

# SUNNY LEE

University College London  
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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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### University College London, UK

Oct 2019– | Tenured Associate Professor in Organisational Behaviour

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.

Through this work, I aim to empower employees from diverse backgrounds to grow and succeed as leaders. In doing so, I also help organizations tap into diverse talent and foster sustainable, equitable, human-centric environments for long-term success.

Key research topics include:

- A. Social dynamics in career outcomes
- B. Career implications of social networks
- C. The future of work and AI-human collaboration

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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<sup>+</sup> denotes equal authorship. \* denotes the authors who were doctoral students at the time each project started

1. Liu, L.\*, Kilduff, M., Lee, SY., & Fisher, C. (2025). Buffered by Reflected Glory? The Effects of Star Connections on Career Outcomes. *Journal of Applied Psychology*. [\[Link\]](#)
2. Kilduff, M., Wang, K.\*, Lee, SY., 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. [\[Link\]](#)
3. Lee, JW.\*, Quintane, E., Lee, SY., Kilduff, M., & Ruiz, C. (2023). The strain of spanning structural holes: How brokering leads to burnout and abusive behavior. *Organization Science*, 35, 177–194. [\[Link\]](#)

4. Kniffin, K. et al. (2021).<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 and the workplace: A review and preview of impacts for employees, teams, and organizations. **American Psychologist**, 76, 63–77. [\[Link\]](#)
5. Kesebir, S., Lee, SY., Elliot, E., & Pillutla, MM. (2019). Gender differences in lay beliefs about competition. **Motivation and Emotion**, 43, 719–739. [\[Link\]](#)
6. Moore, M., Lee, SY., 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. [\[Link\]](#)
7. Lee, SY., 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. [\[Link\]](#)
8. Lee, SY., 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. [\[Link\]](#)
9. Birkinshaw, J., Crilly, D., Bouquet, C., & Lee, SY. (2015). How do firms manage strategic dualities? A process perspective. **Academy of Management Discoveries**, 2, 51–78. [\[Link\]](#)
10. Lee, SY., Pitesa, M., Thau, S., & Pillutla, MM. (2014). Discrimination in selection decisions: Integrating stereotype fit and interdependence theories. **Academy of Management Journal**, 53, 789–812. [\[Link\]](#)
11. Inesi, E., Lee, SY., & 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

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

### Books and Book Chapters

4. Lee, SY. (expected in 2026). *Your Next Move: How to Negotiate Your Life on Your Own Terms*. [Quarto Group](#)
5. Kesebir, S., Lee, SY., 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

- a. In groups we trust: Lower betrayal aversion toward a group than toward an individual (with Zoe Kinias, Ivey Business School, and Bart Vanneste, UCL), [available at SSRN](#) [\[Link\]](#)

## KEY RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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*The details of the papers are omitted to respect blind review process*

### **Under Review or with Revise-and-Resubmit invitations**

1. Lee, SY. & Dietz, B. Beyond pay [Under 2<sup>nd</sup> review](#)

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<sup>1</sup> I was among the 24 scholars selectively invited to contribute, and I was responsible for the section on gender implications of the future of work.

## 2. Lee, SY. Employee Loyalty, Under Review

### **SELECTED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

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

2026 (planned) | Warwick Business School, UK  
 2026 (planned) | Surrey Business School, UK  
 2025 | The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen  
 2025 | Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea  
 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 | Management Consulting Student Association, Seoul National University, South Korea  
 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, SY. & Wang, K.\*. Organizer and Presenter of the Symposium, ‘Agency and context in action: Unpacking the complexities of brokerage and team dynamics’(Denmark)
- 2025. Lee, SY. & Qiu, Judy. Organizer and Presenter of the Symposium ‘When organizational helping misses the mark: Rejected, avoided and unsolicited support’(Denmark)
- 2024. Lee, SY. & Dietz, B. Interviewer selling revisited: The effects of promoting extrinsic incentives in attracting job applicants (USA)
- 2024. Wang, K.\*, Kilduff, M., Quintane, E., & Lee, SY. 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, SY. The downside of ranking systems: Qualified candidates may quit (USA)
- 2022. Wang, K.\*, Lee, SY., & Kilduff, M. Disappoint friends or downplay organizational norms? The influence of workplace friendship trajectory (USA)
- 2021. Wang, K.\*, Lee, SY., & Kilduff, M. How referrals affect employees’ reactions to new hires they have referred (USA)
- 2019. Lee, J.\*, Lee, SY., & Kilduff, M. Hidden costs of brokerage: Brokerage behavior and broker exhaustion. Presented at a symposium “Brokers Behaving Badly” (USA)
- 2018. Liu, L.\*, Lee, SY., Fisher, C., & Kilduff, M. Great expectations? The effect of high-reputation connections on evaluations of employees (USA)
- 2017. Lee, J.\*, & Lee, SY. The dark side of brokerage: Brokers’ energy depletion and unethicity (USA)

