

# SUNNY LEE

University College London

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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### University College London, UK

- Oct 2019–up to now. Tenured Associate Professor in Organisational Behaviour (Sabbatical in 2025)
- Sep 2014–Sep 2019. Assistant Professor in Organisational Behaviour

#### *Leadership appointments*

- Deputy Director for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion & School's Board Member (2019–2024)
- Academic Director for MSc in People Analytics and Human Centric Management (2023–)

## EDUCATION

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### Jul 2014. London Business School, UK

PhD in Organisational Behaviour (Doctoral Fellowship: 2008–2014)

### Jul 2003. University of Chicago, USA

Master of Public Policy (Harris Fellowship: 2001–2003)

### Aug 2000. Seoul National University, South Korea

BA in English Literature and Language (cum laude)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My research explores how social and organizational dynamics shape individual career outcomes. I examine how people navigate career challenges in increasingly complex environments, ranging from stereotypes and biases to informal social networks and human-AI collaboration.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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\* denotes the authors who were doctoral students at the time each project started.

1. Lee, S.Y. & Dietz, B. (2025). Beyond pay: The effects of interviewers' emphasis on pay and career growth on attracting highly qualified applicants. *International Journal of Selection and Assessment*. [\[Link\]](#)
2. Liu, L.\*, Kilduff, M., Lee, S.Y., & Fisher, C. (2025). Buffered by reflected glory? The effects of star connections on career outcomes. *Journal of Applied Psychology*. [\[Link\]](#)
3. Kilduff, M., Wang, K.\*, Lee, S.Y., Tsai, WP., Chuang YT., & Tsai FS. (2024). Hiding and seeking knowledge providing ties from rivals: A strategic perspective on network perceptions. *Academy of Management Journal*, 67, 1207–1233. [\[Link\]](#)
4. Lee, JW.\*, Quintane, E., Lee, S.Y., Kilduff, M., & Ruiz, C. (2023). The strain of spanning structural holes: How brokering leads to burnout and abusive behavior. *Organization Science*, 35, 177–194. [\[Link\]](#)
5. Kniffin, K. et al. (2021). COVID-19 and the workplace: A review and preview of impacts for employees, teams, and organizations. *American Psychologist*, 76, 63–77. [\[Link\]](#)
6. Kesebir, S., Lee, S.Y., Elliot, E., & Pillutla, MM. (2019). Gender differences in lay beliefs about competition. *Motivation and Emotion*, 43, 719–739. [\[Link\]](#)
7. Moore, M., Lee, S.Y., Kim, K.\*, & Cable, D. (2017). The advantage of being oneself: The role of applicant self-verification in organizational hiring decisions. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 102, 1493–1513. [\[Link\]](#)

8. Lee, S.Y., Kesebir, S., & Pillutla, MM. (2016). Gender differences in response to competition with same-gender coworkers: A relational perspective. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 110, 869–886. [\[Link\]](#)
9. Lee, S.Y., Pitesa, M., Thau, S., & Pillutla, MM. (2015). When beauty helps and it hurts: An organizational context model of attractiveness discrimination in selection decisions. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 128, 15–28. [\[Link\]](#)
10. Birkinshaw, J., Crilly, D., Bouquet, C., & Lee, S.Y. (2015). How do firms manage strategic dualities? A process perspective. *Academy of Management Discoveries*, 2, 51–78. [\[Link\]](#)
11. Lee, S.Y., Pitesa, M., Thau, S., & Pillutla, MM. (2014). Discrimination in selection decisions: Integrating stereotype fit and interdependence theories. *Academy of Management Journal*, 53, 789–812. [\[Link\]](#)
12. Inesi, E., Lee, S.Y., & Rios, K. (2014). Objects of desire: Subordinate ingratiation triggers self-objectification among the powerful. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 53, 19–30. [\[Link\]](#)

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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### Academy of Management Best Conference Proceedings

- a. Tolsa-Caballero, N.\* & Lee, S.Y. (2022). The downside of ranking systems: Qualified contenders may quit. [\[Link\]](#)
- b. Lee, JW.\* & Lee, S.Y. (2017). The dark side of brokerage: Brokers' energy depletion and unethicability. [\[Link\]](#)
- c. Lee, S.Y. & Pillutla, MM. (2013). Racial discrimination taking both ways: Moderation of social goal and task-type. [\[Link\]](#)

