

Seunghoon Yang

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Research profile

Organization, technology & geography

I examine how organizations mediate technological change and shape economic geographies, connecting science and technology studies (STS) with economic geography. This organizational perspective links my work on engineers, labor, and production to questions of technology and territory.

The Korean Mode of Production through an Organizational Lens: Cross-Industry and Cross-National Comparative Research

Long-term research program · Initial concept

Organizational capabilities & technological change

Technology in organizations

Engineers & Economic Geography

Long-term & ongoing research: Industrial Patriarchy and the Politics of Scale

Education

Ph.D., Science and Technology Policy, KAIST Graduate School of Science and Technology Policy (2019-2025)

Thesis: Locked-in Innovation: Production Mode Shift and Multidimensional Complex Challenges in the South Korean Shipbuilding Industry Since the 2010s (Advisor: So-Young Kim)

M.A., Cultural Studies, Yonsei University (2009-2012)

Thesis: Military Reform in the 2000s and Class Reproduction through 'Self-Development' during Military Service (Advisor: Haejoang Cho)

B.A., Political Science, Konkuk University (2001-2005)

Academic appointments

Assistant Professor, Kyungnam University, Department of Sociology (2017-present)

Assistant Professor (concurrent appointment), Kyungnam University, Department of Digital Marketing (September 2025-present)

Visiting Scholar, Fukuoka University (July-August 2026)

Research interests

Organizational capabilities and technological change - catch-up, capability transformation, executionism, and fragmented executionism

Technology in organizations - interfacing, knowledge boundaries, automation, digital transformation, and backend labor

Engineers and economic geography - skill formation, mobility, and spatial divisions of labor

Industrial patriarchy and the politics of scale - gender, social reproduction, and regional restructuring

Innovation policy, regional innovation systems, and industrial transition

Anthropocene perspectives on industrial afterlives

Books

신진욱, 이재정, Seunghoon Yang, 이승윤. 2025. *After the Square: Beyond Hatred, Polarization, and Generational Discourse*. 문학동네. [Bookstore](#) 3장 「2030 남성 프레임 전쟁: 그들에게는 없는 응원봉」.

Seunghoon Yang. 2024. *Ulsan Dystopia: The Dismal Future of a Manufacturing Powerhouse*. 부키. [Publisher](#)

Seunghoon Yang. 2023. *Statistical Inference via Data Science: A Modern Dive into R and the Tidyverse (Korean edition, sole translator)*. 자유아카데미. [Bookstore](#)

이상준, 정승일, Seunghoon Yang, 엄미정. 2021. *Engineers in Manufacturing: Science-Based Innovation and Industrial Transition*. 한국노동연구원. [Bookstore](#) 3장 「산업 전환에 따른 엔지니어 변화와 대응 - 자동차산업」 (양승훈·엄미정).

김시우, 백승호, Seunghoon Yang, 임경빈, 하헌기, 한윤형. 2020. *The Age of Overtaking*. 메디치미디어. [Bookstore](#) 9장 「기적의 재구성: 한국은 하루아침에 이루어지지 않았다」 저자 노트.

이상준, 정승일, 엄미정, Seunghoon Yang. 2020. *Strengthening Human Capability in the Machinery Industry (II): Engineers*. 한국노동연구원. [Bookstore](#)

Seunghoon Yang. 2019. *The Utopia of the Heavy-Industry Family*. 오월의봄. [Bookstore](#)

Peer-reviewed journal articles

International journals

Seunghoon Yang, So Young Kim. 2026. "The Human Backend of Smart Shipyards: Data Stability and Precarious Work in the South Korean Shipbuilding Industry." *Journal of Asian Public Policy (SSCI)*: 1-17. Online first: 2026-08-24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17516234.2026.2723284>

Seunghoon Yang, So-Young Kim. 2026. "Gender, Engineering, and Innovation in South Korea: An Empirical Investigation of the Industrial Patriarchy of the Southeastern Region." *Asian Journal of Technology Innovation (SSCI)* 34(2): 436-459. Online first: 2025-10-07. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19761597.2025.2565792>

