

Curriculum Vitae

Sangmi Lee, D.Phil.

Arizona State University
School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
4701 W. Thunderbird Rd, MC 3051
Glendale, AZ 85306-4908
E-mail: sangmi.lee@asu.edu
Phone: (602) 543-6933

Education

- 2010–2016 University of Oxford, U.K.
D.Phil., Anthropology
- 2007–2010 Arizona State University, U.S.A.
Doctoral Student, Anthropology (M.A. awarded in May 2009)
- 2001–2005 Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
B.A., English Language and Literature (one semester early graduation)

Academic Appointments

- August 2024—Present
Associate Professor of Anthropology
School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University
- January 2018—August 2024
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University
- March 2016—December 2017
Lecturer
Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations
Seoul National University, South Korea

Research Interests

Diasporas (the Korean diaspora), ethnic return migration, transnationalism, higher education, nationalism, ethnicity, multiculturalism, globalization, global tourism, ethnographic methods, Hmong studies, East Asia (South Korea), Southeast Asia (Laos), United States

Publications

Books:

Lee, Sangmi. 2024. *Reclaiming Diasporic Identity: Transnational Continuity and National Fragmentation in the Hmong Diaspora*. University of Illinois Press (280 pages).

*Featured in MPI's *Migration Information Source Magazine*, reviewed in *International Migration Review*, *Diaspora Studies*, *H-Diplo*, *H-Net Reviews*, & *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*.

Kassing, Jeffrey, and **Sangmi Lee** (eds.). 2024. *Football and Diaspora: Connecting Dispersed Communities through the Global Game*. Routledge (260 pages).

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:

Lee, Sangmi. 2024. "Global Tourism and Local Ethnicity: Reconfiguring Racial and Ethnic Relations in Central Laos." *Critique of Anthropology* 44(1): 3-20. (Scimago Quartile 1 in Anthropology, 5-year impact factor 1.54, H-index 47) <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308275X231173567>

Lee, Sangmi. 2022. "National Differentiation and Imagined Authenticity: The Hmong New Year in Multicultural Laos and the U.S." *Ethnography* (Scimago Quartile 1 in Anthropology & Cultural Studies, 5-year impact factor 1.38, H-index 49) (Published online first) <https://doi.org/10.1177/14661381221098605>

Lee, Sangmi. 2021. "Traditionally Transnational: Cultural Continuity and Change in Hmong Shamanism across the Diaspora." *Ethnography* 22(1): 51-69. (Scimago Quartile 1 in Anthropology & Cultural Studies, 5-year impact factor 1.38, H-index 49) <https://doi.org/10.1177/1466138119839086>

Lee, Sangmi. 2020. "Diasporic Kinship Hegemonies: Transnational Continuities in the Hmong Diaspora." *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 27(2): 229-247. (Scimago Quartile 1 in Anthropology, Cultural Studies, & Arts and Humanities, 5-year impact factor: 1.65, H-index 41) <https://doi.org/10.1080/1070289X.2018.1457347>

Lee, Sangmi. 2015. "Questions from the Field: Anthropological Self-Reflexivity through the Eyes of Study Participants." *Anthropology in Action* 22(3): 39-42. (Scimago Quartile 2 in Anthropology, H-index 8) <https://doi.org/10.3167/aia.2015.220305>

Lee, Sangmi. 2012. "Dr. Freud's Making Elizabeth Abnormal." *Humanicus: Academic Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Philosophy* 7: 1-9.

Lee, Sangmi. 2009. "Searching for the Hmong People's Ethnic Homeland and Multiple Dimensions of Transnational Longing: From the Viewpoint of the Hmong in Laos." *Hmong Studies Journal* 10: 1-18.

Publications (continued)

Book Chapters:

Tsuda, Takeyuki, and **Sangmi Lee**. 2024. "Is Diasporic Return Possible? The Elusive Nature of Return and Ancestral Belonging in the Japanese and Hmong Diasporas." In Deborah Boehm & Mikaela Rogozen-Soltar (eds.), *States of Return: Migration and Mobility in a Bordered World*. NYU Press, pp. 96-117.

Lee, Sangmi, and Jeffrey Kassing. 2024. "Football and Diaspora: A Theoretical Framework." In Jeffrey Kassing & Sangmi Lee (eds.), *Football and Diaspora: Connecting Dispersed Communities through the Global Game*. Routledge, pp. 5-23.

Menary, Steve, and **Sangmi Lee**. 2024. "Football and the Emergence of Diasporas: Representing Post-Soviet Conflict States Beyond Europe." In Jeffrey Kassing & Sangmi Lee (eds.), *Football and Diaspora: Connecting Dispersed Communities through the Global Game*. Routledge, pp. 155-172.

