DONG SUN LEE

Curriculum Vitae

Political Science & Economics #315
145, Anam-ro, Seongbuk-gu
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Korea University, 2016–Present
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Korea University, 2011–2016
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Korea University, 2007–2011
Visiting Scholar, George Washington University, 2010–2011
Research Fellow, East-West Center, USA, 2004–2007

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Director, Peace and Democracy Institute, Korea University, 2022–2024
Director, Institute for Global Education, Korea University, 2017–2018
Chair, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Korea University, 2012–2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D., The University of Chicago, Political Science, 2004
Dissertation: *Committing Suicide for Fear of Death: Power Shifts and Preventive War*
Committee: John Mearsheimer (Chair), Charles Glaser, and Robert Pape
Major Field: International Relations (Minors: Comparative Politics and Methodology)

M.A., The University of Chicago, Political Science, 1999

B.A., Korea University, Political Science and International Relations, with highest honors, 1997

Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University, July 2000

ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Research Interests: International Relations Theory, Asian Security, Asymmetric Alliances, Asymmetric Conflict, Nuclear Proliferation, Security Issues related to the Korean Peninsula, U.S. Foreign Policy

Teaching Interests: International Relations Theory, Security Studies, Asian Security, International History

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (SELECTED)

Best Article Award, Korean Association of International Studies, 2026
Teaching Award, Korea University, 2010–2014, 2016–2017, 2019, 2022–2025
Seoktap Excellent Teaching Award, Korea University, 2009, 2025
Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, 2004–2005 [offer declined]
Research Grant, Program on International Security Policy, The University of Chicago, Summer 2004
Dissertation Fellowship, Program on International Security Policy, The University of Chicago, 2002–2004
Morton Grodzins Prize, The University of Chicago, 2004
Doolittle-Harrison Fellowship, 2004
Travel Grant, Political Science Department, The University of Chicago, 2004
Research Grant, Program on International Security Policy, The University of Chicago, Summer 2001
Doctoral Study Abroad Scholarship, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies, 1997–2002
University Fellowship, The University of Chicago, 1998–2001
Ho-Jung Foundation Scholarship, 1996
Honors Scholarship, Korea University, 1991, 1994–1996

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

Nuclear Alliance Restraint: Success and Failure in Countering Allied Proliferators (New York: Routledge, 2025). (with Iordanka Alexandrova)
Paperback edition (2026).

Power Shifts, Strategy, and War: Declining States and International Conflict (London and New York: Routledge, 2008).

Paperback edition (2014).

"Committing Suicide for Fear of Death: Power Shifts and Preventive War," Working Paper No. 6 (Washington, DC: East-West Center, 2006).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"The Limits of Cooperation and Coercion in Denuclearizing North Korea: The Case for Containment," Peace and Democracy, vol. 1, no. 2 (2026), pp. 49-69.

"Unipolar Hangover and American Offshore Leadership: Systemic Causes and Consequences of the Ukraine and Gaza Wars," Korean Journal of International Studies, vol. 23, no. 1 (2025). (with Sangsoo Lim) [Recipient of Best Article Award, Korean Association of International Studies]

"South Korean Foreign Policy Signaling: The Rise and Fall of Unreciprocated Costly Signals between 2013 and 2023," British Journal of Politics and International Relations, vol. 27, no. 1 (2025), pp. 91-108. (with Sunwoo Paek)

"Military Power for a Unified Korea: Strategic Directions and Principles for Building Effective Defense Forces," International Journal of Korean Unification Studies, vol. 33, no. 2 (2024), pp. 47-84. (with Iordanka Alexandrova)

"American Success to Denuclearise South Korea: Global Bipolarity, Geographical Remoteness, and Nuclear Alliance Restraint," Diplomacy and Statecraft, vol. 34, no. 1 (2023), pp. 30-56. (with Sunwoo Paek)

"North Korean Nuclear Strategy: Envisioning Assured Retaliation," International Relations of the Asia-Pacific, vol. 21, no. 3 (2021), pp. 371–400. (with Iordanka Alexandrova)

