

Yoonsoo Kim

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Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral Researcher, KDI School of Public Policy and Management, 2026-present.

Professional Appointments

Climate Diplomacy Associate, Solutions for Our Climate, 2025-2026.

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Minnesota, 2025.

M.A. Political Science and International Relations, Korea University, 2019.

B.A. Political Science and International Relations, Korea University, 2017.

Research Interests

Environmental Politics, Climate Change, City Diplomacy, Transnational Municipal Network

Human Rights, International Law

Publication

“Same Policy, Different Dreams: Explaining the Variation in Local Net-zero Policy Stringency in South Korea”, with Inhwon Ko and Gyuhan Kim. 2025, *Climate Policy*, 26(2): 77-91.

“Translocal Climate Club as A Wall of Fame? A Panel Study on the US Cities’ Membership in Global Covenant of Mayors, 2014-2024”, with Inhwon Ko. *Policy Sciences*, 58(3): 563-580.

Selected Working Papers

“The Causes and Consequences of Outsourcing Nationally Determined Contributions”, with Tanisha Fazal and Maria Sanchez.

“Beyond Membership: Climate-Dedicated Staff and Policy Outputs in Transnational Municipal Networks”, with Inhwon Ko.

“Selective Tendency of Targets of Political Apology: Collective Shame vs. Collective Guilt”, co-authoring with Jiyeon Kim.

“Symbolic or Substantive? The Effects of Carbon Neutrality Ordinances on Local Climate Policy Outcomes in South Korea”, co-authoring with Inhwon Ko and Yeong Jae Kim.

“Do Cities Listen? Citizen Climate Attitudes and Local Policy Responsiveness in the United States”, co-authoring with Minyoung Kim.

“Need, Merit or Interest? Determinants of Bilateral Climate Finance Allocation to the Global South for Adaptation and Mitigation”, co-authoring with Richmond Kwadwo Fosu and Yeong Jae Kim.

“Why Cities Join Environmental Transnational Municipal Networks: Political Ideology, Geographic Vulnerability, and the Limits of Climate Risk”, solo-authored, Under Review.

“Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down: How Monitoring System Architecture Shapes State Compliance with Derogation Clauses in International Human Rights Treaties”, solo-authored.

Conference Presentation History

“The Causes and Consequences of Outsourcing Nationally Determined Contributions”, with Tanisha Fazal and Maria Sanchez., presented at the APSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, United States, September 5-7, 2024

“Same Policy, Different Dreams: Explaining the Variation in Local Net-zero Policy Stringency in South Korea”, with Inhwon Ko and Gyuhwan Kim., presented at the KAPA, South Korea, June 20, 2024

“Cities’ Commitment to Environmental Transnational Municipal Networks”, presented at the 80th Annual MPSA Conference in Chicago, Illinois, United States, April 13-16, 2023.

“Selective Tendency of Targets of Political Apology: Collective Shame vs. Collective Guilt”, presented at the 80th Annual MPSA Conference in Chicago, Illinois, United States, April 13-16, 2023.

“Cities’ Commitment to Environmental Transnational Municipal Networks”, presented at the 64th ISA Annual Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada, March 15-18, 2023.

“Seeking Apology for Children of War: Case Studies on Lebensborn and Lai Dai Han”, presented at the 63rd ISA Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, United States, March 28-April 2, 2022.

“Diffusion of the Air Defense Identification Zone: Same Diffusion, Different Mechanisms”, presented at the 2021 IS-SSS Joint Annual Conference, Bloomington, Indiana, United States, November 12-14, 2021.

“The Conditions of States’ Conforming to the Derogation Clauses in International Human Rights Treaties”, presented at the 2019 World Congress for Korean Politics and Society, The Korean Political Science Association, Konkuk University, Seoul, Korea, 2019.

“Determinants of State Repression”, presented at the Social Science Korea Networking Conference, E-Symposium, Seoul, Korea, 2017.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

College of Liberal Arts Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (CLA DDF), \$12,500, Granted by the University of Minnesota, 2023-2024.

Duvall Fellowship in International Relations, \$2,500, Granted by the University of Minnesota, Summer 2023.

