

# Taewoo Kang

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(Last update: July, 2025)

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Large Language Models, Platformization, Digital Politics, Algorithmic Gatekeeping, Civic Infrastructure, Computational Methods, Mediation/Moderation

## EDUCATIONS

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2022-present **Ph.D Candidate** in Communication Arts and Sciences, Information and Media,  
**Michigan State University**, East Lansing, Michigan, the U.S.

Committee: Kjerstin Thorson (chair), Tim Vos, Dan Hiaeshutter-Rice, Wei Peng.  
[GPA 4.0] [Phi Kappa Phi (Invited in 2024)]

2019-2020 **M.Sc.** (Research Master's ) in Communication Science (Political Comm.),  
**University of Amsterdam**, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Supervisor: Judith Möller.

[Distinction (Highest Honor)]

2009-2010 **Exchange Program** in Media, Cognition and Communication,  
**University of Copenhagen**, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Academic Reference: Klaus Bruhn Jensen.

2005-2011 **B.A.** in Mass Communication,  
**Yonsei University**, Seoul, Korea

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester, 2006 [Highest Honors]

1<sup>st</sup> Semester, 2009 [High Honors]

## PUBLICATIONS

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[7] **Kang, T.** (2025). Empowered by Curation: Spatial Differentiation in the Interrelationship Between Social Media Political Curation, Political Competence, and Trust—The Case of Michigan. *Communication Research*, 0. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00936502241311943>

[6] **Kang, T.**, Battocchio, A.F., Thorson, K., Dong, C., & Sharma, P. (2025). Trade-Offs in a Bigger Pie: How the Relationships Between Digital Civic Infrastructure and Political Participation Vary Across Rural and Urban Communities in the US—The Case of Michigan. *Information, Communication & Society*, 0. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2025.2524579>

[5] **Kang, T.**, Thorson, K., & Pak, C. (2025). Truth Default or Generalized Skepticism? The Role of Overconfidence in the Relationship Between Social Media News Use and Traditional Media Use. *Social Media + Society*, 11(1). 20563051251315255. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051251315255>

[4] **Kang, T.**, Thorson, E., & Mourão, R. (2025). Subtle divergence, distinct paths: partisan variations in verification approaches. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19331681.2025.2511051>

- [3] **Kang, T.**, & Thorson, K. (2024). Who would extraterrestrials side with if they were watching us on social media? *U.S. Election Analysis 2024: Media, Voters and the Campaign* (p. 102). In Ed. D. Jackson et al. Centre for Comparative Politics and Media Research, Bournemouth University. <https://www.electionanalysis.ws/us/>
- [2] Edgerly, S., Chen, Y., Thorson, K., & **Kang, T.** (2024). Everyone Has an Opinion and there are No Rules: How US Journalists Articulate the Impact of Social Media on Journalism. *Journalism Studies*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2023.2246075>
- [1] Kim, J., Bang, H., Shin, W., **Kang, T.**, Gwan, M., Kim, J. (2011). A study on correlation between smart media efficacy and effectiveness of learning through iPad. *Proceedings of HCI Korea*, 1019-1024.

## WORKING PAPERS

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- [7] **Kang, T.**, Vos, T., Hanitzsch, T., Thurman, N., Henkel, I., Thäsler-Kordonouri, S. & Loosen, W. (2025). Going with the Mainstream: Exploring GPT Representation of Journalistic Culture. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*. [Re-submitted]
- [6] **Kang, T.**, Thorson, K., Peng, T., Hiaeshutter-Rice, D., Lee, S. & Soroka, S. (2025). Embracing Dialectic Intersubjectivity: Coordination of Differential Perspectives in Content Analysis with LLM Persona Simulation. *Social Science Computer Review*. [Re-submitted]
- [5] Vos, T., Mourão, R., Thorson, E., Robertson, R., & **Kang, T.** (2025). Journalistic epistemologies and journalism culture in the US, *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*. [Under R&R]
- [4] **Kang, T.** (2025). Development of a Generic Scale for Artificial Intelligence Cognitive Offloading Propensity. *Technology, Pedagogy and Education*. [Under Review]
- [3] **Kang, T.**, Dong, C., & Thorson, K. (2025) “I’ll Be Okay as I Am Not Alone”: How Interpersonal Neighborhood Storytelling Enhances Residents’ Well-being—Evidence from Michigan. [In Progress]
- [2] Lee, H., **Kang, T.**, & Park, S. (2025). Developing and Validating the Self-Oriented Model of Digital Publics (SOMP) Scale: A Multi-Public, Multi-Phase Study [In Progress]
- [1] Vos, T., **Kang, T.**, Thorson, E., Mourão, R., & Antolini, M. (2024). Place Matters: Variations in U.S. Journalism Culture. [In Progress]

