

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

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 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

## PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

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- Registered Social Worker**, (Registration #: 34467), Hong Kong  
**Licensed Master Social worker**, (License #: 120512), State of New York

## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D.** Social Work, Columbia University School of Social Work, USA  
**M.S.** Social Work, Columbia University School of Social Work, USA  
**B.A.** International Studies, Emory University, USA

## FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

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- 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
- 2024–2026 **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

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(\* DENOTES RESEARCH/TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE TIME OF WORK)

- \*Huang, Y. & Lee, Y. G. (In press). The continuum of violence: A qualitative synthesis of risk and protective factors of intimate partner violence among adult immigrant women. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*.
- 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*, 1-11.
- 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.

- 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*, *53*, 92-97.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Alessi, E. J., **Lee, Y. G.**, Chikalogue, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

**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.

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.

#### 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.

#### MANUSCRIPTS: UNDER REVIEW

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**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.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

Xu, Y., Yang, C., Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Wong, T. Y., Wu, E., & **Lee, Y. G.** (2026, August). *Sexual orientation change efforts in Indonesia: Prevalence and correlates* [Poster presentation]. Division 44 – Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity at APA 2026, Washington, DC, USA.

**Lee, Y. G.**, Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Wong, T. Y., Xu, Y., Yang, C., Yang, X., & Wu, E. (2026, June & July). *HIV testing and PrEP use among men who have sex with men in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area: A study grounded in Andersen's Behavioral Model* [Joint submission]. [e-Poster presentation] AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Virtual (July); [Abstract book] 11th Asia-Pacific AIDS & Co-Infections Conference (APACC) 2026, Tokyo, Japan (June).

Yang, C., Xu, Y., Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Wong, T. Y., Wu, E., & **Lee, Y. G.** (2026, June & July). *Transactional sex among men who have sex with men (MSM) in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area: Implications for HIV prevention programs* [Joint submission]. [e-Poster presentation] AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Virtual (July); [Abstract book] 11th Asia-Pacific AIDS & Co-Infections Conference (APACC) 2026, Tokyo, Japan (June).

Xu, Y., Yang, C., Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Wong, T. Y., Wu, E., & **Lee, Y. G.** (2026, June). *The social determinants of HIV care engagement among sexual minority men living with HIV in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area* [Abstract book]. 11th Asia-Pacific AIDS & Co-Infections Conference (APACC) 2026, Tokyo, Japan.

- Yang, C., Xu, Y., Nevendorff, L., Reswana, W., Wong, T. Y., Wu, E., & **Lee, Y. G.** (2026, June). *Transactional sex and its associated factors among men who have sex with men (MSM) in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area* [Poster presentation]. INFECTION 2026, the 22nd Annual Scientific Meeting, Hong Kong.
- 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]. 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]. 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC, USA.
- Lee, Y. G.**, Chikalogue, 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]. 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]. 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]. 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]. 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]. AIDS 2020, 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]. 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]. 37th GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ Health, New Orleans. LA, USA.

## RESEARCH COLLABORATION

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- 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**

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### **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**

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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**

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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)