### Book and Book Chapters

- d. Lee, S.Y. (expected in May 2026). *Your Next Move: How to Negotiate Your Life on Your Own Terms*. Quarto Group
- e. Kesebir, S., Lee, S.Y., Qiu, J.\* & Pillutla, MM. (2020). Same-sex peer norms: Implications for gender differences in negotiation. In Olekalns, M., & Kennedy, J. (Eds.), *Handbook on Gender and Negotiation*, London, England, Edward Elgar. [\[Link\]](#)

### Working Papers

- d. Lee, S.Y., Puranam, P., & Mai, K. Would You Let an AI Be Your Boss? Employee Preferences for AI versus Human Managers, [available at SSRN](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- e. Lee, S.Y., Kinias, Z., & Vanneste, B. In groups we trust: Lower betrayal aversion toward a group than toward an individual, [available at SSRN](#) [\[Link\]](#)

## SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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*The details of some papers are omitted to respect blind review process. \* denotes the authors who were doctoral students at the time each project started. + denotes equal authorship.*

13. Wang, K.\* Kilduff, M., Quintane, E., Lee, S.Y., & Zhu, Z. Brokering project (2), **Invited Revise and Resubmit at Academy of Management Journal**
14. Lee, S.Y.+, Madan, N.+, Puranam, P.+, & SMD, A.\* Decentralization project, **Under Review at Organization Science**
15. Joeng, Y.H.\* Lee, S.Y. & Kesebir, S. Voice Project, **Under Review at Organization Science**

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

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### Journal Editorial Review Board Member

2025– | **Academy of Management Discoveries**

2022– | **Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes**

2022– | **Motivation and Emotion**

#### ***Journal Ad-hoc Reviewer***

- *Academy of Management Discoveries* (**Best Reviewer Award in 2023**)
- *Academy of Management Journal*
- *Academy of Management Review*
- *Journal of Organizational Behavior*
- *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*
- *Management Science*
- *Motivation and Emotion*
- *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*
- *Organization Science*

#### ***Other Reviewer Roles***

- UCL Reading Group (2015–)
- Academy of Management Annual Conferences (Occasionally)
- London Business School Organizational Behavior Research Day for Doctoral Students (2018–2020)
- Samsung Global Research Scholarship for Korean Doctoral Students in Management (2020–)

#### ***Examiner Roles (Committee for Tenure, Recruitment, and Grant)***

2025 | External Assessor for **Faculty Recruitment at Imperial Business School**

2025 | External Assessor for **Faculty Tenure Case at Smurfit Business School, UCD, Ireland**

2025 | External Assessor for **Faculty Tenure Case at IE Business School, Spain**

2021 | External Assessor for **Faculty Tenure Case at Goldsmiths, University of London, UK**

2024 | Panellist for Probation Hearing, **UCL, UK**

2015 | Intramural Grants Program at **Northern Illinois University, USA**

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## **SELECTED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

#### ***Research Talks/Presentations***

2026 | ESCP, France

2026 | Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea

2025 | Warwick Business School, UK

2025 | Surrey Business School, UK

2025 | The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

2025 | Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea

2025 | PWC Academy, UAE

2024 | Ewha University, South Korea

2024 | SKK Graduate School of Business, South Korea

2023 | Amazon, UK

2023 | Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, UK  
2023 | Singapore Management University, Singapore  
2022 | Singapore Management University, Singapore  
2022 | Seoul National University, South Korea (Management Consulting Student Association)  
2021 | KAIST College of Business, South Korea  
2018 | Georgia Institute of Technology, USA  
2016 | Singapore Management University, Singapore  
2014 | University College London, UK  
2014 | Erasmus University, the Netherlands