Lee, Sangmi. 2019. "Alternatives to Diasporic Return: Imagining Homelands and Temporary Visits among Hmong Americans." In Takeyuki Tsuda & Changzoo Song (eds.), *Diasporic Return to the Ethnic Homeland: The Korean Diaspora in Comparative Perspective*. Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 219-238.

Peer Reviewed Conference Proceedings:

Lee, Sangmi. 2025. "Importance of Qualitative Research Methods Courses for AI Ethics and Future Tech-Leaders." *The 25th International Conference on Education Research Conference Proceedings* (3,915 words)

Journal Articles in Progress:

Lee, Sangmi. "Rethinking Diaspora's Transnational Relations: The Importance of Locality among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students from the Korean Diaspora." (Initial draft is in progress as of Spring 2025, appx. 3,000 words.)

Lee, Sangmi. "From the Field to the Classroom: Research Ethics for the 'Self' and Freedom." (Initial draft is in progress as of Spring 2025, appx. 7,000 words.)

Lee, Sangmi. "Toward Comparative Diaspora Studies" (Initial draft in progress as of Spring 2025, appx. 4,500 words.)

Lee, Sangmi. "Complexities and Diversities within and across Generations among Hmong in the United States." (Initial draft is near completion as of Spring 2025, appx. 7,000 words.)

Other Publications

Lee, Sangmi. 2020. "Rethinking Kinship in Diasporic Context: How Has It Become 'Hegemonic?'" *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* journal blog article

Lee, Sangmi. 2012. "The Hmong Diaspora: Laos and the United States." *Inspire: Peb Hmong Magazine* 1: 12.

Grants & Fellowships

Funded Grants (Internal):

- 2025 PI, New College Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities (SRCA) Seed Grant (\$14,973)
Project title: "Does ethnic affinity improve immigrant experiences and outcomes? Korean-Descent and Non-Korean descent immigrants from the United States and Japan in South Korea" (Co-PI: Takayuki Tsuda, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, ASU)
- 2024 PI, New College Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities (SRCA) Seed Grant (\$3,521)
Project title: "Returning from the Diaspora to Pursue the 'Korean Dream': Hierarchies of Belonging among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students in South Korea"
- 2024 PI, Institute for Social Science Research Seed Grant (\$7883.61)
Project title: "Returning from the Diaspora to Pursue the 'Korean Dream': Hierarchies of Belonging among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students in South Korea"
- 2024 PI, The Asia Center A. T. Steele Travel Grant (\$1,000)
Project title: "Returning from the Diaspora to Pursue the 'Korean Dream': Hierarchies of Belonging among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students in South Korea"
- 2019 PI, New College Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities (SRCA) Seed Grant (\$4,999)
Project title: "Diasporas without A Homeland: Ethnic Continuity and National Fragmentation among Hmong in Laos and the United States"
- 2015 Doctoral Thesis (dissertation) Writing Completion Fellowship, Wolfson College, University of Oxford
- 2011-2015 Travel Award for conference, Wolfson College, University of Oxford (awarded six times)
- 2011-2014 College Fee Bursary, Wolfson College, University of Oxford (awarded three times)
- 2008-2010 Conference Travel Grant, Graduate and Professional Student Association, Arizona State University (awarded three times)

Unfunded Grants (External):

- 2025 PI, Wenner-Gren Foundation Post-PhD Research Grant (\$21,938)
Project title: "Returning from the Diaspora to Pursue the 'Korean Dream': Hierarchies of Belonging among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students in South Korea"

- 2025 PI, National Science Foundation (Cultural Anthropology Program) (\$229,914)
Project title: "Returning from the Diaspora to Pursue the 'Korean Dream': Hierarchies of Belonging among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students in South Korea"
- 2025 PI, Spencer Foundation Education Grant (\$50,000)
Project title: "Returning from the Diaspora to Pursue the 'Korean Dream': Hierarchies of Belonging among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students in South Korea"
- 2024 PI, 2025 Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies (KIKS) Fellowship, Seoul National University, South Korea
Project title: "Returning from the Diaspora to Pursue the 'Korean Dream': Hierarchies of Belonging among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students in South Korea"
- 2024 PI, 2025 Korea Foundation Fellowship for Field Research, South Korea
Project title: "Returning from the Diaspora to Pursue the 'Korean Dream': Hierarchies of Belonging among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students in South Korea"
- 2021 PI, Spencer Foundation Education Grant (Small) (\$49,685)
Project title: "From the Field to the Classroom: Research Ethics as a Transformative Learning Method for Undergraduate Students"
- 2019 PI, Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship, Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$40,000)
Project title: "Rethinking Diasporic Belonging: Transnational Ethnic Continuity and National Fragmentation in the Hmong Diaspora"

