

Inbok Rhee

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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Academic Appointments

Yonsei University

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Department of Political Science and International Studies (PS/IS)

Underwood International College (UIC, Joint Appointment)

Seoul, Republic of Korea

2024 - Present

KDI School of Public Policy and Management (KDIS)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Sejong, Republic of Korea

2023 - 2024

KDI School of Public Policy and Management (KDIS)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Sejong, Republic of Korea

2019 - 2022

University of Nairobi, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Nairobi, Kenya

2016 - 2017

Education

University of California, San Diego

PH.D., POLITICAL SCIENCE

Committee: Karen E. Ferree (Co-chair), Clark C. Gibson (Co-chair), Scott W. Desposato, Stephan Haggard, and Margaret E. Roberts

La Jolla, CA, United States

2019

University of California, San Diego

M.A., POLITICAL SCIENCE

La Jolla, CA, United States

2014

School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University

M.A., INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

New York, NY, United States

2012

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

B.A., DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND POLITICS

London, United Kingdom

2006

Research

Peer-reviewed articles

Kim, Seoyeon, and **Inbok Rhee**. "The Great Divide: The Global North/South Gap in Migration Research." *PS: Political Science & Politics* (Forthcoming).

2026

Yang, Joonseok, Jong Hee Park, **Inbok Rhee**, and Sung Eun Kim. "The Trump Effect in the Asia-Pacific: Evidence from a 10-Country Survey Experiment." *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* (Forthcoming).

2026

Han, Baran, Benjamin Ho, **Inbok Rhee**, and Chrysostomos Tabakis. "Fear and Favoritism in the Time of COVID-19." *Political Behavior* (Online First). doi: 10.1007/s11109-025-10114-7

2026

Chen, Chung-An, Don-Yun Chen, Yang-Chung Chen, Kee Hoon Chung, Pan Suk Kim, Geunjo Lee, Cheol Liu, James L. Perry, and **Inbok Rhee**. "Are Competitive Public Service Exams Counter-Productive? A Survey Experiment From Two East Asian States." *Public Administration* 104(1), 202-216. doi: 10.1111/padm.70009

2026

Yang, Joonseok, Sung Eun Kim, Jong Hee Park, and Inbok Rhee . "Anti-Asian Hate Crimes and American Reputation." <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 55, e77. doi: 10.1017/S0007123424001030	2025
Inbok Rhee , Sung Eun Kim, Jong Hee Park, and Joonseok Yang. "Citizen Responses to Donor-Centeredness in the US-China Public Diplomacy Competition." <i>International Interactions</i> 51(1), 121-137. doi: 10.1080/03050629.2025.2456738	2025
Kim, Sung Eun, Jong Hee Park, Inbok Rhee , and Joonseok Yang. "What Do Aid Recipients Want? Public Attitudes Toward Foreign Aid in Developing Countries." <i>World Development</i> 186, 106815. doi: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106815	2025
Lee, Don S., Kee Hoon Chung, and Inbok Rhee . "Who Becomes a Civil Servant? Evidence from a Decade of Youth Panel Analysis." <i>Public Management Review</i> 26(8), 2148-2171. doi: 10.1080/14719037.2024.2327616	2024
Adida, Claire L., Adeline Lo, Inbok Rhee , and Sam Williams. "Do Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Requirements Change Student Political Attitudes?." <i>Politics, Groups, and Identities</i> 12(4), 958-967. doi: 10.1080/21565503.2023.2227437	2024
Chung, Kee Hoon, Inbok Rhee , and Cheol Liu. "A Systematic Review of Experimental Research on Public Service Motivation." <i>Public Performance & Management Review</i> 47(3), 627-653. doi: 10.1080/15309576.2023.2269386	2024
Kuk, John S., Don S. Lee, and Inbok Rhee . "Does Exposure to Election Fraud Research Undermine Confidence in Elections?." <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 88(SI), 656-680. doi: 10.1093/poq/nfae028	2024
Kim, Sung Eun, Jong Hee Park, Inbok Rhee , and Joonseok Yang. "Target, Information, and Trade Preferences: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in East Asia." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 67(4), 898-914. doi: 10.1111/ajps.12783	2023
Porten, John, Inbok Rhee , and Clark Gibson. "Ethnicity Is Not Public Service Destiny: The Political Logic of Service Distribution in South Africa." <i>World Development</i> 159, 105962. doi: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.105962	2022
Chung, Eunbin, and Inbok Rhee . "Disasters and Intergroup Peace in Sub-Saharan Africa." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 59(1), 58-72. doi: 10.1177/00223433211065249	2022
Inbok Rhee . "Economic Perception to Political Performance Evaluation: Establishing Precursors to Economic Voting in Africa." <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> 74(1), 131-147. doi: 10.1177/1065912919888017	2021