Korean journals

Seunghoon Yang. 2025. "Levitating Factory: The Changing Status of Hyundai Motor's Ulsan Plant through Three Historical Moments." *Society and History* 148: 477-521. <https://doi.org/10.37743/SAH.148.14>

Seunghoon Yang, Haenam Park. 2025. "Megacities and the Politics of Scale in the Developmental States of Korea and Japan: The Cases of the Busan-Ulsan-Gyeongnam Region and Kansai." *Korean Journal of Japanese Studies* 33: 208-247. <https://doi.org/10.29154/ILBI.2025.33.208>

Hyang-A Lee, Seunghoon Yang. 2025. "The Ideological Critique of the Local Extinction Discourse: Subjectification, Affective Politics, and Catastrophe." *Space and Environment* 35(2): 220-265. <https://doi.org/10.19097/kaser.2025.35.2.220>

Seunghoon Yang. 2021. "'I'm Studying for the White-Collar Job': Work Experience and Job Search of Local University Students in the Southeast Region." *Economy and Society* 131: 10-54. <https://doi.org/10.18207/criso.2021..131.10>

Forthcoming

Minwook Chang, Seunghoon Yang. Forthcoming. "The Other Side of 'Conservatization': The Visible Minority, the Lukewarm Majority, and the Political Sensibility of Young Adults in Southeastern Korea." *동향과 전망*.

Working papers

Seunghoon Yang, Jun Ho Jeong. "When Catch-up Capabilities Fail to Transform: Fragmented Executionism in Korean Offshore EPC." In revision.

Seunghoon Yang. "Ships as Interscalar Vehicles: Brokerage and the Paradox of Green Dismantling." Under review.

Seunghoon Yang, Joo-Hyoung Ji. "The Rise and Fall of Industrial Patriarchy as a Gendered Spatial Fix in South Korea's Southeastern Region." Under review.

Seunghoon Yang. "Interfacing Fatigue: Heterogeneity, Improvisation, and the Residue of an Offshore Boom in a Korean Shipyard." Out for review.

Minwook Chang, Seunghoon Yang. "Listening in Order Not to Listen: Relational Practice and the Labor of Consideration among Young Adults in Southeastern Korea." Under review.

Seunghoon Yang. "Basic Research as an Alibi: An STS Commentary on the Academic System of the Humanities and Social Sciences." Under review.

Planned / paused projects

Provincializing AI: Reconstructing Regional Futures in Korea's Semiconductor Clusters (Paused)

Circuits of Mobility and Staying (working title) (Planned)

Book reviews and general contributions

Seunghoon Yang. 2025. "'완전히 기민하며 화려해진' 현대자동차의 생산방식이 던지는 질문들." *Economy and Society* 145: 484-491. <https://doi.org/10.18207/criso.2025..145.484>

Seunghoon Yang. 2024. "이중 전환이 부과하는 고르디우스의 매듭 문제." *Economy and Society* 142: 398-405. <https://doi.org/10.18207/criso.2024..142.398>

Seunghoon Yang. 2024. "Two Megacity Projects: First as Tragedy, Then as Farce?." *Hwanghae Review* 122: 43-59. [Source](#)

- Seunghoon Yang. 2023. “Does Real Estate Investment, Luxury Consumption, and College Admission Reproduce the Upper Middle Class?.” *Korean Social Policy Review* 30(4): 151-155. <https://doi.org/10.17000/kspr.30.4.202312.151>
- Seunghoon Yang. 2023. “ChatGPT 등장과 함께 읽는 'AI 인형에 눈 붙이기' 노동.” *Korean Journal of Labor Studies* 29(1): 217-224. [Source](#)
- Seunghoon Yang. 2022. “Review: The Formation and Development of Korean Engineers.” *The Korean Journal for the History of Science* 44(3): 753-755. [Source](#)
- Seunghoon Yang. 2022. “To Solve the Wicked Problems of Social Welfare in the Digital Age.” *Korean Social Policy Review* 29(1): 139-144. <https://doi.org/10.17000/kspr.29.1.202204.139>
- Seunghoon Yang. 2022. “매끈한 서사에 요철을 집어넣으려면.” *The Korean Journal for the History of Science* 44(1): 193-199. [Source](#)

Research grants and projects

Principal investigator - 8 projects

Cumulative: KRW 196,068,000

Automation and the Workforce Structure of the Shipbuilding Industry. Korea Labor Institute (2026.07-2026.10).