### ***Academy of Management Annual Conferences***

- 2025. Lee, S.Y. & Wang, K.\*. Organizer and Presenter of the Symposium, 'Agency and context in action: Unpacking the complexities of brokerage and team dynamics'(Denmark)
- 2025. Lee, S.Y. & Qiu, Judy. Organizer and Presenter of the Symposium 'When organizational helping misses the mark: Rejected, avoided and unsolicited support'(Denmark)
- 2024. Lee, S.Y. & Dietz, B. Interviewer selling revisited: The effects of promoting extrinsic incentives in attracting job applicants (USA)
- 2024. Wang, K.\*; Kilduff, M., Quintane, E., & Lee, S.Y. Flexibility in social network brokering (USA)
- 2024. Goh, K. et al. Organizing for inclusion: Integrating and extending research on diversity and organization design (USA)
- 2022. Tolsa-Caballero, N., & Lee, S.Y. The downside of ranking systems: Qualified candidates may quit (USA)
- 2022. Wang, K.\*; Lee, S.Y., & Kilduff, M. Disappoint friends or downplay organizational norms? The influence of workplace friendship trajectory (USA)
- 2021. Wang, K.\*; Lee, S.Y., & Kilduff, M. How referrals affect employees' reactions to new hires they have referred (USA)
- 2019. Lee, J.\*; Lee, S.Y., & Kilduff, M. Hidden costs of brokerage: Brokerage behavior and broker exhaustion. Presented at a symposium "Brokers Behaving Badly" (USA)
- 2018. Liu, L.\*; Lee, S.Y., Fisher, C., & Kilduff, M. Great expectations? The effect of high-reputation connections on evaluations of employees (USA)
- 2017. Lee, J.\*; & Lee, S.Y. The dark side of brokerage: Brokers' energy depletion and unethicity (USA)
- 2016. Ha, J.\*; Lee, S.Y., & Ku, G. The effects of self-promotion on self-promoters' self-beliefs and job satisfactions. Presented at a symposium of the conference (USA)
- 2015. Lee, S.Y.; Wakeman, W.\*; & Sivanathan, N. Unwelcome compliments: The psychological costs of successful deception (Canada)
- 2014. Moore, C.; Lee, S.Y.; Kim, K.\*; & Cable, D. Authenticity in the workplace: Highlighting costs and bridging conceptualizations (USA)
- 2013. Lee, S.Y., & Pillutla, MM. Racial discrimination taking both ways: Moderation of social goal and task type (USA)
- 2012. Lee, S.Y., Pillutla, MM., Thau, S., & Pitesa, M. Fundamental social goals and the attractiveness bias in selection decisions (USA)
- 2011. Birkinshaw, J.; Lee, S.Y., & Bouquet, C. Implementing global strategy: Insights from a dual-core headquarters experiment (USA)

### ***Other Conferences***

- 2024. Qiu, J., Lee, S.Y. & Kesebir, S. Gender and the decline of leader-directed help seeking over time. **International Association for Conflict Management Annual Conference** (Singapore)
- 2022. Lee, S.Y. Gender difference in help-related behaviors. **UCL Diversity Research Conference** (UK)
- 2020. Lee, JW., Quintane, E., Lee, S.Y., Kilduff, M., & Ruiz, C. How brokerage leads to burnout and abusive behavior. **EGOS Colloquium** (Germany)
- 2020. Liu, L., Lee, S.Y., Fisher, C., & Kilduff, M. How connections to star managers help and hurt careers. **EGOS Colloquium** (Germany)
- 2015. Inesi, M.E., Lee, S.Y., & Rios, R. Power impacts social identity and the self-concept. **Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conference** (USA)
- 2014. Lee, S.Y., Kesebir, S., & Pillutla, MM. Gender differences in responses to same-sex competition. **Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conference** (USA)

## **RESEARCH IMPACT AND ADVISORY ROLES**

### ***Advisory Roles***

- 2024- | Academic Advisor to **Rsdad Limited (Dubai)** on the topics of organizational behavior and leadership
- 2024- | Academic Advisor to **See Talent Limited (UK)** on the topics of diversity and inclusion
- 2024 | Offered advice to the **UK Civil Service** on their new leadership dimensions
- 2023 | Offered advice to and produced commissioned research work for the **UK Civil Service** on their new performance management system for middle managers
- 2023 | Offered advice to **Canary Wharf Group** on their cultural transformation endeavours

