

Yong Gun Lee, Ph.D., RSW, LMSW

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024–Present **Assistant Professor**
The University of Hong Kong (HKU), Department of Social Work and Social Administration
- 2022–2023 **Postdoctoral Associate**
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, School of Social Work

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

- Registered Social Worker**, (Registration #: 34467), Hong Kong
- Licensed Master Social Worker**, (License #: 120512), State of New York
- Ph.D.**, Columbia University School of Social Work, USA
- M.S.**, Columbia University School of Social Work, USA
- B.A.**, Emory University, USA

FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2026–2027 **Principal Investigator**
Mapping the HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Care Continuum Among Men Who Have Sex with Men and Use Drugs (MSM-UD) in Kazakhstan: A Mixed Methods Study
Early Career Scheme, Research Grants Council #27616725
- 2025–2026 **Principal Investigator**
Prompting to Test: A Pilot Study of a Generative Conversational AI Intervention to Boost Readiness for Routine HIV Testing Among Men Who Have Sex with Men in Indonesia
Knowledge Exchange Impact Project Scheme, HKU #KE-IP-2025/26-57
- 2024–2025 **Principal Investigator**
Exploring Unmet Service Needs Across the HIV Prevention and Care Cascades Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in Indonesia
Seed Fund for Basic Research for New Staff, HKU

MANUSCRIPTS: PUBLISHED

- Wu, E., **Lee, Y. G.**, Vinogradov, V., Zhakupova, G., Mergenova, G., Davis, A., Paine, E. A., Hunt, T., Reeder, K., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., Laughney, C., Chang, M., Baiserkin, B., Abishev, A., Tukeyev, M., Abdraimov, S., Denebayeva, A., Kasymbekova, S., Tazhibayeva, G., & Kozhakmet, M. (2026). A stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial of PRIDE in HIV Care: A crowdsourcing and peer-actuated network intervention to increase engagement in the HIV care continuum for sexual minority and gender expansive men in Kazakhstan. *AIDS and Behavior*. DOI: [10.1007/s10461-026-05079-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-026-05079-5)
- Reeder, K. G., **Lee, Y. G.**, Sung, J., Vinogradov, V., Zhakupova, G., Mergenova, G., Davis, A., Paine, E. A., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., Káli, S., Hunt, T., & Wu, E. (2025). Toward leaving no one behind: HIV infection among trans communities in Kazakhstan. *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 1–9. DOI: [10.1080/26895269.2025.2577163](https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2025.2577163)
- Lee, Y. G.**, Vinogradov, V., Mergenova, G., Paine, E. A., Laughney, C. I., Reeder, K., Davis, A., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., & Wu, E. (2025). COVID-19-related diminished peer HIV communication intentions among sexual and gender expansive individuals in Kazakhstan. *Health Education & Behavior*, 0(0). DOI: [10.1177/10901981251362813](https://doi.org/10.1177/10901981251362813)