Unfunded Grants (Internal):

- 2024 PI, Women and Philanthropy Grant, ASU Foundation, Arizona State University (\$49,995)
Project title: "Returning from the Diaspora to Pursue the 'Korean Dream': Hierarchies of Belonging among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students in South Korea" (2nd round)
- 2024 PI, Humanities Institute Seed Grant (\$9,000)
Project title: "Toward Interdisciplinary Reflexivity: 'Native' Researcher Spectrums and Intersectionality."
- 2023 PI, Mellon Foundation Call for Concept Grant (Internal Competition)
Project title: "Language Bans and Sociolinguistic Justice"
- 2021 Co-PI, Seed Grant, Global Sports Institute, Arizona State University (\$19,920)
Project title: "Football and Diaspora: Connecting Dispersed Communities through the Global Game" (2nd round)
- 2020 PI, Women and Philanthropy Grant, ASU Foundation, Arizona State University (\$98,807)
Project title: "Asian Mothers, American Daughters: Gender, Generation, and Health Communication among Immigrant Families in the United States" (2nd round)

Honors & Awards

- 2023 Sun Award for Service (received), Arizona State University
- 2023 Professor of Impact Award (received), Arizona State University
- 2022 Research Effort Award (received), New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University
- 2021 New College Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award (nominated), Arizona State University
- 2021 Top 5% Award (for the number of grants submitted in an academic year) (received), New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University
- 2019 New College Award for Undergraduate Mentoring (nominated), Arizona State University
- 2010 Dean's Advanced Scholarship, Graduate College, Arizona State University (received but declined because of admission to the University of Oxford)
- 2008 Sun Award: Serving University Needs (received), Arizona State University
- 2005 Honors Student, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea

Conferences & Research Presentations

- 2024 Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (WCAAS), Ogden, UT, October 11-12
"Rethinking Diaspora's Transnational Relations: The Importance of Locality among Educational Ethnic Return Migrant Students from the Korean Diaspora."
- 2023 International Workshop on Newer Generation Asian Youths in the Host Countries in North America, Oceania, and Europe: New Patterns of Assimilation, Re-ethnicization, and Ethnic Homeland, Osaka, Japan, May 24-25
"Heritage without Homeland: Cultural Economy and Ethnic Belonging among Hmong American Youth."
- 2022 American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, November 9-13, Roundtable Chair/Co-organizer
"Anthropological Perspectives and Undergraduate Teaching."
- 2022 Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) Annual Conference (virtual), April 14-16
"Complexities and Diversities Within and Across Generations among Hmong in the United States."
- 2021 American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting (virtual), November 17-21, Roundtable Presenter
"Anthropologists in Non-Anthropology Programs."

- 2020 119th American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, November 17-22
 “Between Flexibility and Familiarity: Revisiting Gender Identity and the Positionality of Female Anthropologists in the Field.” (Proposal accepted but canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2020 Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) Annual Conference, April 9-11
 “National Differentiation and Imagined Authenticity: The Hmong New Year’s Celebration in the Multicultural United States.” (Proposal accepted but canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2019 Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Denver, CO, March 21-24
 “Who Are the ‘Locals’ in Global Tourism? Race and Ethnic Relations in the Tourism Industry in Central Laos.”
- 2016 Korean Society for Cultural Anthropology Conference, Seoul, South Korea, October 28-29
 “Between the Diaspora and the Nation-State: Transnational Continuity and Fragmentation among Hmong in Laos and the United States.”
- 2016 Korean Ethnic Return Migration and Diasporic Engagement Policy in Comparative Perspective Conference, Manila, Philippines, December 14-17
 “Alternatives to Diasporic Return: Temporary Visits and Imagining Homelands among Hmong in the United States.”
- 2015 American Anthropological Association (AAA) Conference, Denver, CO, November 18-22
 “Transnationally Traditional: The Shaman and the Continuity of ‘Spirit Calling’ in the Hmong Diaspora.”
- 2015 Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) Conference, Chicago, IL, April 22-25
 “Transnational Familial Love: Commodification of Social Relationships between Hmong in the United States and Laos.”
- 2014 4th Royal Anthropological Institute Post-Graduate Conference, Brunel University, London, U.K., September 3-4
 “Questions from the Field: Anthropological Self-Reflexivity through the Eyes of Study Participants.”
- 2013 Oxford Migration Studies Society, 1st Annual Conference, University of Oxford, May 4
 “A Comparative Study of Ethnic Unity and Fragmentation in the Hmong Diaspora.”
- 2013 Southeast Asian Studies Symposium, University of Oxford, March 9-10
 “Between Diaspora and the Nation-State: Transnational Unity and Fragmentation among Hmong in Laos and the United States.”
- 2011 D.Phil. Migration Research Workshop, Center on Migration, Policy, and Society, University of Oxford, June 17
 “Between Diaspora and the Nation-State: Ethnic Unity and Fragmentation in the Hmong Diaspora and the Uncertainty of the Ethnic Homeland.”