Overseas Relocation of Production Volume in Shipbuilding. Korean Metal Workers' Union Research Institute (2026.07-2026.10).

Effects of Regional Housing and Employment Insecurity on Birth Intentions in Non-metropolitan Industrial Cities. Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (2024.01-2024.04).

Cultural Anthropology of Intimacy and Relationships among Young Adults in the Southeast. USG Regional Innovation Platform (2023.06-2024.02).

Oral History of Changwon's Labor History and Archive Construction. Changwon City (2022.09-2023.04).

Strengthening the Human Capability of Engineers in the Automotive and Fine Chemicals Industries. Korea Labor Institute (2021.05-2021.11).

Strengthening the Human Capability of Engineers in the Machine Tool, Semiconductor Equipment, and Construction Machinery Industries. Korea Labor Institute (2020.05-2020.11). Assigned industry: construction machinery

Analysis of Ulsan's Regional Status and Directions for Future Industrial Growth. Ulsan Technopark (2020.05-2020.12).

Co-investigator / participant

Amounts are project totals, not individual allocations.

Democratic Governance in the AI Era: Building a Multilevel Citizen-Participation Model to Address Technological Inequality. National Research Foundation of Korea, SSK Global Agenda Research (2026- (4 project years)). KRW 369,000,000. Quantitative research design, analysis, and budget analysis

The Fair State in an Era of Transition: An Integrated Redesign of Industrial Labor, Population, and Social Policy. National Research Foundation of Korea, Global Humanities and Social Sciences Convergence Research (2026- (6 project years)). KRW 10,000,000,000. Institute for Democratic Society and Policy, Hanshin University; AI, smart factories, factory automation, and shop-floor labor processes

Survey and Policy Research for Developing Worker Rights Protection Programs in Gyeonggi-do. Gyeonggi Provincial Government / Institute for Working Citizens / Union Center (2025.06-2026.02).

Digital Society Forum. Korean Sociological Association (2022).

In Search of the Daily Culture and Life Planning of Korean and Chinese Youth. Amorepacific Foundation (2020).

Conference presentations and invited talks

Industrial Patriarchy as a Gendered Mode of Regulation: Heavy Chemical Industrialization, 'Bloody Fordism,' and the Expiry of a Regional Middle-Class Project in Korea's Southeast. NTU GIND International Workshop, 타이베이 (2026-04).

Industrial Patriarchy and the Transformation of Korea's Labor Market. Graduate Institute of National Development, National Taiwan University, 타이베이 (2025-10-31).

저작 비평회: 중화학공업화 50년에 대한 사회학적 진단. 한국사회사학회 저작비평회 (2025-10-24).

The Human Back-End of Smart Shipyards. JAPP Paper Workshop, 타이베이 (2025-09-12).

2030 남성. 한국사회정책학회 춘계학술대회 (2025-05-30).

한국적 엔지니어 노동의 재정의 - 해양플랜트 사례를 중심으로. 비판사회학회 춘계학술대회 (2025-04-18).

The Workplace Politics of Building the 'Backend': Digital Transformation and AI in Shipbuilding Industry in Korea. Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting, 호놀룰루 (2023-11-08).

Industrial Patriarchy and the Employment of Female Students of S&T Disciplines. 日本都市社会学会 제41회 대회, 일본 (2023-09-06).

지방 청년 이야기하기. 한국사회학회 전기사회학대회 (2023-06-16).

산업가부장제: 공간분업과 동남권 여성들의 일자리. 비판사회학회 정기학술대회 (2022-11-05).

청년을 거부하는 울산, 울산을 거부하는 청년. 동남권의 도시공간과 지역통합 학술회의 (2021).

셔틀버스를 타는 산업도시 엔지니어. 한국사회경제학회 하계학술대회 (2019-08-27).

거제 조선해양 인력의 역사적 형성. ICHSEA (2019-08-23).

조선업 재구조화와 지역사회 분석과 진단. 비판사회학회 춘계학술대회 (2019-04-27).