## THESIS

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MSc’s: Imagination Evoking Delusion: How Technological Affordances of Social Media Platforms Lead Users to Obtain Surveillance Gratification Through News-Finds-Me Perception. *University of Amsterdam*. Reviewed by Judith Möller and Linda Bos (*Distinction*) [Link↗](#)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS ([n]\* Top paper awarded)

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- [14] **Kang, T.** (2025). Spatial Disparities in Political Efficacy between and within Racial Groups. *The 111th Annual Convention of the NCA. Political Communication Division*. 2025. Denver, CO (scheduled).

- [13] **Kang, T.**, Dong, C., & Thorson, K. (2025). “I’ll Be Okay as I Am Not Alone”: How Interpersonal Neighborhood Storytelling Enhances Residents’ Well-being. *AEJMC*. 2025. San Francisco, CA.
- [12] **Kang, T.**, Thorson, K., Peng, T., Hiaeshutter-Rice, D., Lee, S. & Soroka, S. (2025). Embracing Dialectic Intersubjectivity: Coordination of Different Perspectives in Content Analysis with LLM Persona Simulation. *The 75rd Annual Conference of the ICA. Computational Methods Division*. 2025. Denver, CO.
- [11] **Kang, T.** (2025). Development of a Generic Scale for Artificial Intelligence Cognitive Offloading Propensity. *The 75rd Annual Conference of the ICA. Communication & Technology Division*. 2025. Denver, CO.
- [10] **Kang, T.**, Vos, T., Hanitzsch, T., Thurman, N., & Henkel, I. (2024). AI in the Shoes of Journalists: Which Journalists’ Perspectives Do LLMs Reflect? *The 10th International Journal of Press/Politics (IJPP) Conference*. 2024. Edinburgh, UK.
- [9]\* **Kang, T.**, Battocchio, A.F., Thorson, K., Dong, C., & Sharma, P. (2024). Trade-Offs in a Bigger Pie: How the Relationships Between Digital Civic Infrastructure and Political Participation Vary Across Rural and Urban Communities in the US—The Case of Michigan. *The 74rd Annual Conference of the ICA. Political Communication Division*. 2024. Gold Coast, Australia.
- [8] **Kang, T.** (2024). Empowered by Curation: Addressing Spatial Polarization of Political Trust through Social Media Political Personalization Acts. *AEJMC. Political Communication Division*. 2024. Philadelphia, PA.
- [7]\* **Kang, T.**, Thorson, E., & Mourão, R. (2024). Curated Verification: Partisan Differences in Audiences’ Information Validation Strategies. *AEJMC*. 2024. Philadelphia, PA.
- [6] **Kang, T.**, Battocchio, A.F., Dong, C. & Thorson, K. (2024). The Multidimensionality of being “Rural”: Geography, Media Use, and Mental Health. *AEJMC*. 2024. Philadelphia, PA.
- [5]\* Vos, T., **Kang, T.**, Thorson, E., Mourão, R., & Antolini, M. (2024). Place Matters: Variations in U.S. Journalism Culture. *AEJMC*. 2024. Philadelphia, PA.
- [4] Mourão, R., Vos, T., Thorson, E., Antolini, M., & **Kang, T.** (2024). Beyond Survey: Challenges and Possibilities of Connecting Worlds of Journalism to Other Datasets, Methods and Epistemologies. *AEJMC*. 2024. Philadelphia, PA.
- [3]\* **Kang, T.** (2023). Users as Naïve Scientists: Decoding the networked authenticity of political information. *AEJMC*. 2023. Washington D.C.
- [2] **Kang, T.**, Thorson, K., & Pak, C. (2023). “Is it authentic?”: The role of overconfidence in the relationship between social media news use and institutional media use. *The 73rd Annual Conference of the ICA*. 2023. Toronto, Canada.
- [1] Edgerly, S., Chen, Y., Thorson, K., & **Kang, T.** (2023). Elaborated negativity: How U.S. journalists assess the impact of social media. *The 73rd Annual Conference of the ICA*. 2023. Toronto, Canada.

