

Yeaji Kim

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Houston

Expected Completion: May 2017

- *Dissertation*: “Education and Democracy”
- *Committee*: Eduardo Alemán (chair), Pablo M. Pinto, Justin H. Kirkland, and David E. Campbell
- *Summary*: In my dissertation, I develop a general theory of the effect of education on democratic values and political participation, as well as these effects on democratic consolidation. Assessing conditions under which transitional states experience authoritarian reversal or democratic consolidation, I find that increasing educational attainment decreases the risk of democratic breakdown in transitional democracies. I also address how education has a positive influence on citizens’ democratic values, regardless of subnational regime type, by analyzing Mexican public opinion data. I investigate the explanations of voter turnout in the U.S. by focusing on the effect of generation and education. Contrary to existing studies, I demonstrate that voter turnout has remained relatively static by examining data over a longer time span from 1960 to 2012. I show that there is no generational effect on voter turnout. Also, I demonstrate that the positive effect of education on turnout diminishes over time. Finally, the competitive educational environment is not a significant predictor of voter participation in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. It is significant only in the post-2000 period.

Master of Arts, Political Science, University of Houston, May 2015

Master of Arts, Political Science, Ewha Womans University at Seoul, South Korea, February 2010

- *Thesis*: “A Study on the Hungarian Party System: An Analysis on the Complex Factors of Social Cleavages, Policies and Institutions.” (GPA: 3.69 / 4.00)

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Computer Science, Sungshin Women’s University at Seoul, South Korea, February 2008

- Most Outstanding Honors Graduate (GPA: 4.19 / 4.50)

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Kim, Yeaji, Leonardo Antenangeli, and Justin H. Kirkland. 2017. “Measurement Error and Attenuation Bias in Exponential Random Graph Models: A Simulation Study.” Forthcoming in *Statistics, Politics and Policy*.

Alemán, Eduardo and Yeaji Kim. 2015. “The Democratizing Effect of Education.” *Research and Politics*. Vol. 2 (4).

WORKING PAPERS

Simas, Elizabeth and Yeaji Kim. 2017. “More Equal Democracy? How Electoral Safety Impacts Economic Representation.” (Under Review)

ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Political Participation
Democratization
Political Culture
Quantitative Research Methodology

Latin America
East Asia

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“College Education and Voter Turnout in the United States: A Twin Study”

“College Education and Political Participation in South Korea”

“The Effect of Education on Democratic Values Under Different Regime Types: Western and Eastern Germany Compared”

“The Identity of Political Parties: An Analysis of Party Principles in South Korea”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor

- POLS 1336 — U.S. and Texas Constitutions and Politics, Summer 2017
- Department of Political Science, University of Houston

AWARDS/ GRANTS

SPSA Prestage-Cook Travel Award (\$300), 2016

MPSA Fee Waiver Scholarship (\$250), 2015

Conference Travel Funding from University of Houston (\$1,500), 2014-2016

Texas Public Education Grant (TPEG) for International student (\$1,300), 2014-2015

Korean American Scholarship Foundation (KASF) (\$1,000), 2013

Teaching Assistant Scholarship, Ewha Womans University (\$15,000), 2008-2009

Academic Excellence Awards, Sungshin Women’s University (\$24,000), 2004-2007

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2017. *Texas Methods Conference*, Houston, TX.

2017. *Southern Political Science Association*, New Orleans, LA.

- Panel: Individual-level Determinants of Public Opinion and Vote Choice

2016. *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL.

- Panel: Transition Toward Democracy

2016. *Southern Political Science Association*, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

- Panel: New Approaches to Participation
- Panel: Democratic Culture in Authoritarian Contexts

2015. *EITM Summer Institute*, Houston, TX.

2015. *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL.

- Panel: Education Participation Connections

2014. *American Political Science Association*, Washington, D.C.

- Panel: Voting Behavior in the Developing World

2014. *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL.

- Panel: Structural Determinants of Democracy and Democratization

SKILLS

R, STATA, LaTeX, SPSS, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

LANGUAGE

Native in Korean, fluent in English, and beginner in Spanish

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for The Hobby School of Public Affairs (HSPA), August 2016 - Present

- Analyzed the Hobby School of Public Affairs' demographic study for the 2016 Texas Lottery Commission. Provided explanations of who is most likely to engage in the state's lottery games.

Research Assistant for Political Party Database Working Group (PPDB) with Dr. Susan Scarrow, January 2013 - December 2015

- Surveyed an international team of experts on political parties of 17 European countries.
- Established a regularly updated, online, public database as a central source for key information about political party organization, party resources, leadership selection, and political participation within parties.

Research Assistant for The Local Elections in America Project (LEAP) with Dr. Melissa Marschall at Rice University, June 2015 - September 2015

- Collected data on the local election of each state in America.
- Researched the characteristics of elections, names of offices, levels of government, and types of offices.

Researcher for East Asia Institute, Seoul, Korea, 2010 - 2011

- Wrote a research paper, "Analysis of Civilian Massacres During the Korean War from the Perspective of International Law," at the request of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the Republic of Korea, in order to calculate appropriate compensation to the civilian victims of collateral damage during the war.
- Held conferences on East Asian Politics.

Teaching Assistant for Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea, 2008 - 2009

- Lectured about the mechanism and function of the National Assembly of Korea and Korean party politics to the undergraduate students at the "Special Lecture on Modern Korean Politics" and "What is Politics: Introduction to Political Science" in the 2009 Spring and Fall semesters.
- Prepared course materials for "Politics and Diplomacy of North Korea" in the 2008 Spring and Summer semesters, for instance, presenting films about North Korean politics and recruiting guest instructors, such as the Vice Minister of Unification and North Korean defectors.
- Provided advice and guidance to undergraduate students at the cyber campus of Ewha Womans University, such as how to write research papers and how to conduct quantitative and qualitative surveys.

Research Intern for East Asia Institute, Seoul, Korea, 2008 - 2009

- Drafted papers, “Living Condition of North Korean Refugees in Korea” and “How to Help Young North Korean Defectors to Overcome Physiological Trauma” at the request of the International Republican Institute.
- Interviewed about 80 North Korean defector students on a regular basis to follow the changes in their views on South Korean social and political phenomena.

Representative of Young Voters for Open Uri Party, Seoul, Korea, 2005 - 2006

- Drafted party platforms for the Uri Party’s Seosul Mayoral Candidate, Ms. Kang, Geumshil, who ran for nationwide regional election in 2006. - Designed campaign advertisements for her at the party’s broadcasting station.
- Held a number of seminars for young voters and, invited prominent politicians, including Prime Minister Lee, Hae-chan and Uri Party Leader Chung, Dong-young.

Intern for National Assembly of Korea, Seoul, Korea, 2005

- Inspected the Ministry of Public Administration and Security, Korea National Police Office, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy and 16 Local Governments for parliamentary state audit. Wrote questionnaires and reports to support the committee activities of Representative Jehang Woo.
- Wrote papers, such as “Government Organization Reform,” “Party Organization Reform,” and “Party Financial Law Reform Standards.”
- Held seminars and public hearings such as “Establishment of Free Economic Zone in Yellow Sea” and “Feasibility Study on Tax Levied to Energy Resources”
- Drafted a revision of the Act on Special Education for the Disabled Persons.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association
Southern Political Science Association

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Eduardo Alemán
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Justin H. Kirkland
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jhkirkland@central.uh.edu
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