

Duna Susie Lee, PhD

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Education

2013-2019	PhD, MSc	New York University (NYU), USA Biological Anthropology (Supervisor: Dr. James Higham)
2006-2009	MPhil	MPhil, Seoul National University, South Korea Biological Anthropology (Supervisor: Dr. Sunyoung Pak)
2002-2006	BSc	BSc <i>cum laude</i> , Seoul National University, South Korea Double major in Child Development & Family Studies and Anthropology

Professional Experience Highlights

2020-present Research scientist (post-doc)

Population Health Laboratory, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany

- Leading 3 projects (2 first- and 1 second-author) on how **human fertility** responds to the present **challenges to human health and wellbeing** (e.g., extreme BMI, disasters, and COVID-19).
- **Teaching of graduate courses** 1) “Population Health” module “**Evolutionary approaches to population health**” and 2) “Research Skills”
- **Presented at academic conferences** for the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association, Population Association America, International Population Conference.
- Participated in **administrative activities** including **conference organisation** on the COVID-19 impact on human fertility and families ([conference page](#)) and **organising workshop series** “**Think Population**”.

2013-2019 PhD student

NYU and New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology, USA

- Thesis: [Reproductive trade-offs in the free-ranging rhesus macaque females on Cayo Santiago](#)
Thesis committee: James Higham (supervisor), Susan Alberts, Marina Cords, Todd Disotell, Clifford Jolly.
Awarded **Dean’s Outstanding Dissertation in Social Sciences**, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.
- Designed original research on the evolved mechanisms underlying reproductive rates in female rhesus macaques, involving **fieldwork, endocrinological lab work, and demographic census data analysis**.
- Published 4 first-author articles, including **Lee et al., 2019, PNAS (Cozzarelli Prize nominated)**.
- Secured **research grants** (total \$16,150) from National Scientific Foundation of the USA, Leakey Foundation, American Society of Primatologists, and International Primatological Society.
- **Hired, trained, and supervised two undergraduates** for fieldwork in Puerto Rico.
- Established and managed **international teams of researchers** from Germany (German Primate Center, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology), Puerto Rico (Caribbean Primate Research Center), South Korea (National Primate Research Center), and the UK (Exeter University).
- **Taught an undergraduate course “Human Origins”** as a TA including twice a week hourly lab sections.

Publications

Lee DS (2022, forthcoming) Life history theory and reproductive trade-offs in humans, *Current issues of Evolutionary Behavioural Science* (ed. by Sunyoung Pak), Seoul National University Press

Lee DS, Nitsche N, Barclay K, Body mass index during early adulthood and first births: Racial/ethnic and sex differences in the US NLSY79 cohort. *Population Studies* ([accepted](#)).

Nitsche N, Lee DS, The role of emotions in the changing fertility intentions during the COVID19 Pandemic (under review at *Population Development Review*).

<Published>

Lee DS, Knittel T, Heistermann M., Deschner T., Higham JP. (2022) [Testing the role of testosterone versus estrogens in mediating reproductive transitions in female rhesus macaques](#), *Hormones and Behavior* 139 ([data](#))

Lee DS, Kang Yul HR, Ruiz-Lambides A., Higham JP. (2021) [The observed pattern and hidden process of female reproductive trajectories across the lifespan in a nonhuman primate](#), *Journal of Animal Ecology* 90 (12): 2901-2914. ([data](#))

Lee DS, Mandalaywala T, Dubuc C, Widdig A, Higham JP. (2020) [Higher early life mortality with lower infant body mass in a free-ranging primate](#), *Journal of Animal Ecology* 89 (10): 2300-2310. ([data](#))

Lee DS, Ruiz-Lambides A., Higham JP. (2019) [Higher offspring mortality with short inter-birth intervals in free-ranging rhesus macaques](#), *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* 116 (3): 057-6062. ([data](#)) **Nominated for 2019 Cozzarelli Prize (PNAS paper of the year)**.

Lee DS (2018) Interbirth interval, In: *Encyclopedia of Animal Cognition and Behavior*, Springer.

- Lee DS (2018) R- and K-strategies, In: Encyclopedia of Animal Cognition and Behavior, Springer.
- Dubuc C, Allen WL, Cascio J, Lee DS, Maestripieri D, Petersdorf M, Winters S, Higham JP. (2016) [Who cares? Experimental attention biases provide new insights into a mammalian sexual signal](#), Behavioral Ecology 27 (1): 68-74
- Lee DS and Kang HR (2012) [The categorization of “bad animal” and its relation to animal appearances: a study of 6-year-old children’s perceptions](#), J Soc, Evol, and Cultural Psy (now Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences) 6 (1), 32-49.