- Laughney, C., **Lee, Y. G.**, Paine, E. A., Sandfort, T., & Wu, E. (2025). Child sexual abuse as a predictor of multiple forms of victimization among transgender adults in the United States. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 0(0). DOI: [10.1177/08862605251345466](https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605251345466)
- Vinogradov, V., **Lee, Y. G. (corresponding author)**, Zhakupova, G., Mergenova, G., Davis, A., Paine, E. A., Reeder, K., Laughney, C. I., Sung, J., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., Sugarman, J., & Wu, E. (2025). Social impacts of multi-city HIV prevention research participation among sexual minority and gender expansive individuals in Kazakhstan. *JAIDS Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, 99, 239-247. DOI: [10.1097/QAI.0000000000003654](https://doi.org/10.1097/QAI.0000000000003654)
- Laughney, C. I., **Lee, Y. G.**, Paine, E. A., & Wu, E. (2025). Posttraumatic stress disorder mediating associations between child sexual abuse and substance use among transgender adults in the United States. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 95(1), 45-51. DOI: [10.1037/ort0000761](https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000761)
- Alessi, E. J., Alexander, L., **Lee, Y. G.**, Fletcher, C., Aziz, A., & Zadeh, L. (2024). How do legal aid cuts in England and Wales impact LGBTQ+ people seeking asylum?: Perspectives from providers and directly affected people. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 1-6. DOI: [10.1007/s13178-024-01011-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-024-01011-5)
- Robles, G., **Lee, Y. G.**, Hillesheim, J., Brusche, D., Lopez-Matos, J., Cain, D., & Starks, T. J. (2024). Peer social support moderates the impact of ethnoracial discrimination on mental health among young sexual minority men of color. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 41, 2455-2477. DOI: [10.1177/02654075241245735](https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075241245735)
- Lee, Y. G.**, Alessi, E. J., Lynn, M., Starks, T. J., & Robles, G. (2023). Everyday discrimination and HIV testing among partnered Latino/x sexual minority men in the United States: A stratified analysis by birth location. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 35, 376-389. DOI: [10.1521/acap.2023.35.5.376](https://doi.org/10.1521/acap.2023.35.5.376)
- Wu, E., **Lee, Y. G.**, Vinogradov, V., Kali, S., Yelkeyev, A., Goddard-Eckrich, D. A., Dasgupta, A., & Hess, L. (2023). Intervention adaptation and implementation method for real-world constraints and using new technologies. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 33, 562-570. DOI: [10.1177/10497315221120605](https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315221120605)
- Alessi, E. J., **Lee, Y. G.**, Chikalogwe, V. P., Tarusarira, W., Raymond, H., Lynn, M., & Kahn, S. (2023). Pilot study of an arts- and theatre-based HIV prevention intervention for men who have sex with men and transgender women migrants in South Africa: Acceptability, feasibility and preliminary efficacy. *Health Education Research*, 38, 392-411. DOI: [10.1093/her/cyad021](https://doi.org/10.1093/her/cyad021)
- Laughney, C. I., **Lee, Y. G.**, Mergenova, G., Vinogradov, V., Zhakupova, G., Paine, E. A., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., & Wu, E. Earlier sexual debut as a risk factor for substance use among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Kazakhstan. *Global Social Welfare*, 11, 225-232. DOI: [10.1007/s40609-023-00298-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40609-023-00298-3)
- Laughney, C. I., **Lee, Y. G.**, Mergenova, G., Vinogradov, V., Zhakupova, G., Paine, E. A., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., & Wu, E. (2023). Earlier sexual debut and anti-gay victimization among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Kazakhstan. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 38, 10795-10813. DOI: [10.1177/08862605231176800](https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605231176800)
- Laughney, C. I., **Lee, Y. G.**, Mergenova, G., Vinogradov, V., Zhakupova, G., Paine, E. A., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., & Wu, E. (2023). Earlier sexual debut and exchange sex among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Kazakhstan. *Journal of Sex Research*, 60, 919-924. DOI: [10.1080/00224499.2023.2167064](https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2023.2167064)
- Paine, E. A., **Lee, Y. G.**, Mergenova, G., Vinogradov, V., Laughney, C. I., Davis, A., Terlikbayeva, A., Primbetova, S., Hunt, T., & Wu, E. (2023). Compounding vulnerabilities: Victimization and discrimination is associated with COVID-19 disruptions to HIV-related care among gay, bisexual, and other men and transgender and nonbinary people who have sex with men in Kazakhstan. *AIDS Care*, 35, 651-657. DOI: [10.1080/09540121.2022.2148956](https://doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2022.2148956)
- Lee, Y. G.**, Zhakupova, G., Vinogradov, V., Paine, E. A., Laughney, C. I., Reeder, K., Davis, A., Hunt, T., Mergenova, G., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., & Wu, E. (2022). Polydrug use, sexual risk, and HIV testing among cisgender gay, bisexual, and other men and transgender and nonbinary individuals who have sex with men in Kazakhstan. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 34, 413-426. DOI: [10.1521/acap.2022.34.5.413](https://doi.org/10.1521/acap.2022.34.5.413)

- Paine, E. A., **Lee, Y. G.**, Vinogradov, V., Zhakupova, G., Hunt, T., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., El-Bassel, N., & Wu, E. (2021). HIV stigma, homophobia, sexual and gender minority community connectedness and HIV testing among gay, bisexual, and other men and transgender people who have sex with men in Kazakhstan. *AIDS & Behavior*, 25, 2568-2577. DOI: [10.1007/s10461-021-03217-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-021-03217-9)
- Aivadyan, C., **Lee, Y. G.**, El-Bassel, N., & Wu, E. (2021). Substance use and sexual risk behavior among Black men who have sex with men in New York City: Evidence for increased risk during young adulthood. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 33, 73-87. DOI: [10.1521/aeap.2021.33.1.73](https://doi.org/10.1521/aeap.2021.33.1.73)
- Lee, Y. G.** (2018). Book review: *Best laid plans: Cultural entropy and the unraveling of AIDS media campaigns*, by T. E. McDonnell. *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services*, 17, 421-422. DOI: [10.1080/15381501.2018.1451795](https://doi.org/10.1080/15381501.2018.1451795)
- Wu, E., Terlikbayeva, A., Hunt, T., Primbetova, S., **Lee, Y. G.**, & Berry, M. (2017). Preliminary population size estimation of men who have sex with men in Kazakhstan: Implications for HIV testing and surveillance. *LGBT Health*, 4, 164-167. DOI: [10.1089/lgbt.2015.0152](https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2015.0152)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Alessi, E. J., **Lee, Y. G.**, & Kahn, S. (2025). Applying a disaster justice lens to LGBTQ+ refugees in complex emergencies. In *Queering disasters, climate change and humanitarian crises* (pp. 127-145). Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore. DOI: [10.1007/978-981-96-3857-4_9](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-3857-4_9)