Claggett Graduate Research Fellowship, \$2,010, Granted by the University of Minnesota, Summer 2023.

Travel Grants for Conference Presentation, \$1,000, Granted by the University of Minnesota, 2023.

Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship (GRPP), \$4,000, Granted by the University of Minnesota, Summer 2022.

Claggett Graduate Research Fellowship, \$3,000, Granted by the University of Minnesota, Summer 2022.

Travel Grants for Conference Presentation, \$400, Granted by the University of Minnesota, 2022.

Travel Grants for Conference Presentation, \$400, Granted by the University of Minnesota, 2021.

College of Liberal Arts Graduate Fellowship (CLAGF), \$21,000, Granted by the University of Minnesota, 2019-2020.

Research Assistant Scholarships, Granted by Korea University, 2018.

General Scholarships, Granted by Korea University, 2017.

Outstanding New Student Scholarship, Granted by Korea University, 2017.

Research Assistant Fellowship, Granted by Social Science Korea Human Rights Forum, 2017-2019.

Honors Scholarships, Granted by Korea University, 2013.

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Professor Tanisha Fazal, University of Minnesota, Spring 2024.

Research Associate, Professor Hun Joon Kim, Social Science Korea Human Rights Forum, 2017-2019.

Research Assistant, Professor Hun Joon Kim, Korea University, 2018.

Researcher, International Council for Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Korea Office, 2023.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

POL 3810 Global Politics of Climate Change, Professor Tanisha Fazal, Spring 2024.

POL 3309 U.S. Supreme Court Decision-Making, Process, and Politics, Professor Timothy Johnson, Spring 2023.

POL 1026 U.S. Foreign Policy, Professor Tracey Blasenheim, Fall 2022.

POL 3423 Politics of Disruption: Violence and Its Alternatives, Professor Anoop Sarbahi, Fall 2022.

POL 3835 International Relations, Professor Cosette Creamer, Spring 2021, Spring 2022

POL 3235 Democracy and Citizenship, Professor Anuja Bose, Fall 2021

POL 1025 Global Politics, Professor Tanisha Fazal, Fall 2020

Professional Development

Invited Lecture on "Same Policy, Different Dreams – Local Climate Governance in Korea and Beyond", Spring 2026, Chung-Ang University

Invited Lecture on "Cities' Engagement in Global Climate Change Politics", Spring 2024, University of Minnesota.

Completion of Fundamentals of Disability Accommodations and Inclusive Course Design, Spring 2023.

Completion of Teaching with Access & Inclusion Program, Fall 2022.

Invited Lecture on "The Political Economy of Climate", in POL 3835 International Relations, April 2022.

Practicum in University Teaching for Nonnative English Speakers, Fall 2021.

Completion of the Teaching Assistant and Postdoc Professional Development Program, Fall 2021.

Certificate of Dedication to Student Learning, Fall 2020.

Service

Referee Activities

Climate Policy, Scientific Reports, Environmental Economics and Policy Studies, Journal of Global Politics

Memberships

American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Korea Chair

2023 NextGen Young Leader, The 3.0: The Next Generation of the U.S.- ROK Alliance, with support from the U.S. Embassy Seoul and State Department, 2023

University of Minnesota

Graduate Student Representative on Harold E. Stassen Chair in World Peace Faculty Search Committee, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Graduate Student Representative on Political Science Graduate Program Coordinator (GPC) Search Committee, Summer 2022

Coordinator, International Relations Colloquium, 2020-2021

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Virtual-only observer in Bonn Climate Conference (SB58), June 5-15, 2023

International Council for Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Korea Office

Virtual-only observer in Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) East Asia Regional Conference, April 18-19, 2023

Researcher, June 2023 - August 2023.

United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute (ONEA & GETI)

Trainee of “Making Cities Resilient and Tools for Urban Resilience for Public and Private Sectors”, Incheon, South Korea, August 15-16, 2023.

Language and Software Proficiencies

Korean (native), English (advanced), Japanese (beginner)

R, Stata, L^AT_EX

References

Dr. Tanisha Fazal (Advisor)

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