- 2011 Graduate Student Research in Progress Seminar, University of Oxford, February 4
“Home without Land: Hmong People’s Questions about Diasporic Identity, Citizenship, and Belonging.”
- 2010 Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) Conference, Austin, TX, April 7-11
“Belonging Nowhere: Hmong People’s Searching for Ethnic Homeland in the Diaspora.”
- 2009 Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) Conference, Honolulu, HI, April 22-26
“What Is It to Be Hmong in the U.S.? On the ‘Other’ Side of U.S. Public Opinion.”
- 2009 International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) Conference, Daejeon, South Korea, August 6-9
“Homelands in the Diaspora: From the Viewpoint of the Hmong in Laos and the U.S.”
- 2009 Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (WCAAS), University of Arizona, October 22-24
“Hmong People’s Diasporic Ethnic Identity in Searching for Homeland.”
- 2009 2nd Annual Graduate Conference for Asian Studies, Arizona State University, October 10-11
“One Step before ‘Sustainable Community’: Participation of Youth in Community Development Projects in Laos.”
- 2008 37th Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference, Rutgers University, October 24-26
“Different Voices in Marriage Migration among the Hmong People in Laos and the U.S.”
- 2008 Annual Graduate Conference for Asian Studies, Arizona State University, October 10-11
“Longing for an Ethnic Homeland: From the Viewpoint of the Hmong in Laos and Thailand.”
- 2008 Center for Asian American Studies Conference, “Southeast Asians in the Diaspora,” University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, IL, April 15-17
“Marriage Migration and the Assimilation Agenda among the Hmong People in the U.S.”

Invited Talks

- 2022 School of Social and Behavioral Sciences Brownbag Series (co-presented with Jeffery W. Kassing), October 21
“Diaspora and Football: Comparative and Collaborative Research”
- 2020 Center for Asian Research, Invited Research Talk, Arizona State University, March 4
“National Differentiation and Imagined Authenticity: The Hmong New Year’s Celebration in Multicultural Laos and the United States”
- 2019 Statistics and Methods (SAM) Lab Research Workshop, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, April 4
“Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Introduction”

- 2012 Graduate Student Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Davis, November 5
“Comparing Hmong Diasporic Experiences in Laos and the United States.”
- 2012 3rd General Meeting, Hmong University Student Association (HUSA), California State University, Sacramento, October 3
“Introduction to Comparative Research on Hmong Diasporic Communities in Laos and the United States.”

Courses Taught

Arizona State University (since Spring 2018):

ASB340/SOC328 Migration and Culture (online)
ASB102 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
SBS302 Qualitative Methods
ASB, POS, SBS 447 Citizenship, Nationalism, Identity (with JHR592 graduate level)

Independent Study Courses (three credit hours): Individualized Instruction, Research, Reading and Conference, Honors Directed Study, Honors Thesis, Thesis, Applied Project, Internship

Seoul National University, South Korea (2016-2017):

Southeast Asia in Global History
Southeast Asian Diasporas
Southeast Asian Civilizations: Special Topics
Southeast Asian States and Societies

Yonsei University, South Korea (2017):

Cultural Anthropology (in both Korean and English)

Student Advising & Mentoring

Graduate Students: Chair/ Advisor

2022-2024 A. Hernandez (MA, Social Justice and Human Rights)

2022-2023 L. Rodriguez (MA, Social Justice and Human Rights)

2021-2023 C. Cordwell (MA, Social Justice and Human Rights)

Graduate Students: Committee Member

2022 K. Gamez, (MA, Social Justice and Human Rights)

2021 A. Moen, (MA, Social Justice and Human Rights)

Barrett Honors College Student Undergraduate Honors Thesis Chair/ Advisor

- 2026-Present J. Vauthier (English & Justice Studies, B.A.)
2024-2025 K. Mohan (Political Science, B.S.)
2023-2024 R. Lynn (Sociology, B.A.)
2021-2023 R. Nelson (Psychology, B.S., *admitted to MEd., Temple University)
2020 M. Flynn (Global Management, BGM.)