MANUSCRIPTS: UNDER REVIEW

- Lee, Y. G.**, Vinogradov, V., Freedman, E. H., Reeder, K., Davis, A., Paine, E. A., Laughney, C. I., Káli, S. V., Yelkeyev, A., Alipova, K., Suslov, S., Mergenova, G., Yang, X., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., & Wu, E. Remote intervention facilitator training for remote intervention delivery: Model development and lessons learned.
- Lee, Y. G.**, Vinogradov, V., Zhakupova, G., Mergenova, G., Yang, C., Laughney, C. I., Davis, A., Paine, E. A., Li, D., Reeder, K., Sung, J., Hunt, T., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., & Wu, E. Minority stress and psychological distress among sexual and gender expansive people: Evidence from Kazakhstan. (Preprint: <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/zbcnp>)
- Yang, C., Huang, Y., Newman, P. A., & **Lee, Y. G.** Drug use at work among cisgender women, men, and transgender sex workers: A systematic mixed studies review and implications for health equity.
- Huang, Y. & **Lee, Y. G.** The Continuum of violence: a qualitative synthesis of risk and protective factors of intimate partner violence among adult immigrant women.

MANUSCRIPTS: IN PREPARATION

- Lee, Y. G.**, Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Wong, T. Y., Xu, Y., Yang, C., Yang, X., & Wu, E. HIV testing and PrEP use among cisgender men who have sex with men in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area: a study grounded in Andersen's behavioral model.
- Lee, Y. G.**, Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Xu, Y., Yang, C., Wong, T. Y., & Wu, E. PrEP willingness among men who have sex with men in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area: complex roles of HIV stigma and peer influence.
- Xu, Y., Yang, C., Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Wong, T. Y., Wu, E., & **Lee, Y. G.** The social determinants of HIV care engagement among sexual minority men living with HIV in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area.
- Yang, C., Xu, Y., Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Wong, T. Y., Wu, E., & **Lee, Y. G.** Transactional sex among men who have sex with men (MSM) in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area: implications for HIV prevention programs.
- Laughney, C. I., Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Xu, Y., Wong, T. Y., Wu, E., & **Lee, Y. G.** Experiences of victimization and PrEP awareness and attitudes among men who have sex with men in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area.

Boyd, D., **Lee, Y. G.**, Freeman, J. Q., Raskin, A., Rodriguez, D., El-Bassel, N., & Wu, E. Partner violence: A significant part of a syndemic among Black men who have sex with men.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(PRESENTATIONS DENOTE ROLE AS LEAD PRESENTER, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, OR CORRESPONDING AUTHOR)

Lee, Y. G., Vinogradov, V., Mergenova, G., Paine, E. A., Laughney, C., Reeder, K., Sung, J., Davis, A., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., & Wu, E. (2025, January). *COVID-19 Disruptions to HIV Prevention and Care Are Associated with Diminished Intention to Engage in Community Peer Outreach Among Sexual and Gender Expansive People in Kazakhstan*. Symposium Paper presentation at the 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Seattle (WA), USA.

Lee, Y. G., Alessi, E. J., Lynn, M., Starks, T., & Robles, G. (2024, January). *Everyday Discrimination and HIV Testing Among Partnered Latino/x Sexual Minority Men in the United States: A Stratified Analysis by Birth Location*. Oral presentation at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington (DC), USA.

Lee, Y. G., Chikalogwe, V. P., Tarusarira, W., Raymond, H., Lynn, M., Kahn, S., & Alessi, E. J. (2024, January). *Pilot Study of an Arts and Theatre-Based HIV Prevention Intervention for Sexual and Gender Minority Migrants in South Africa: Acceptability, Feasibility, and Preliminary Efficacy*. Poster presentation at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington (DC), USA.