"The Chinese Failure to Disarm North Korea: Geographical Proximity, US Unipolarity, and Alliance Restraint," Contemporary Security Policy, vol. 41, no. 4 (2020), pp. 587–609. (with Iordanka Alexandrova and Yihei Zhao)

"Arms Races in East Asia: A Conceptual Analysis," Journal of International Relations, vol. 22, no. 2 (2017), pp. 151–174. [In Korean]

"Long Asymmetric Wars in a Bipolar System: A Theoretical Analysis of the Vietnam War," Journal of Asiatic Studies, vol. 60, no. 2 (2017), pp. 422–455. [In Korean]

"America's International Leadership in Transition: From Global Hegemony towards Offshore Leadership," Journal of International and Area Studies, vol. 24, no. 1 (2017), pp. 1–19.

"Korean Unification and the Stability of East Asia: A Theoretical Analysis of Stabilizing and Destabilizing Factors," Strategic Studies, vol. 22, no. 1 (2015), pp. 5–34.

"Alliance Restraint in the Sino-North Korean Alliance: Theory and Practice," Journal of International Politics

vol. 19, no. 1 (2014), pp. 5–39. [In Korean]

"Blame Game under Fire: Parsing South Korean Debate on North Korea Policy," Korea Observer vol. 44, no. 2 (2013), pp. 315–337. (with Sung-Yoon Chung)

"Compelling North Korea: Accomplishments and Strategies," Strategic Studies vol. 19, no. 2 (2012), pp. 119–151. [In Korean]

"Causes of North Korean Belligerence," Australian Journal of International Affairs vol. 66, no. 2 (2012), pp. 1–18.

"Long Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq: A Theoretical Explanation of War Duration," The Studies of International Affairs vol. 11, no. 4 (2011), pp. 91–124. [In Korean]

"Ties That Bind? Assessing the Impact of Economic Interdependence on East Asian Alliances," Pacific Focus vol. 26, no. 2 (2011), pp. 206–235. (with Sung Eun Kim)

"The Future of US-China Military Relations," Strategic Studies vol. 18, no. 1 (2011), pp. 157–196. [In Korean]

"The Continuing Relevance of Realism for Contemporary International Security," The Korean Journal of International Relations vol. 43, no. 4 (2009), pp. 55–80. [In Korean]

"Exploring Pathways to a Military Conflict between the United States and China," Journal of International Politics vol. 14, no. 2 (2009), pp. 127–156.

"The Security Strategy of the Obama Administration," The Quarterly Journal of Defense Policy Studies vol. 25, no. 2 (2009), pp.121–144. [In Korean]

"A Nuclear North Korea and the Stability of East Asia: A Tsunami on the Horizon?" Australian Journal of International Affairs vol. 61, no. 4 (2007), pp. 436–454.

"Democratization and Alliance Policy: A Comparison of Taiwan and the Philippines," Korean Journal of Defense Analysis vol. 19, no. 4 (2007), pp. 143–167.

"Democratization and the United States-South Korean Alliance," Journal of East Asian Studies vol. 7, no. 3 (2007), pp. 469–499.

"U.S. Preventive War against China," Asian Security vol. 3, no. 2 (2007), pp. 174–179.

"When Are Power Shifts Dangerous? Military Strategy and Preventive War," Journal of International and Area Studies vol. 13, no. 2 (2006), pp. 53–71.

"U.S. Preventive War against North Korea," Asian Security vol. 2, no. 1 (2006), pp. 1–23.

BOOK CHAPTERS

"Expert Awareness Survey" and "Assessment of North Korean Nuclear Challenge," in North Korean Nuclear Challenges and International Cooperation (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, 2022). [In Korean]

"Peace on the Korean Peninsula and International Relations," in Peace on the Korean Peninsula (Seoul: National Institute for Unification Education, 2019). [In Korean]

"The Impacts of North Korean Nuclear Armament on International Politics," in Sung-Yoon Chung, ed., The Consequences of North Korean Nuclear Armament (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Unification, 2016). [In Korean]

"Asia's Future Security Order and South Korea's Counter-strategy," in Young-Sun Ha, ed., Toward 2020: Ten Agendas for South Korea's Foreign Policy (Seoul: East Asia Institute, 2013). [In Korean]