### ***Practitioner-Oriented Publications***

1. Lee, S.Y., Liu, L.\*, Fisher. C., & Kilduff, M. (2025). When working for an industry titan can hurt your success. *Harvard Business Review*. [\[Link\]](#)
2. Quintane, E., Lee, S.Y., Lee, JW., Ruiz, C., & Kilduff, M. (2024). The dark side of collaborating across silos. *Harvard Business Review*. [\[Link\]](#)
3. Lee, S.Y.<sup>+</sup> & Chamorro-Premuzic, T.(2024). Peter Principle: Why competent workers can become incompetent managers. *Fast Company*. [\[Link\]](#)
4. Chamorro-Premuzic, T.<sup>+</sup> & Lee, S.Y.<sup>+</sup> (2024). Why are difficult conversations difficult and what organizations can do about it? *Fast Company*. [\[Link\]](#)
5. Lee, S.Y.<sup>+</sup> & Chamorro-Premuzic.<sup>+</sup> (2023). Workers fall into two camps of competence and confidence. Here's how to manage both. *Fast Company*. [\[Link\]](#)
6. Chamorro-Premuzic, T.<sup>+</sup> & Lee, S.Y.<sup>+</sup> (2023). If we don't develop these 4 human traits, ChatGPT can replace us, psychologists say. *Fast Company*. [\[Link\]](#)
7. Lee, S.Y.<sup>+</sup> & Chamorro-Premuzic.<sup>+</sup> (2022). The science of resting well. *Fast Company*. [\[Link\]](#)
8. Lee, S.Y. (2022). Negotiation: Tackling our misconceptions. *The Guardian*. [\[Link\]](#)
9. Lee, S.Y.<sup>+</sup> & Chamorro-Premuzic.<sup>+</sup> (2021). The surprising behavioral science behind effective job negotiations. *Fast Company*. [\[Link\]](#)
10. Lee, S.Y. (2021). The art of negotiating salary and why it is important for everyone to take part. *Human Resources Review*. [\[Link\]](#)
11. Lee, S.Y. (2021). It's time we reconsidered our approach to imposter syndrome. *HR Director*. [\[Link\]](#)
12. Lee, S.Y. (2020). What has 2020 meant for female leadership? *Management Today*. [\[Link\]](#)
13. Lee, S.Y. (2020). Female academics need to embrace competition. *Times Higher Education*. [\[Link\]](#)

## **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & FUNDING**

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### ***Awards***

2023 | **Best Reviewer Award**, Academy of Management Discoveries

2023 | **Best Teaching Award (5.0/5.0)**, UCL

2022 | **Best Teaching Award (4.9/5.0)**, UCL

2020 | **Athena SWAN Bronze Award** (Institutional award), awarded by Advance HE

2013, 2017, 2022 | **Best Paper Proceedings**, Academy of Management Annual Conferences

2015 | **Student Appointed Best Author To Meet**, Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conferences

### **Fellowships & Funding**

*In the process of applying for several grant opportunities*

2014– | **Internal Research Fellowship (£100,000)**, UCL School of Management

2008–2014 | **Ph.D. Fellowship (£144,000)**, London Business School

2013 | **Best Doctoral Student Paper (\$2,000)**, Samsung Global Research/AKMS (as part of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Academy of Management Annual Conferences)

2001–2003 | **Irving B. Harris Fellowship (\$50,000)**, University of Chicago

1997–2000 | **Faculty Fellowship (\$8,000)**, Seoul National University

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Degree Course (MBAs and postgraduates)**

In 2024, I was relieved of teaching duties at UCL in order to fulfil the increased responsibilities associated with my role as Academic Director.

2026– | *Strategic Human Resources Management, UCL, UK*

- Master's students
- Average Instructor Effectiveness Rating: Not available yet

2025– | *People Analytics, SKK Graduate School of Business, Korea*

- MBA students
- Average Instructor Effectiveness Rating: 4.3/5.0

2024 | *Business Negotiations, SKK Graduate School of Business, Korea*

- Executive MBA students
- Average Instructor Effectiveness Rating: 4.5/5.0

2019– | *Negotiations and Bargaining, London Business School, UK*

- MBA students, executive MBA students, and master's students
- Average Instructor Effectiveness Rating: 4.5/5.0

2015– | *Influence and Negotiations, UCL, UK*

- MBA students and master's students
- Average Instructor Effectiveness Rating: 4.8/5.0
- Best Teaching Award (2022 & 2023)

2018–2021 | *Negotiation and Cross-Cultural Management, UCL/Peking University, China*