## AWARDS / GRANTS (YYYY\* *Top paper awarded*)

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### ACADEMIC

- 2025      Dissertation Completion Fellowship,  
Michigan State University, Graduate School
- Grant: USD 4185.5
- 2024\***      Top Student-led Paper Award, Political Communication Division,  
*the 74th Annual ICA Conference, Gold Coast, Australia.*
- 1st Author
  - with Ava Francesca Battocchio; Kjerstin S. Thorson; Chuqing Dong;  
Pooja Sharma
- 2024      Michael Haley Travel Grant, the 74th Annual ICA Conference
- Grant: USD 1,250
- 2024      ICA Political Communication Division Travel Award
- Grant: USD 500
- 2024\***      Top Faculty Paper (Second place), Newspaper and Online News Division,  
*AEJMC, 2024. Philadelphia, PA.*
- 1st Author
  - with Esther Thorson; Rachel Mourao
  - Grant: USD 350
- 2024\***      Top Faculty Paper, Community Journalism Interest Group,  
*AEJMC, 2024. Philadelphia, PA.*
- 2nd Author
  - with Tim Vos; Esther Thorson; Rachel Mourao; Marialina Antolini
- 2024      Graduate Office Fellowship: Conference Travel Grant for ICA2024,  
Michigan State University, Communication Arts & Sciences Dean's Office
- Grant: USD \$2,768
- 2024      Summer Research Funding, Michigan State University,  
Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Title: AI Cognitive Offloading
  - Supervisor: Dr. Maria Molina
  - Grant: USD 2,505.27
- 2024      Janet L. Loria Scholarship, Michigan State University,  
Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 940
- 2023\***      Chaffe-Mcleod Top Paper Award, Comm. Theory & Methodology Division,  
*AEJMC, 2023. Washington D.C.*
- Sole Author
  - Grant: USD 250
- 2023      Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award,  
*National Honor Society in Journalism and Mass Communication,*

- AEJMC, 2023. Washington D.C.
- Grant: USD 113
- 2023 Graduate Office Fellowship: Conference Travel Grant for AEJMC2023, Michigan State University, Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 1,551
- 2023 Summer Research Funding, Michigan State University, Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Title: Incidental News Apathy
  - Supervisor: Dr. Esther Thorson
  - Grant: USD 2,980
- 2023 Graduate Office Fellowship: Conference Travel Grant ICA 2023, Michigan State University, Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 1,500
- 2023 Bonnie B. Reece Graduate Scholarship, Michigan State University, Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 1,000
- 2022 Kaplan Fellowship, Michigan State University, Department of Advertising & Public Relation
- Grant: USD 4,000
- 2021 Research Funding Grant, Seoul Foundation of Arts and Culture,
- Title: Reactions on Social Media to Relaxation of Social Distancing
  - Grant: KRW 3m (Approx. 2,600 USD equivalent)
- 2009 University Designated Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Yonsei University,
- Grant: KRW 1.8m (Approx. 1,500 USD equivalent)
- 2006 University Designated Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Yonsei University,
- Grant: KRW 3.5m (Approx. 3,000 USD equivalent)

