

Sarah Sung Hye Kang

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EDUCATION

University of Oxford, UK

MSc in Comparative Social Policy and Intervention, Jesus College, 2015

- Thesis: Long Term Care Policies in 12 OECD Countries: A fuzzy-set QCA analysis

Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea

B.A in International Studies, Scranton College, 2012

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Aging and disability, aging and resilience, ageism, ableism, intersectionality
- Community engagement, Aging in Place, Home- and Community-Based Services
- Social innovation in social services, social policy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MISSIONIT

Researcher | Seoul, South Korea, 2022 Apr – 2024 Feb

Missionit is a social venture company with specialties in research and design funded by the South Korean government.

- Led consulting projects with major conglomerates in South Korea on accelerating accessibility and inclusion in product and services development for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Developed analytical framework and derived key insights on psychological needs of marginalized user groups based on age, disability, gender, race and ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.
- Designed questionnaire and conducted one-on-one, in-depth interviews in Korean and English through ethnographic fieldwork, home visits, FGIs, and consultations with international experts.
- Conducted case studies on technology and design trends with a focus on unmet needs and gaps in accessibility and presented findings and recommendations in formal presentations.
- Wrote book chapters and weekly newsletters covering the latest issues on social innovation and home healthcare technology that support aging in place and psychological well-being.

(Selected projects)

Project Title: Next Inclusive Design (Samsung R&D)

- Role: Co-head of Research
- Led a consulting project in the areas of accessibility in IoT (Internet of Things) devices for older adults and adults with physical disabilities for ADL and communication tasks.
- Developed qualitative framework on underlying psychological needs including security, self-efficacy, and sense of belonging.
- Designed questionnaire and conducted 90-120 minute one-on-one, in-depth interviews with 35 participants including 16 home visits and 1 FGI.
- Presented findings and made recommendations in formal presentations to Samsung on unmet needs and gaps in accessibility and home healthcare.

Project Title: Creative Usability Insights (Samsung R&D)

- Role: Co-head of Research
- This project examined how marginalized users including blind parents of non-disabled children, Child of Deaf Adults, adults with cerebral palsy, panic disorders and severe depression, dyslexia, and ADHD creatively adapted the usability of digital devices to manage family roles at home and maximize efficiency at the workplace, particularly in low-accessibility settings. This study included 120-minute one-on-one, in-depth ethnographic interviews with 10 participants including home visits and visits to their workplace. Key findings were also incorporated into the 2023 Samsung Disability Pride Month Campaign.

Project Title: MSV Social Impact Series (Missionit)

- Edited book series on universal design for older adults and adults with disabilities.
- Conducted in-depth interviews in English with international professionals on accessibility and universal design from countries including India, Ukraine, Japan, and the U.K.
- Wrote actionable insights to accelerate accessibility in product design, landscape design, and policy recommendations for aging in place.

(Selected interviewees)

- Karen Braitmayer, Accessibility Specialist and Head of U.S. Access Board appointed by President Obama
- Robert Nichols, Founder of World Deaf Architecture and for member of U.S. Access Board
- Chris Downey, TED speaker, blind architect
- Yuko Arai, World Bank, Urban Specialist on World Bank Age-Ready Cities for all
- Jeff Johnson, Professor, Speaker at 'Talks at Google: Designing for Older Adults'

KOREA INSTITUTE OF POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Researcher, Center for International Development and Cooperation | Jun 2017- Dec 2021

Government policy research institute under the Prime Minister's Office

- Collaborated on government-commissioned research projects to develop analytical frameworks for policy implementation and evaluation, offering key insights and policy recommendations.
- Conducted international comparative case studies to derive policy implications for South Korea.
- Wrote sections of policy reports and literature reviews on theoretical discourse and Delphi analysis regarding international development and cooperation, and disaster management and safety.
- Undertook in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, including government agencies, local governments, NGOs, and academic professionals.

(Selected projects)

Project Title: An Analysis of Domestic Implementation and Policy Recommendations for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- This project devised a comprehensive policy strategy to implement the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs in South Korea based on the UN global indicator framework, addressing issues of fragmentation among key government agencies in charge of policy planning. This strategy incorporated a framework on policy environment, planning, implementation, and evaluation, including policy recommendations to develop guidelines based on comparative cases studies of Germany, Finland, and Norway.

Project Title: Official Development Assistance (ODA) Country Program Evaluation in Korea: Meta-analysis and Policy Suggestions

- This project conducted a meta-analysis to assess the evolving landscape of country-level ODA program evaluations in South Korea with the aim of enhancing aid effectiveness at the national level. Policy recommendations were derived based on comparative case studies on ODA program evaluation frameworks and guidelines in the U.K., Germany, and ADB, based on interviews and Delphi analysis of surveys conducted among government agencies, local governments, NGOs, and academic professionals.

PUBLICATIONS

Namkung, E. H., & Kang, S. H. (2024). The trend of chronic diseases among older Koreans, 2004–2020: Age–period–cohort analysis. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 79(9).

<https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbae128>

Kang, S. H. (2024). Integrating Policies for Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the United States. *Global Social Security Review*. KIHASA, 31(Winter). *(Manuscript under review.)*

Koo, J. W., & Kang, S. H. (2013). What do Korean citizens think about human rights: Findings from the 2011 KGSS Human Rights Survey. *SSK Human Rights Brief*, 1(1), 1–12.

Kim, J., & Kang, S. H. (2012). CSO-State partnerships, profits, and participation: Smart social capital, social finance, and shared incentives towards Public-Private partnership efficacy and social benefit. *International Studies Review*, 13(2), 53–86. <https://doi.org/10.16934/isr.13.2.201212.53>

BOOKS

Kim, B. S., Kang, S. H. (Eds.). (2023). *MSV Social Impact Series Vol. 05 Aging and Universal Design*. Missionit Publishing.

Kim, B. S., Kang, S. H. (Eds.). (2022). *MSV Social Impact Series Vol. 04 Designing for Safety and Accessibility*. Missionit Publishing.

COMMUNITY WORK

Mentoring Program for Non-disabled Children of Disabled Parents, Seoul, South Korea, April 2023 – April 2024
Funded by the Korea Post Foundation and Namyangjusi Community Rehabilitation Center

- Conducted one-on-one mentoring sessions in reading, writing, and self-care for non-disabled children of disabled parents from low income families.

AWARDS

Hakro Foundation Scholarship, 2013 (£32,569)

- Full tuition and living expenses for overseas graduate studies