Peer-reviewed articles (in Korean)

Inbok Rhee . "The State of Political Science Research in South Korea: 2015-2024." <i>Korean Political Science Review</i> 60(1), 5-91. doi: 10.18854/kpsr.2026.60.1.001	2026
Inbok Rhee . "How Does China's Critical Minerals Finance Operate? Entry Decisions, Financing Scale, and South Korea's Entry Conditions." <i>Korean Journal of International Relations</i> 66(1), 163-204. doi: 10.14731/kjir.2026.03.66.1.163	2026
Inbok Rhee , Woo Chang Kang, and Sunkyoung Park. "Does Direct Experience in Election Administration Change Perceptions of Election Fraud?." <i>Korean Party Studies Review</i> 25(1), 159-196. doi: 10.30992/KPSR.2026.3.25.1.159	2026
Inbok Rhee . "Large Language Models (LLMs) in Political Science Research: Analysis of Topical Trends and Usage Patterns." <i>Korean Journal of International Relations</i> 65(3), 257-328. doi: 10.14731/kjir.2025.09.65.3.257	2025

Cho, Man, Seongwuk Moon, **Inbok Rhee**, and Sungyoon Choi. “Data Economy in Korea: Cases of Finance, Real Estate, and Medical Care Sectors.” *Journal of Technology Innovation* 31(1), 65-103. doi: 10.14386/SIME.2023.31.1.65 2023

Book

Inbok Rhee, Sung Eun Kim, Jong Hee Park, and Joonseok Yang. INFORMING KOREA’S SOFT POWER STRATEGY: EVIDENCE FROM SURVEY EXPERIMENTS ON PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN AID. Cooperative Research Series 21-09-01, National Research Council for Economics, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Korea 2021

Book Chapters

“Informing Korea’s Soft Power Strategy: Evidence from Survey Experiments on Public Perceptions of Public Diplomacy and Foreign Aid,” in DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF KOREA IN THE ERA OF GREAT TRANSFORMATION. Cooperative Research Series 21-38-01, National Research Council for Economics, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Korea. 2022

With Hae-Gu Jung et al.
“International Cooperation,” in 2021 NATIONAL AGENDAS AND FUTURE STRATEGIES. Cooperative Research Series 21-38-01, National Research Council for Economics, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Korea. 2021

With Sunghae An et al.
“Backsliding: Democratic Regress in the Contemporary World Appendix,” in BACKSLIDING. Cambridge University Press. 2021

With Stephan Haggard and Robert Kaufman

Other Writings

“Park Geun-hye Unraveling.” (A series of policy writings on South Korean politics) NORTH KOREA: WITNESS TO TRANSFORMATION BLOG Nov 2016 - Mar 2017

Stephan Haggard
“The Role of Peacekeeping Operations in Electoral Processes.” POLICY REPORT FOR POLICY AND BEST PRACTICES SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, UNITED NATIONS May 2012

Marie Doucey, Sara Jacobs, and Aaron Pangburn

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

Developing the AI Sustainable Innovation Index (ASII): A Multi-Layered Cross-National Study of Social Acceptance and Innovation Sustainability, Collaborative Research Grant, National Research Foundation of Korea (KRW 300,000,000) 2026

Principal Investigator, 2026-2029. With Hee-Seung Yang, Joonseok Yang, and June Jeon

Developing a Cross-National Index of AI Sustainable Innovation (YASII), AI Innovation Institute, Yonsei University, Republic of Korea 2025 - 2026

With Hee-Seung Yang, Joonseok Yang, and June Jeon

Future-Leading Research Initiative, Yonsei University, Republic of Korea (KRW 12,500,000) 2025

Best Teaching Award, Yonsei University, Republic of Korea 2024

The Outcomes and Implications of the Korea-Africa Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea (KRW 25,000,000) 2024

With Samuel Y. Pang, Samyoul Lee, and Heonjoo Jung

Global Agenda Research, Social Sciences Korea (SSK), National Research Foundation, Republic of Korea (KRW 750,000,000) 2024

With Woo Chang Kang, Donghyun Danny Choi, Jae Yeon Kim, John S. Kuk, Byoungha Lee, and Sunkyoung Park