#### NON-ACADEMIC (Literary / Journalism)

- 2019 25<sup>th</sup> [Munhakdongne Novel Award](#),
- Title of the Book: Shortest Path [최단경로] (Kang, 2019)
  - Grant: KRW 50m (Approx. 43,000 USD equivalent)
- 2017 Best Program of the Year, SBS Committee of the Press Ombudsman,
- Sisters' Radio (Contribution to Gender Equality)
- 2013 Shortlisted for 25<sup>th</sup> Korea Producer Award for the Experimenting Spirit,
- Nomination Title: Master of the Music
- 2011 140<sup>th</sup> Producer of the Month, Korean Producers & Directors' Association,
- Award-Winning Title: A Single Mom: Everybody's Family

#### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCES**

2025-present Research Assistant, [American Community Project](#)

2024-present Research Affiliate, [Worlds of Journalism Study U.S. Team](#).

- 2022-present Brandt Political Communication Research Assistant, [Civic Infrastructure Lab](#),  
**Michigan State University**
- 2021-2022 Researcher, Local Government Project,  
**Kangwon National University, S. Korea**
- Project: A research for facilitating metaverse industry
  - Role: Co-author (Project-led: Dr. Mina Park)
- 2019-2020 Research Internship, [Computational Communication Science Amsterdam](#),  
**University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands**
- Project: Tracking the filter bubble (Advisor: Dr. Judith Möller)
  - Role: Network analysis on Twitter and literature review

## TEACHING & INVITED TALKS

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### Michigan State University

ADV 442 Digital Analytics (TA). 2024 - 2025

### University of Florida

Artificial Intelligence Research (AIR) group (Invited Research Talk),  
Embracing Dialectic Intersubjectivity: Coordination of Different Perspectives in Content  
Analysis with LLM Persona Simulation. Mar 7, 2025.

### Korea University (Seoul, Korea)

JMCO248 Introduction to Media Data Science (Guest Lecture),  
Large Language Model Augmentation. May 31, 2025 (Scheduled)

### Kangwon National University (Korea)

Professional Journalism (Guest Lecture). July, 2022.

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

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### REVIEWER

#### Selected Journal Review

- [4] *Nature Portfolio: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. July, 2025
- [3] *Nature Portfolio: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. Jun, 2025
- [2] *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*. Mar, 2025
- [1] *New Media & Society*. July, 2023.

#### Selected Conference Review

- [6] Computational Methods & Political Communication Divisions for *the 75th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA)*. 2025.
- [5] Communication Theory & Methodology Division for *the 108th Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC)*. 2025.
- [4] Political Communication & Journalism Studies Division for *the 74th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA)*. 2024.
- [3] Political Communication & Communication Theory and Methodology Division for *the 107th*

*Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC). 2024.*

[2] Journalism Studies Division for *the 73rd Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA). 2023.*

[1] Communication Theory & Methodology Division for *the 106th Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC). 2023.*

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

- DEI Representative, Information and Media Ph.D. program, *Michigan State University*, 2023-2024.

### PROFESSIONAL/INDUSTRY EXPERIENCES

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- 2010-2018      Radio Producer,  
                     **SBS** (a national TV and Radio network in Korea),  
                     - Selected Programs:  
                                 2017-2018      Sisters' Radio (Entertainment Show), Producer  
                                 2012-2013      [Cultwo Show](#) (Talk Show), Associate Producer  
                                 2011              Section Radio (Economic News), Producer  
                                 2010              [SBS Observatory](#) (News), Assistant Producer
- 2009              Correspondent Reporter, [The Korea Herald](#),  
                     **The Herald Media, Inc.**, (a major newspaper corp in Korea)  
                     - Covering 2009 UNFCCC Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen,  
                                 Denmark (COP15 and CMP5)

### SKILLS

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| Language | Korean (native), English   |
| Computer | Python, R, SPSS, AMOS, ATLAS.ti                                  |
| Format   | APA, MLA, IEEE, Chicago Style                                    |
| Apps     | Tobii Eye-Tracker, Noldus FaceReader, Adobe Platforms, Pro-Tools |