- Executive MBA students
- Average Instructor Effectiveness Rating: 4.6/5.0

**2022– | *Global Business Mindset, UCL, UK***

- Module co-developer and key instructor: The School's compulsory primer for master's students on global teams, ethics, and communication, diversity, and regional intelligence

***Executive Education***

2023– | **Transformational Leadership**, UCL, UK

2023– | **Succeed as a Board Member**, UCL, UK

2023– | **Sustainable Transformation of Business**, UCL/Bocconi University

2023– | **Negotiation and Conflict Resolution**, UCL Academic Office, UK

2021 | **The Guardian One-Day MBA: Essentials of Business Success**. London, UK

2018–2021 | **Management Skills for Police Leaders**, UCL, UK

2021, 2022 | **HR Analytics and Team Effectiveness**, Private Client, South Korea

2021 | **Executive Negotiations for Small and Medium Enterprises**, Private Client, South Korea

2021 | **Negotiations for Executives**, Private Client, Seoul and New York

***Other Invited Teaching Experience***

2023– | **Driving Sustainable Success through People**, UCL, UK

2024 | **How to Disagree Well**, UCL Astrea, UK

2024 | **Leading Diversity in Academia**, UCL Faculty of Medical Sciences, UK

2024 | **Getting Your Voice Heard**, UCL Astrea, UK

2023 | **Succeeding as Minorities**, UCL Faculty of Medical Sciences, UK

2022 | **Surviving on Challenges Together: Teamwork and Team Resilience**, UCL-Japan Challenge

2021 | **Leadership in a Crisis**, UCL, UK

2018, 2019 | **Knowledge Economy**, UCL, UK

2009 | **Organizational Strategy**, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

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**ACADEMIC ADVISING*****Doctoral Student Supervision***

2025– | **Ying Li**. Co-advisor

2020–2025 | **Kun Wang**. Co-advisor (placement: Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China)

2020–2023 | **Swati Thampan**. Co-advisor (placement: PWC, UK)

2018–2021 | **Nuria Tolsa–Cabellero**. Co-advisor (placement: Indiana University Bloomington, USA)

2014–2020 | **Lei Liu**. Co-advisor (placement: University of Exeter Business School, UK)

2014–2019 | **Jung Won Lee**. Co-advisor (placement: ESSEC Business School, France)

***Doctoral Student Committee Members***

2021 | Kira Choi (London Business School). External Examiner of the Dissertation Committee: She is now an assistant professor at EM Lyon Business School, France

2015–2024 | Members for Other Doctoral Committees: Numerous and the details available on request

## **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES**

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### ***School Board, Growth, and External Engagement***

2023– | Founder & Academic Director for MSc People Analytics and Human-Centric Management  
2019–2024 | Member for the School's Senior Management Team  
2023 | Played a key role in building multi-faceted collaborations with Canary Wharf Group

### ***Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion***

2020–2024 | Deputy Director for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion  
2019–2020 | Athena SWAN Leader (Acquired the Bronze Award in 2020)  
2021–2024 | Founder and Chair for UCL's 30% Scholarship in liaison with 30% Club  
2022– | Founder and Member for UCL Diversity Research Conference

### ***Faculty and Research-related Services***

2019–2022 | Research Committee Member  
2020–2023 | Faculty Promotion Committee Member  
2015, 2020, 2021 | Faculty Recruitment Committee Member  
2020– | Research Ethics Committee Member  
2021–2022 | Research Ethics Committee Taskforce Team  
2014–2018 | Research Seminar Series Chair  
2014–2021 | Reading Group Chair

## **INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT**

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Mar 2006–Jun 2008 | **Hewlett Packard, South Korea**  
Senior Marketing Program Manager (full-time)

Jan 2005–Feb 2006 | **LG Ad, South Korea**  
Senior Researcher for Consumer Behavior and Brand Strategy (full-time)

Jan 2004–Dec 2004 | **Accenture, South Korea**  
Business Analyst, Management Consulting Division (full-time)

Aug 2003–Dec 2003 | **T-Plus Consulting (now EY Parthenon), South Korea**  
Long-term Intern (full-time)

Jan 2000–Dec 2000 | **Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation**  
Research Assistant to the Chairman of Investment Experts' Group (part-time)