<i>Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, Yonsei University, Republic of Korea (KRW 10,000,000)</i>	2024
<i>Humanities and Social Sciences Creative Research Grant, Yonsei University, Republic of Korea (KRW 10,000,000)</i>	2024
<i>Future-Leading Research Initiative, Yonsei University, Republic of Korea (KRW 12,500,000)</i>	2024
<i>Yonsei - Tel Aviv Joint Research Cooperation Program (USD 20,000)</i> With Yotam Margalit	2024
<i>Korea's New Africa Strategy through the Geopolitical Importance of the African Continent, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea (KRW 27,500,000)</i> With Joonhwa Cho and Hye-Lim Yoo	2024
<i>Best Paper Award, KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Republic of Korea</i>	2023
<i>Empirical Research on Public Diplomacy, KDI School, Republic of Korea (KRW 150,000,000)</i> With Sung Eun Kim, Jong Hee Park, and Joonseok Yang	2022
<i>Research on the Role of Supporting Institutions in the Budgetary and Legal Review Process of the U.S. Congress, National Assembly Budget Office, Republic of Korea (KRW 32,000,000)</i> With Cheol Liu and Keehoon Chung	2022
<i>Best Teaching Award, KDI School, Republic of Korea</i>	2021
<i>KDI 50th Anniversary Excellence in Service Award, KDI School, Republic of Korea</i>	2021
<i>Empirical Research on Public Diplomacy, KDI School, Republic of Korea (KRW 50,000,000)</i> With Hye Young Chang, Chung Shik Moon, Wook Sohn, and Joonseok Yang	2021
<i>South Korea's Public Diplomacy Strategy for Battery, Bio, and Semi-conductor Sectors, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea (KRW 25,000,000)</i> With Sung Eun Kim, Jong Hee Park, and Joonseok Yang	2021
<i>Cooperative Research Grant, National Research Council, Republic of Korea (KRW 210,000,000)</i> With Sung Eun Kim, Jong Hee Park, and Joonseok Yang	2020
<i>Empirical Research in Development Studies Grant, KDI School, Republic of Korea (KRW 42,600,000)</i>	2020
<i>Empirical Research in Development Studies Grant, KDI School, Republic of Korea (KRW 36,250,000)</i> With Joonseok Yang	2019
<i>Sanford Lakoff Fellowship, UC San Diego (\$1,729)</i>	2018
<i>University of California President's Dissertation Year Fellowship (\$22,000)</i>	2018
<i>Summer Graduate Teaching Scholars Program, Center for Engaged Teaching (CET), UC San Diego (\$1,200, declined)</i>	2018
<i>UC San Diego Graduate Student Co-Author Grant (\$2,414)</i> With Claire L. Adida	2017
<i>TA Excellence Award, Department of Political Science, UC San Diego (\$300)</i>	2017
<i>Policy Design and Evaluation Lab (PDEL) Graduate Student Research Funding, UC San Diego (\$7,500)</i>	2017
<i>National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (NSF DDRIG), (\$16,934)</i>	2017
<i>Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (DDRA), (\$51,338)</i>	2016

<i>Korean-American Scholarship Foundation (KASF) Designated Scholarship, (\$2,000)</i>	2016
<i>Policy Design and Evaluation Lab (PDEL) Graduate Student Research Funding, UC San Diego (\$5,000)</i>	2016
<i>Tecle Kidane-Mariam Award, Friends of the International Center (FOIC), UC San Diego (\$2,000)</i>	2016

Teaching

Courses Offered

Contemporary African Politics (Undergraduate, Graduate) Yonsei University	2024-Present
Causal Inference (Special Topics in Political Methodology) (Graduate) Yonsei University	2024-Present
Politics of Developing Countries (State and Society in Asia and Africa) (Graduate) Yonsei University	2024-Present
Research Design (Political Methodology) (Undergraduate) Yonsei University	2024-Present
Introduction to Political Science (Undergraduate) Yonsei University	2024-Present
Comparative Politics (Masters) KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2019-2023
SDGs and International Development (in Korean) (Masters) KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2022, 2023
Topics in Political Economy of Development (Masters) KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2019-2022
Quantitative Methods (Masters) KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2020-2023
Introduction to Data Science for Policymaking Using R (Masters) KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2020, 2021, 2023
Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems (in Korean) (Masters) KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2022, 2023
Ph.D. Colloquium (Doctoral) KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2022, 2023
Introduction to Social Data Analytics (Undergraduate) UC San Diego	2018
Mathematical & Statistical Foundations for Social Sciences (Doctoral) UC San Diego	2016-2018

Mentoring

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees. <i>4 completed</i> Yonsei University	2024-Present
M.A. Thesis Committees. <i>20 completed, 1 as chair</i> Yonsei University	2024-Present
External Thesis Committees. <i>4 completed (Korea, Seoul National, and Sungkyunkwan Universities)</i>	2025-Present
Ph.D. Dissertation and Prospectus Committees. <i>11 completed</i> KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2019-2025
M.A. Theses. <i>25 completed</i> KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2019-2023
Supervised Research Projects. <i>49 completed</i> KDI School of Public Policy and Management	2019-2023