Vinogradov, V., **Lee, Y. G.**, Reeder, K., Mergenova, G., Kali, S., Yelkeyev, A., Davis, A., Alipova, K., Primbetova, S., Suslov, S., Terlikbayeva, A., El-Bassel, N., & Wu, E. (2022, January). *Remote Training for a Remotely Delivered HIV Preventive Intervention for Sexual and Gender Expansive Persons in Kazakhstan: Strategies and Lessons Learned*. Oral presentation at the 26th Annual Conference on the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington (DC), USA.

Lee, Y. G., Freeman, J. Q., & Wu, E. (2021, September). *Addressing Unmet Service Needs Among Black MSM with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)*. e-Poster presentation at SYNChronicity 2021: The 8th Annual National Conference for HIV, HCV, STI, and LGBTQ Health, Virtual.

Lee, Y. G., Vinogradov, V., Zhakupova, G., Hunt, T., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., El-Bassel, N., & Wu, E. (2021, January). *Minority Stress Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in Kazakhstan*. e-Poster presentation at the 25th Annual Conference on the Society for Social Work and Research, Virtual.

Lee, Y. G., Zhakupova, G., Vinogradov, V., Paine, E. A., Hunt, T., Primbetova, S., Terlikbayeva, A., El-Bassel, N., & Wu, E. (2020, July). *Correlates of Being Untested for HIV Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in Kazakhstan*. e-Poster presentation at the 23rd International AIDS Conference, Virtual.

Lee, Y. G., Zhakupova, G., Vinogradov, V., Primbetova, S., Hunt, T., Terlikbayeva, A., El-Bassel, N., & Wu, E. (2020, January). *Who Receives HIV Testing? Exploring HIV Testing and Correlates Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in Kazakhstan*. Oral presentation at the 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington (DC), USA.

Lee, Y. G. (2019, September). *Depression and Sexual Compulsivity in Black Men Who Have Sex with Men*. Oral presentation at the 37th GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ Health, New Orleans (LA), USA.

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

2022–2023 **Postgraduate Research Collaborator**

Discrete Choice Experiment of PrEP Preferences Among Latino/x Sexual Minority Men
CFAR Adelante #P30AI050409 (PI: Robles)

Development of an HIV Prevention Group Intervention for MSM Migrants in South Africa
Rutgers Global Health Institute (PI: Alessi)

2016–2022 **Project Director**

Increasing Involvement of MSM in the Continuum of Care in Kazakhstan

NIDA #R01DA040513 (PI: Wu)

2019–2021

Research Associate

BeOnLine: A Platform to Expand HIV Testing Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender Individuals in Kazakhstan

Elton John AIDS Foundation (PI: Wu)

2015–2016

Research Assistant

Couple-Based HIV/STI Prevention for Drug-Involved, African American MSM

NIDA #R01DA030296 (PI: Wu)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

AD HOC MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)

BMC Public Health *

Health and Social Care in the Community

Health Science Reports

International Journal of Social Welfare

Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services

Journal of Homosexuality

(* Editorial board member)

Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR)

JMIR Public Health and Surveillance

JMIR Research Protocols

Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS)

Psychology, Health & Medicine

Sexual Health

Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

Departmental Research Postgraduate Committee, HKU Department of Social Work and Social Administration

Master of Social Work Program Committee, HKU Department of Social Work and Social Administration

ACADEMIC TEACHING

2024–Present HKU Department of Social Work and Social Administration

SOWK2015/2143: *Research on Social Work Practice I* (BSW)

SOWK3010: *Research on Social Work Practice II* (BSW)

SOWK6003: *Social Work Research* (MSW)

SOWK7002: *Social Science Theories for Social Work* (MSW)

2023 Rutgers University School of Social Work

SW502: *Human Behavior and the Social Environment* (MSW)

HONORS & AWARDS

2023 **Outstanding Dissertation Award**, Korean American Social Work Educators Association

2022 **Doctoral Research Grant**, Columbia University School of Social Work

2016–2022 **Graduate Research Fellowship**, Columbia University School of Social Work

2016 **Linda and Peter Hoffman Writing Award**, Columbia University School of Social Work

2007 **Omicron Delta Epsilon Economics Honor Society**, Emory University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association

Council on Social Work Education

International AIDS Society

International Federation of Social Workers

Korean American Social Work Educators Association

National Association of Social Workers

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)