Barrett Honors College Student Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member

- 2021-2022 L. Rodriguez (Psychology, B.S.)
2020-2021 Y. Hong (Geography, B.S.)
2019 J. Nicolas (Political Science, B.S.)

Barrett Honors College Student Undergraduate Honors Contract (mentoring within the course):

- 2018-2025 Total thirteen students

Faculty Mentor for NCUIRE (New College Undergraduate Inquiry and Research Experiences) Research Assistantship Awards (\$650 each):

- Fall 2024 - Spring 2025 “Analyzing Arizona GOP voters’ perspectives on United States immigration” (individual)
Fall 2024 - Spring 2025 “The taste of new identities: Food culture and multicultural experiences among refugee students in American universities” (team)
Fall 2024 - Spring 2025 “The cultural defense revisited: Culture in the American courtroom, legal justice, and multicultural discourses” (team)
Spring 2022 Cultural heritage and identity among first generation Chamorros in Guam and the United States (individual)
Spring 2021 Immigrants in New York and their racial and cultural experiences across generations (individual)
Spring 2020 ASU undergraduate students’ political engagement at the state level (individual)
Spring 2019 Iraqi refugee youths in Phoenix, AZ (individual)

Service

Disciplinary:

Journal article reviewer for *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *International Journal of Intercultural Relations, Development & Society*, *Amerasia*, *TRANS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia*, *Southeast Asian Studies Journal*, *Teaching and Learning Anthropology*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *Anthropological Forum*, *Open Cultural Studies*, *Ethnography*, *Communication & Sports*, *Race and Social Problems*, *American Anthropologist*

Grant Reviewer for *National Science Foundation (Cultural Anthropology Program)*

University:

2024	External Reviewer, Promotion to Teaching Professor (College of Integrative Sciences and Arts), Arizona State University
2023-2024	University Senate subcommittee for Committee on Committees
2020-2022	University Senate subcommittee for University Services and Facilities
2018-2024	Senator, University Senate

College:

2024-Present	New College Convocation Selection Committee
2024-Present	New College Personnel Committee
2021	Review Committee, New College Scholarly Research and Creative Projects Award (SRCA)
2024, 2023, 2021, 2019	Faculty judge for ASU Undergraduate Research Symposium

Unit:

2025	Guest Lecture on “Field Research in South Korea” for PSY494/598 Global Psychology: Culture, Language, and Cognition in South Korea (Dr. Alexandra Carstensen)
2023-2024	Director Search Committee (member) for School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
2023	SBS (Social and Behavioral Sciences) Degree Curriculum Committee (member)
2022-Present	SJHR (Social Justice and Human Rights) Program MA Admission Committee
2019-2022	SJHR (Social Justice and Human Rights) Program MA Internship Scholarship Committee

- 2019-Present MAIS (MA Interdisciplinary Studies) Affiliated Graduate Advising Faculty,
School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies
- 2019-2020 Faculty Search Committee (member), School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Other Professional Activities

- 2010 Research Assistant to Dr. Charles Lee, Department of Justice Studies and Social Inquiry, Arizona State University (literature review, editing, and preliminary research on citizenship, sex workers, transgender identities, and methodology)
- 2007-2008 Orientation Assistant, International Student Office, Arizona State University
- 2007 Research Grant Reviewer, Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), Arizona State University
- 2004 Volunteer, Children and Nature Camp, Hokkaido, Japan (three weeks)
- 2002-2003 Volunteer, UNESCO-Korea International Workcamp, Mahasarakham Province, Thailand (one month)
- 2001-2005 Society for Critical Writing Specialists, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea

Fieldwork Experience

June 2025-Present:

Ethnographic fieldwork in South Korea for the project of Korean ethnic return migrant students (KERMS), Seoul, South Korea

May-July 2024 (two months):

Preliminary research in South Korea, conducted semi-structured interviews and participant observation on the topic of the ethnic Korean return migrant students who pursue higher education in their ethnic homeland.

May 2012-January 2013 (seven months):

Doctoral fieldwork in Sacramento, California, United States

August 2011-March 2012 (seven months):

Doctoral fieldwork in Vang Vieng district, Laos

June-July 2008, December 2008-January 2009, June 2009, May 2010 (total of eleven weeks):

Preliminary research with Hmong immigrant families, Sacramento, California, United States

August 2003-February 2004, August 2005-February 2006 (total of fourteen months):

Preliminary field and community experience, Vang Vieng district, Laos