# Yong Ja Hong

**Name:** Yong Ja Hong
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**Website:** https://dprkathletics.com/

## Education

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| Sep 2023 – Aug 2026 (est.) | *University of North Korean Studies*, Seoul, South Korea<br>● Doctoral Candidate in North Korean Culture, Society, and Media<br>● DPRK-focused classes conducted mostly in Korean |
| Sep 2021 – Aug 2023 | *Korea University Sejong Campus*, Sejong City, South Korea<br>● North Korean Studies Master's Degree<br>● DPRK-focused classes conducted in both Korean and English |
| Sep 2019 – Aug 2021 | *Korea University Sejong Campus*, Sejong City, South Korea<br>● Unification, Diplomacy, and Security undergraduate degree<br>● Completed various DPRK-focused classes, some fully conducted in the Korean language |
| Aug 2009 – Jan 2012<br>Aug 2016 – Dec 2016 | *University of Oklahoma*, Norman, Oklahoma, United States<br>● Completed undergraduate classes in Political Science, Film and Video Studies, and International Studies |

## Work Experience

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| Jun 2025 - Present | Manager of DPRK Athletics, an independent news organisation covering North Korean Sport<br>● Received press credentials for the 2025 World Aquatics Championships |
| Oct 2009 – Jan 2017 | Manager of Welcome to Loud City, a division of Vox Media<br>● Received press credentials for the NBA Finals, FIBA Basketball World Cup, and Team USA Basketball<br>● Appeared as a guest on various media outlets, including Radio Sport New Zealand, Dime Magazine, and Sports Illustrated Online<br>● Managed a team of up to 20 writers that regularly covered the Oklahoma City Thunder |
| Dec 2016 – Feb 2017<br>Apr 2016 – Nov 2016 | Candidate for Oklahoma Legislature and Oklahoma City Council<br>● Ran independent campaigns that received coverage in the local press and received a significant percentage of the overall vote<br>● First transgender candidate to ever run for Oklahoma City Council, third transgender candidate to ever run for Oklahoma State Legislature |

## Academic Conferences

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| Aug 2025 | *The 16th ISKS International Conference of Korean Studies*, National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia |

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| | ● Individual Paper Presentation: "조선민주주의인민공화국 체육교육 정책 담론 - 시대 구분 중심으로" (Korean Language) |
| Apr 2025 | *Reflections on the North Conference*, University of Sheffield, England, United Kingdom<br>● Individual Paper Presentation: "Reflecting on the Chollima Movement: How Landmark Athletics Reforms Boosted Mass Mobilisation" |
| Feb 2025 | *2025 IKSU Annual International Conference: The Korean Peninsula and Other Divided Nations*, University of Central Lancashire, Pyla, Cyprus<br>● Individual Paper Presentation: "The Birth of North Korean Women's Football: Focusing on Historical Factors and International Influence" |
| Nov 2024 | *ACAS 2024: 18th Annual Conference on Asian Studies – Asian Temporalities: Chronologies, Seasons, Tenses*, Palacký University Olomouc, Olomouc, Czechia<br>● Individual Paper Presentation: "Finding Similarities and Differences between Athletics in Korea under Japanese Rule and Early North Korea" |
| May 2024 | *Transgressive Women in East Asian Screen Cultures*, University of Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom<br>● Individual Paper Presentation: "Transgression within Limitations: The Increasing Agency of the Female Athlete in North Korean Video" |

## Speaking Engagements

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| Jun 2025 | *University of Vienna*, Vienna, Austria<br>● European Centre for North Korean Studies Guest Lecture: "Football in the DPR Korea: Propaganda vs. Practicality" |

## Press Articles and Interviews

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| Oct 2023 - Present | NK News, Seoul, South Korea<br>● Authored eight feature articles about DPRK Sport |
| Aug 2024 | South China Morning Post, Hong Kong SAR, China<br>● Video Interview, "Why North Korea has done so well in the Olympics", approx. 700,000 views on YouTube |

## Further Education

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| Jun 2020 – Jul 2020 | *Kyujanggak Korean Studies Summer Workshop*, Seoul, South Korea<br>● Three week course covering research trends, methods and approaches in various different subfields of Korean Studies at a graduate school level |
| Jan 2020 | *WFUNA Peace Fellows Programme*, Seoul, South Korea<br>● One week course focusing on peace-building on the Korean peninsula |
| Sep 2017 – May 2019 | *Language Education Centre*, Chonnam University, Gwangju, South Korea<br>● Successfully completed levels 1 through 6 of Korean Language Courses |
| Sep 2017 - Dec 2017<br>Mar 2018 - Jun 2018<br>Sep 2018 - May 2019 | *Goethe Institut Gwangju*, Gwangju, South Korea<br>● Successfully completed German language courses from level A2 to level C1 |
| Jul 2017 | *Kim Hyong Jik University of Education*, Pyongyang, North Korea<br>● Successfully completed 3 weeks of basic Korean language courses |

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| | ● Second visit to the DPRK (first in 2012 as a tourist) |

## Additional Skills

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| Languages | ● Native Speaker of English<br>● Fluent Korean Speaker (C2)<br>● Acceptable level of German understanding (B2) |
| Computer Skills | ● Basic Video Editing (DaVinci Resolve)<br>● Microsoft Office, Hancom Office<br>● Social Media Platforms (Discord, Youtube, Instagram)<br>● Basic HTML |