pre-print]

Work in Progress

PSA005 Team (in prep.). Stereotype Threat in Black College Students Across Many Operationalizations. [Stage 1 Report]

Lee, M. H. J., & Jeon S. (in prep.). Homogeneity Bias as Differential Sampling Uncertainty in Language Models. [Pre-print]

Lee, M. H. J. & Lai, C. K. (in prep.). Probability of Differentiation Reveals Brittleness of Homogeneity Bias in GPT-4. [Pre-print]

Workshop Publications (Lightly Peer-Reviewed)

Lee, M. H. J., Montgomery, J. M., & Lai, C. K. (2023). The Effect of Group Status on the Variability of Group Representations in LLM-generated Text. NeurIPS 2023 Socially Responsible Language Modelling Research (SoLaR) Workshop. [OpenReview]

Talks & Presentations

Lee, M. H. J. & Lai, C. K. (Feb 2025). Implicit Bias-like Patterns in Reasoning Models. The Political Data Science Lab Meeting @ Washington University in St. Louis.

Lee, M. H. J., Montgomery, J. M., & Lai, C. K. (Oct 2024). *GPT-4 Associates Distinctively Black Faces with Political Liberalism: Uncovering Political Bias at the Intersection of Race and Gender in AI*. The Political Data Science Lab Meeting @ Washington University in St. Louis.

Lee, M. H. J., Montgomery, J. M., & Lai, C. K. (June 2024). *Large Language Models Portray Socially Subordinate Groups as More Homogeneous, Consistent with a Bias Observed in Humans*. ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency 2024 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Lee, M. H. J., Montgomery, J. M., & Lai, C. K. (May 2024). *Large Language Models Portray Socially Subordinate Groups as More Homogeneous, Consistent with a Bias Observed in Humans*. Poster Presentation @ STL DataFest 2024 in St. Louis, MO.

Lee, M. H. J. (Mar 2024). *Large Language Models Portray Socially Subordinate Groups as More Homogeneous, Consistent with a Bias Observed in Humans*. TRIADS "Messy" Data Meeting @ Washington University in St.Louis.

Lee, M. H. J., Lai, C. K., & Montgomery, J. M. (Feb 2024). *Outgroup Homogeneity-like Effect in Large Language Models*. Poster presentation @ The Society of Personality and Social Psychology Conference in San Diego, CA. [Poster]

Lee, M. H. J., Lai, C. K., & Montgomery, J. M. (Dec 2023). *The Effect of Group Status on the Variability of Group Representations in LLM-generated Text*. Poster presentation @ NeurIPS 2023 Socially Responsible Language Modelling Research (SoLaR) Workshop in New Orleans, LA. [Poster]

Lee, M. H. J., Montgomery, J. M., & Lai, C. K. (Feb 2023). *A Test of the racial position model in natural language*. Poster presentation @ The Society of Personality and Social Psychology Conference in Atlanta, GA. [Poster]

Lee, M. H. J. (April 2022). *Racial/ethnic stereotypes in natural language*. Social and Personality Psychology Brown Bag @ Washington University in St.Louis.

Lee, M. H. J., & Lai, C. K. (Feb 2022). *The spread of stereotypes on social media*. Virtual poster presentation @ The Society of Personality and Social Psychology Conference.

Lee, M. H. J., Keller, F., & Yang, J. (Aug 2020). *Central coordination patterns distinguish AstroTurfing from grassroots campaigns*. Virtual poster presentation @ Politics and Computational Social Science & Political Networks.

Awards

Small Grant   2024
The Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity at WashU ($1,000)

Travel Grant   2024
ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency ($1,000)

OpenAI API Researcher Access Program   2024
OpenAI ($5,000)

Outstanding Research Award   2024
The Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Graduate Student Conference Travel Award   2023
The Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity at WashU ($750)

Winner and People's Choice of the Digital Transformation Track   2023
McDonnell International Scholars Academy ($3,000)

Small Grant   2022
The Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity at WashU ($900)

Diversity Graduate Travel/Registration Award   2022
The Society for Personality and Social Psychology ($500)

Academic Achievement Medal   2020

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Undergraduate Research Award Second Runner Up 2020
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Scholarship for Continuing Undergraduate Students 2019
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Scholarship for Continuing Undergraduate Students 2017 & 2018
Ng Hong Mun Educational Foundation

Teaching

Washington University in St.Louis, Assistant in Instruction 2023
Text as Data (Instructor: Dr. Brandon Stewart)

Washington University in St.Louis, Assistant in Instruction 2022-2023
Quantitative Methods I & II (Instructor: Dr. Shelly Cooper)

Skills

Natural Language Processing & Text-as-Data
- Behavioral evaluations of Large Language Models
- Fine-tuning (e.g., LoRA) and Prompting Large Language Models for downstream tasks
- Contextualized Embeddings and word embeddings
- Deep learning and natural language processing
- Text-as-data approaches (e.g., Structural Topic Models)

Computational Social Science & Psychology
- Survey experiments using Qualtrics, CloudResearch, MTurk, Prolific

Programming Languages and Packages Frequently Used
- python: PyTorch, HuggingFace, bitsandbytes, peft, sentence-transformers, transformers, openai, scikit-learn, gensim, numpy, pandas
- R: text, tidyverse, dplyr, ggplot2, psych, lme4, lmerTest, afex, simr

Work Experience

Research Assistant in Computational Social Science 2019-2020
- Worked on a pivotal project examining coordinated activity patterns of Twitter accounts involved in political astroturfing during the 2012 South Korean Presidential Election.
- Conducted Social Network Analysis of Twitter account activities using Gephi, GraphViz, and R programming language identifying anomalous retweet patterns unique to astroturfing campaigns.
- Uncovered critical insights into the tactics of digital political influence, enhancing the understanding of social media's role in election dynamics.

Student Researcher in Research Methods and Political Science 2019

- Led a research project analyzing sentiment of censored song lyrics during the Third and Fourth Republic of Korea, shedding light on the underlying socio-political sentiments of the time.
- Utilized state-of-the-art text-as-data approaches in Python and R to uncover distinctive sentiment patterns within censored lyrics and to draw correlations between the sentiments and the prevailing socio-political climate, contributing to a deeper understanding of historical censorship impacts.

Professional Service

Journal Reviews
- Journal of Language and Social Psychology (May 2025)
- Ethics and Information Technology (Apr 2025)
- Computers in Human Behavior: Artificial Humans (Nov 2024; Jan 2025)
- PLOS ONE (Dec 2024)
- Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin (March 2024)

Conference Reviews
- Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES) 2025
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Student Award Reviewer (2024)
- Socially Responsible Language Modelling Research (SoLaR) 2.0 Workshop at NeurIPS 2024
- Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) Student Research Workshop 2024
- Trustworthy Multi-modal Foundation Models and AI Agents (TiFA) Workshop at ICML 2024
- Socially Responsible Language Modelling Research (SoLaR) Workshop at NeurIPS 2023

Research Coverage & Recognition

Department of Political Science, Washington University in St.Louis ([Link](#))	2024
Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity ([Link](#))	2024