- 2016. Ha, J.\*, Lee, SY., & 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, SY., Wakeman, W.\*, & Sivanathan, N. Unwelcome compliments: The psychological costs of successful deception (Canada)
- 2014. Moore, C., Lee, SY., Kim, K.\*, & Cable, D. Authenticity in the workplace: Highlighting costs and bridging conceptualizations (USA)
- 2013. Lee, SY., & Pillutla, MM. Racial discrimination taking both ways: Moderation of social goal and task type (USA)
- 2012. Lee, SY., Pillutla, MM., Thau, S., & Pitesa, M. Fundamental social goals and the attractiveness bias in selection decisions (USA)
- 2011. Birkinshaw, J., Lee, SY., & Bouquet, C. Implementing global strategy: Insights from a dual-core headquarters experiment (USA)

### ***Other Conferences***

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

- 2025– | Brainstorming potential collaboration with **PwC Academy (Dubai)** on executive negotiation courses
- 2024– | Academic Advisor to **Rsad 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, SY., Liu, L.\*, Fisher, C., & Kilduff, M. (2025). When working for an industry titan can hurt your success. **Harvard Business Review**. [will be available in July]
2. Quintane, E., Lee, SY., Lee, JW., Ruiz, C., & Kilduff, M. (2024). The dark side of collaborating across silos. **Harvard Business Review**. [Link]
3. Chamorro-Premuzic, T.<sup>+</sup> & Lee, SY.<sup>+</sup> (2024). Peter Principle: Why competent workers can become incompetent managers. **Fast Company**. [Link]
4. Chamorro-Premuzic, T.<sup>+</sup> & Lee, SY.<sup>+</sup> (2024). Why are difficult conversations difficult and what organizations can do about it? **Fast Company**. [Link]

5. Chamorro-Premuzic, T.<sup>+</sup> & Lee, SY.<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, SY.<sup>+</sup> (2023). If we don't develop these 4 human traits, ChatGPT can replace us, psychologists say. **Fast Company**. [\[Link\]](#)
7. Chamorro-Premuzic, T.<sup>+</sup> & Lee, SY.<sup>+</sup> (2022). The science of resting well. **Fast Company**. [\[Link\]](#)
8. Lee, SY. (2022). Negotiation: Tackling our misconceptions. **The Guardian**. [\[Link\]](#)
9. Chamorro-Premuzic, T.<sup>+</sup> & Lee, SY.<sup>+</sup> (2021). The surprising behavioral science behind effective job negotiations. **Fast Company**. [\[Link\]](#)
10. Lee, SY. (2021). The art of negotiating salary and why it is important for everyone to take part. **Human Resources Review**. [\[Link\]](#)
11. Lee, SY. (2021). It's time we reconsidered our approach to imposter syndrome. **HR Director**. [\[Link\]](#)
12. Lee, SY. (2020). What has 2020 meant for female leadership? **Management Today**. [\[Link\]](#)
13. Lee, SY. (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.

2025– | **People Analytics**, UCL

2025 | **People Analytics**, SKK Graduate School of Business, Korea  
- MBA students

- Average Instructor Effectiveness Rating: **4.2/5.0**

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

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

2023– | **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

A six-day custom program for directors at Canary Wharf Group, UK; the program director and main instructor of a two-day session on change management and organizational culture

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

A three-day open program; the main instructor of a session on strategizing diversity and inclusion

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

A three-day custom program for directors at Leonardo, Italy; the main instructor of a session on diversity, equity, and inclusion

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

A three-day workshop for mid-career researchers in the medical sciences

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

A one-day workshop for managers and executives recruited by *The Guardian*

2018–2020 | **Management Skills for Police Leaders**, UCL, UK

A one-week custom program for senior police officers in the London Metropolitan Police; the main instructor for a session on managerial negotiations and leadership

2021, 2022 | **HR Analytics, Performance Management, and Team Effectiveness**, South Korea

A custom program for senior managers at GB Style Ltd

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

A custom program for senior managers at GB Style Ltd

2021 | **Negotiations for Executives**, 6 weeks online

Attendees included executives at JP Morgan New York and Facebook South Korea

### ***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, UK

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

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

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

## **ACADEMIC ADVISING**

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### ***Doctoral Student Supervision***

2020–2025 | **Kun Wang**. Doctoral Supervisor & Co-Chair of the Dissertation Committee: She will be an assistant professor at **Hong Kong Polytechnic University**, China

2020–2023 | **Swati Thampan**. Doctoral Supervisor & Co-Chair of the Dissertation Committee: She successfully defended her Dissertation for master's in research degree. She is now a senior associate at **PWC**, UK.

2018–2021 | **Nuria Tolsa–Cabellero**. Doctoral Supervisor & Co-Chair of the Dissertation Committee: She is now a visiting assistant professor at **Indiana University Bloomington**, USA

2014–2020 | **Lei Liu**. Doctoral Supervisor & Co-Chair of the Dissertation Committee: She is now an assistant professor at the **University of Exeter Business School**, UK

2014–2019 | **Jung Won Lee**. Doctoral Supervisor & Co-Chair of the Dissertation Committee: She is now an assistant professor at **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

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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### ***Journal Editorial Board Member***

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**

**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)