DAMIN LEE

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EDUCATION

Korea University

2027 M.A., Political Science and International Relations (expected)
Thesis (in progress): "Political Connection and Firm Nationality in Climate Rulemaking"
Advisor: Sung Eun Kim

2025 B.A., Political Science and International Relations;
Unification and International Peace (Interdisciplinary Major)
Graduated with Great Honor

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Political Economy, Politics of International Trade, Climate and Energy Politics, Industrial Policy, Multinational Firms, Regulatory Politics, Quantitative Methods

WORKING PAPERS

Political Connection and Firm Nationality in Climate Rulemaking

- This paper argues that climate rulemaking can become a veiled barrier for foreign firms, because they are likely to gain less influence over climate rules from their political connections than domestic firms do.
- Drawing on an original dataset of 2,176 requests from 185 firms on EPA vehicle greenhouse-gas rules, it shows that a political connection makes a domestic firm's request more likely to be granted but brings foreign firms no comparable gain.

The Hierarchy of Belonging: Elite Boundary-Making and Naturalization Regimes in South Korea and Taiwan (with Hwakyung Lee and Woohyung Won)

- **R&R**, *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*
- This paper argues that ascriptive elite framing institutionalizes co-ethnic preference in naturalization regimes, producing hierarchical inclusion.
- Combining text analysis of an original corpus of presidential addresses with qualitative case studies, it shows that South Korea kept co-ethnic pathways that Taiwan dismantled, consistent with more ascriptive presidential framing in Korea.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Business Influence and Political Control in EPA Rulemaking (with Oh-Hyun Kwon and Jihyoung Lee)

- Drawing on an original dataset of 159,921 comment–response pairs from 523 EPA rulemaking dockets, this project examines whether EPA responds to the technical information that regulated firms provide or to partisan pressure from the sitting administration.

Justice Declared, Justice Delivered? The Green Party Politics of Climate Aid

- Drawing on a donor–recipient panel and case studies of Germany and the Netherlands, this paper argues that Green parties redirect climate aid toward vulnerable recipients by pressing mainstream parties to take up their climate justice agenda.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Asian Political Methodology Meeting (Asian PolMeth), University of Hong Kong Jan. 2027

- "Political Connection and Firm Nationality in Climate Rulemaking." Poster (scheduled)

ISA-West Annual Conference, Pasadena, CA Sep. 2026

- "Political Connection and Firm Nationality in Climate Rulemaking."

Korean Association of International Studies (KAIS) Annual Conference Dec. 2025

- "Institutionalizing Nationalism: Pathways of Hierarchical Inclusion in Naturalization Policy." (with Hwakyung Lee and Woohyung Won)

Professional Experience

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Sung Eun Kim, Korea University Mar. 2026 – Present

- Political Economy of Environmental Cooperation (Undergraduate, Fall 2026)
- Political Economy of International Trade Relations (Undergraduate, Spring 2026)

Research Assistant for Prof. Sung Eun Kim, Korea University Sep. 2025 – Aug. 2026

- Collected and coded firm-level data on tariff exclusion requests during the U.S.–China trade war
- Web-scraped and verified news reports on runner-up sites in firms' plant location decisions

Administrative Assistant, Korea University Mar. 2025 – Feb. 2026

- Organized department seminars, conferences, and other academic events
- Assisted with a departmental methods workshop

Honors and Grants

2026 **Best Thesis Proposal Presentation Award, Korea University**

2026 **Graduate Research Mini-Grant, Korea University**

2026 **Light-Up 63 Scholarship, Korea University**

2025 **Outstanding New Student Scholarship, Korea University**

2024 **Minister of Unification Commendation, Republic of Korea**

Additional Training

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS-Korea), KAIST 2026

Intensive Methodology Workshops, Korea University 2025 – 2026

- Text-as-data and LLMs, causal inference, and R and Python programming

Skills

Languages Korean (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)
Software R, Stata, Python, LaTeX

Relevant Coursework

Methodology

- Quantitative Analysis for Political Scientists, Causal Inference in International Relations (Graduate)
- Political Methodology (Undergraduate)

International Political Economy

- Politics of International Financial Order, Politics of International Trade Relations, International Political Economy, Political Economy of Development and Aid (Graduate)

Environmental Politics

- Global Environmental Politics (Graduate)