"US-China Military Relations 2025," in Du-Hyeon Cha, et. al., eds., US-China Relations 2025 (Seoul: East Asia Institute, 2012). [In Korean]

"New Characteristics of 21st Century Inter-State Warfare," in Challenges and Problems for 21st Century International Security (Seoul: Sahoepyeongnon, 2011). [In Korean]

"The US Security Implementation Strategy," in Young-Sun Ha, ed., The Emergence of Complex Alliances in the 21st Century (Seoul: East Asia Institute, 2010). [In Korean]

"Realist International Theory and National Security," in Young-June Park, ed., International Politics of National Security (Seoul: Sahoepyeongnon, 2010). [In Korean]

"Nuclear Policies and Security," in Nigel Young, ed., The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

"North Korea: Existential Deterrence and Diplomatic Leverage," in Muthiah Alagappa, ed., The Long Shadow: Nuclear Weapons and Security in 21st Century Asia (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008). (with John S. Park)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS (SELECTED)

The Evolution of Realism: Survival Competition in International Politics. Book manuscript under contract.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

American Political Science Association: 2002, 2004, 2011, 2019, 2021, 2023
International Political Science Association: 2018, 2021
International Studies Association: 2002, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2013
Korean Association of International Studies: 2009, 2011, 2019, 2023, 2024
Korean Political Science Association: 2010, 2011, 2016, 2019
Midwest Political Science Association: 2001, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Principal investigator, Project for Korea Global Forum. Peace and Democracy Institute, Korea University, 2023. Funded by The Ministry of National Unification, ROK.

Principal investigator, Project entitled "Survey of South Korean Experts' Views on North Korean Nuclear Challenges." Peace and Democracy Institute, Korea University, 2022. Funded by the Korean Institute for National Unification, ROK.

Investigator, Project entitled "Study of Approaches to Education for Peaceful Unification." Peace and Democracy Institute, Korea University, 2019. Funded by National Institute for Unification Education, ROK.

Principal investigator, Project entitled "The Stability of North Korea and Measures for Increasing Influence over the State." Peace and Democracy Institute, Korea University, 2014. Funded by the Ministry of Unification, ROK.

Principal investigator, Project entitled "Measures for Building Mutual Confidence in Politico-Military Relations." Peace and Democracy Institute, Korea University, 2013. Funded by the Ministry of Unification, ROK.

Investigator, Project entitled ""The Day After' on the Korean Peninsula: Contingencies in North Korea and United States-South Korean Cooperation." Ilmin International Relations Institute, Korea University, 2009–2011. Funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, USA.

Investigator, Project entitled "The Implementation Strategy for the Grand Bargain." Ilimin International Relations Institute, Korea University, 2010. Funded by the Ministry of Unification, ROK.

Investigator, Project entitled "United States-China Relations 2025." East Asia Institute, ROK, 2009–2010.

Investigator, Project entitled "The International Political Effects of Green Energy." Institute for Peace Studies, Korea University, 2009. Funded by National Research Council for Economics, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Principal investigator, Project entitled "Democratization and Security Policy: Asian Experience." East-West Center, USA, 2005–2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Korea University

Graduate Seminars

Asian Security

Research Methods in International Relations

Security Studies

Undergraduate Lectures

Theories of International Relations

International Security

International History of the 20th Century

Diplomatic History of the 19th Century

The University of Chicago

Undergraduate Lectures

East Asian Security

Strategy

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)

Editor, Peace Studies, 2015-2018.

Editorial Board Member, Journal of International Politics, 2009–Present

Editorial Board Member, Review of International and Area Studies, 2015–Present

Editorial Board Member, National Security and Strategy, 2023-Present

Policy Advisor, The Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2018

Policy Advisor, The Ministry of National Defense, 2017–2019.

Policy Advisor, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2010–2012, 2022-Present.

Policy Advisor, The Ministry of National Unification, September 2013–2015.

Coordinator, Asian International Politics Forum, East-West Center, 2004–2007.

REFERENCES

John Mearsheimer

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