Professional Activities

Editorial Service

<i>Editorial Board.</i> Humanities and Social Sciences Communications	2026 - Present
<i>Editorial Board.</i> Korean Party Studies Review	2022 - Present
<i>Editorial Board.</i> Korean Political Science Review	2020 - 2021

Academic Service

Selection Committee, Yonsei Frontier Lab (YFL) International Research Cooperation Programs, Yonsei University	2026 - Present
Review Committee, Migration Research Call for Proposals, Institute of Population and Human Capital, Yonsei University	2026
Associate Dean, Graduate School of Public Administration, Yonsei University	2026 - Present
Steering Committee, Institute of Political Science and International Studies, Yonsei University	2026 - Present
Steering Committee, Institute of African Studies, Yonsei University	2025 - Present
Associate Director, Social Science Research Institute, College of Social Sciences, Yonsei University	2025 - Present
Research Associate, Institute of Population and Human Capital, Yonsei University	2025 - Present
Board Member and Academic Committee, Korean Association of Party Studies	2025 - Present
Executive Board, Korean Association for Development Policy	2025 - Present
Middle East and Africa Research Sub-committee, Korean Association of International Studies	2024 - Present
Research Methodology in International Relations Sub-committee, Korean Association of International Studies	2021 - Present
Expert Group on African Studies, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy	2022 - Present

Reviewer. American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Democratization, East Asian Economic Review, European Journal of Political Research, Health Policy Open, International Area Studies Review, International Development and Cooperation Review, International Interactions, International Political Science Review, International Relations, International Review of Public Administration, International Studies Quarterly, Japanese Journal of Political Science, Journal of Computational Social Science, Journal of Contemporary Politics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of East Asian Studies, Journal of Politics, Journal of Regional Studies and Development, KDI Journal of Economic Policy, Korea Journal, Korean Journal of International Relations, Korean Journal of International Studies, Korean Party Studies Review, Korean Political Science Review, Political Behavior, Political Research Quarterly, Public Administration Review, Review of Development Economics, Social Sciences & Humanities Open, Survey Research

Presentations

American Political Science Association (APSA)	2021, 2024, 2025
Korean Association of International Studies (KAIS)	2020-2025
Korea Political Science Association (KPSA)	2021-2025
Korean Association of Party Studies	2021-2025
International Political Science Association (IPSA)	2023
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2016, 2021, 2022, 2026
KDI School - World Bank DIME Conference	2019-2022
International Studies Association (ISA)	2016, 2020, 2021
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)	2021
Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA)	2021
Asian Political Methodology (Asian PolMeth)	2021
Korea Association for Public Administration (KAPA)	2021
African Studies Association (ASA)	2015, 2019
International Political Economy Society (IPES)	2019
Western Political Science Association (WPSA)	2016, 2019
Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth)	2014

Invited Talks

Korean Association of Party Studies, Special Lectures on Political Methodology	2025, 2026
Keimyung University, Center for Migration and Multiculturalism	2026
KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Development Cooperation Roundtable	2026
University of Michigan	2025

National Assembly of Korea, Special Seminar on Impeachment	2024
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea (multiple forums)	2021, 2022, 2024
Sungkyunkwan University (Graduate School of Governance; Center for Good Democracy)	2021, 2024
Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)	2022
Seoul National University (Institute of Social Sciences; Institute for Research in Finance and Economics)	2021-2022
Chung-Ang University, KF Public Diplomacy Program	2020
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Institute of African Studies	2020
Yonsei University	2020

Media Appearances

<i>“Research Frontier: Anti-Asian Hate Crimes and American Reputation.”</i> Yonsei News, No. 638	2025
<i>“Africa Is Not a Country.”</i> PO.INT (Korea Political Science Association’s YouTube Channel)	2024
<i>The Roundtable</i> , Arirang TV	2024
<i>“Evaluating Korean Soft Power.”</i> Nara Kyongje	2022
<i>“Building Soft Power.”</i> Lab Interview, National Research Council, Republic of Korea	2021
<i>“Presidential Palaces: Brazil, India, Indonesia, and South Africa.”</i> Korea Election Television	2021
<i>“Teaching College Under COVID-19.”</i> SBS 8 News and SBS Morning Wide	2020
<i>“Shaping Political Leaders: The Case of the United Kingdom.”</i> Korea Election Television	2020

Additional Information

Military Service

1st/2nd Lieutenant, Republic of Korea Air Force	2007 - 2010
Recipient of the United States Military Meritorious Service Medal for Distinguished Service	

Language

Korean (Native); English (Fluent); Kiswahili (Beginner)

Field Experience

Kenya (12 months)