산업도시와 중공업 가족. 비판사회학대회 (2017-10-21).

Teaching experience

Kyungnam University, 2017-present. Fourteen distinct courses taught through the source CV update, including six methods/data/statistics/programming courses and two capstone-design courses; 42 offerings in total.

Undergraduate

Data Analysis I (9 offerings, 2017-2025); Data Analysis II (7 offerings, 2017-2025)

Social Survey Statistics (6 offerings, 2019-2024)

Social Research Methodology (5 offerings, 2019-2026)

Reading and Discussion in Society (3 offerings); Digital Technology and Contemporary Capitalism (3 offerings, 2022-2024)

Marine Signature Seminar (2 offerings, 2017-2018)

Urban Community Development Capstone Design (2017); e-Business Capstone Design (2026)

Web Programming (2026)

Introduction to Sociology; Sociology Discovery; Social Change and Stratification

Fall 2026: Social Research Methodology; Data Visualization

Graduate

Research Methods for Urban Big Data (Fall 2025)

Awards, fellowships, and recognition

International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), U.S. Department of State (2026)

Korean Sociological Association Academic Award - Book category (2020)

60th Korean Publishing Culture Award - General nonfiction (2020)

Sejong Books selection - General-interest books (2019)

Public service and policy advising

Chair, Future Planning Subcommittee, National Economic Advisory Council (2026.03-)

Advisory Member, Special Committee on Industrial Transition, Economic, Social and Labor Council (2026.02-)

Advisory Member for Legislative Policy, National Assembly Research Service (2025.01-2026.12)

Expert Member, Shipbuilding Industry Win-Win Council, Ministry of Employment and Labor (2022.08-2024.12)

Member, 2026 National Vision Legislative Policy Conference, National Assembly Research Service (January-June 2026)

Member, Shipbuilding Wage Task Force, Ministry of Employment and Labor (March 2026-present)

Member, Task Force on Integrated Support for Foreign Workers, Ministry of Employment and Labor / Korea Labor Institute (December 2025-January 2026)

Member, 6th Gender Equality Committee, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (February 2026-present)

Expert Member, Quality of Life Committee, Presidential Committee for Decentralization and Balanced Development (January 2026-January 2027)

Advisory Member, Committee on Responses to Regional Extinction, Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly (July-October 2025)

Advisory Member, 4th Subcommittee for the 5th Basic Plan for Women in Science and Technology, WISET (August 2023-)

Provincial Policy Advisory Member, Gyeongsangnam-do Provincial Government (January 2021-May 2022)

Professional experience

Assistant Manager, Strategy and Management Innovation, Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (now Hanwha Ocean) (2012-2016)

Air Defense Control Officer, Republic of Korea Air Force, Operations Command (2006-2009)

International collaboration

Scott Knowles, Northeastern University, DIBI: Korea-U.S. shipbuilding comparison

Ijin Hong · Shih-Jiunn Shi, National Taiwan University, GIND: East Asian labor markets and welfare

Michelle Fei-Yu Hsieh, Academia Sinica: Semiconductor production networks

Sungchul Noh, Hitotsubashi University Business School: Korea-Japan-Taiwan engineering labor markets

Youngjin Ryu, Fukuoka University: Korea-Japan industrial cities

Klaus Dörre network, German sociology of labor: Comparative industrial transition

Memberships, service, and reviewing

Society offices

Board Member, Korean Sociological Association (International Affairs, 2022; Board, 2026-present)

Steering Committee Member, Society for Critical Sociology (2025-present)

Board Member (General Affairs), Korean Social History Association (2025-present)

Memberships

Korean Sociological Association; Society for Critical Sociology; Korean Social History Association; Korean Association of Labor Studies; Korea Society for Innovation Management and Economics; Korean Association of Science and Technology Studies; Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)

Journal reviewing

International: Journal of Asian Sociology; Korea Journal; Asian Journal of Technology Innovation

Korean: Korean Journal of Sociology; Economy and Society; Journal of Science and Technology Studies; Society and History; ECO; Korean Social Policy Review; Korean Journal of Labor Studies; Journal of Korean Studies; and others