Projects and Collaborations in Progress

- Lee DS, Batyra E, Castro AF, Wilde W, Human fertility after disaster: A systematic literature review. **Registered at** <https://osf.io/dpgqf/>
- Lee DS, Benjamini J, Park YS, Yearning for a bigger population: The relevance of minority status for fertility preference among the Oromo, Ethiopia

Presentations & Invited Talks

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| 2022 | Invited seminar | “ Communities in Anthropocene ” seminar series - CATA research group on disaster and sociality |
| | Poster | European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association |
| 2021 | Oral presentation | International Population Conference
Population Association of America annual meeting |
| 2020 | Invited seminar | NYU Primate Reproductive Ecology and Evolution (PhD exit talk)
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (post-doc interview) |
| 2016 | Poster | American Society for Physical Anthropology |
| 2009 | Oral Presentation | International Society for Human Ethology |

Teaching and Mentorship

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| 2021-present | Instructor, International Max Planck School for Population, Health and Data Science
“ Evolutionary Approaches to Population Health ” graduate course
“ Research Skills Seminar Series ” graduate course |
| 2017-2018 | Teaching assistant and lab instructor, Department of Anthropology, NYU
“ Human Origins ” undergraduate course and two weekly lab sections ~ 20 students |
| 2008 | Teaching assistant, Department of Anthropology, Seoul National University
“Culture and Language” undergraduate course
* Best Teaching Assistant Award from the School of Social Sciences |

Awards, Fellowships, Grants

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| 2019 | Dean’s Outstanding Dissertation in Social Sciences, NYU GSAS |
| 2018 | \$9,450; NSF, Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
\$6,500; The Leakey Foundation, General Research Grants
“ <i>The role of testosterone in the modulation of parental behaviors in primates</i> ” (project outcome report from the NSF website) |
| 2016 | \$1,000; American Society of Primatologists, Small Grants
\$1,000; International Primatological Society, Research Grants
“ <i>The role of testosterone in the modulation of parental behaviors in primates</i> ” |
| 2015 | \$3,000; NSF, IGERT Pilot Research Funds |
| 2013-2017 | NYU MacCracken Fellowship for stipend and full tuition |
| 2007-2008 | Seoul National University Teaching Assistant Scholarship |
| 2005 | Seoul National University Honor Scholarship
Seoul National University Alumni Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduates |

Administrative Activities

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| 2021-present | Organiser of the workshop series “Think Population” at MPIDR |
| 2021 | Organising Committee for the conference “Pandemic Babies? The Covid-19 Pandemic and Its Impact on Fertility and Family Dynamics” at MPIDR |

Professional Service

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| 2020-present | Reviewed manuscripts on various topics on ageing, reproductive and child health, for the following peer-reviewer journals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Animal Behaviour |
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- Behavioral ecology and sociobiology
- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)
- The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

Outreach

- 2021-present **Essay writer for the column “The way we say natural” written in Korean for a quarterly magazine read by ~5000 Catholic readers in South Korea.** ([Twitter thread summarising my works in English](#)).
- 2017 Instructor for teaching science at a juvenile detention centre in NYC
- 2017 Judge for the Urban Barcode Project (UBP) a science competition program for high school student teams conducting a project that uses DNA technology to explore biodiversity in NYC

Other Research and Professional Experience

- 2019-2020 Analyst - RAND Europe, Home Affairs and Social Policy team
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- Conducted evaluation and research projects on topics related to family, health, and education.
 - Published a **policy memo** on inclusion in early childhood education and care (ECEC) on behalf of the European Platform for Investing in Children project ([link](#)) - presented the memo at the European Commission's Working Group on ECEC in Jan 2020.
 - Conducted research and evaluation on **topics related to children and family policies** (e.g., childcare preferences by parents, women's prenatal mental health, review of current brain sciences literature on adolescent development and learning).
 - **Performed data analysis** for various study designs (randomised control trials, mixed-methods study using a mixture of survey, focus group discussions, interviews).
- 2017 Member - Science Advocacy and Action Network (ScAAN)
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- Published a **policy memo** “Are Orphanages for Orphans?” on the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network blog ([link](#)), to advocate the policy to end institutionalised care and invest in supporting vulnerable families.
 - Wrote a **knowledge brief** outlining scientific evidence against solitary confinement ([link](#)).
 - Participated in an **outreach program for teaching science** at a juvenile detention centre in New York City.
- 2012 Research assistant - Tokai Baboon Project, Cape Town, South Africa
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- Conducted fieldwork on 2 troops of chacma baboons (~80) in Cape Town, South Africa, and collected behavioural and physiological data.
 - Set up a behavioral coding scheme and a field station for storing physiological data.
- 2006-2007 Research assistant - Seoul National University
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- Arranged visiting schedules for over 1,000 mother-child pairs and conducted physical measurements and household surveys, for the Korea Research Foundation funded project, “**Study on the Effect of Poverty from a Life Cycle Perspective: Focusing on Childhood Poverty.**”

Skills

- Programming in R, MATLAB
- Data analysis and research methods: mixed-effects models; Markov-chain models; Cox proportional hazard models; meta-analysis; time-series analysis; systematic review
- Laboratory skills: hormone measurements using enzyme immunoassay techniques; DNA extraction and PCR analysis
- Field animal data collection: non-invasive observation of animal behaviours and collection of physiological samples
- Languages: English (excellent), Korean (excellent), Deutsch (elementary)
- Licence: Certificate for Early Childhood Educator (South Korea)