

Yong Ja Hong

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Education

Sep 2023 – Jan 2027 (est.)	<i>University of North Korean Studies</i> , Seoul, South Korea ● Doctoral Candidate in North Korean Culture, Society, and Media ● DPRK-focused classes conducted mostly in Korean
Sep 2021 – Aug 2023	<i>Korea University Sejong Campus</i> , Sejong City, South Korea ● North Korean Studies Master's Degree ● DPRK-focused classes conducted in both Korean and English
Sep 2019 – Aug 2021	<i>Korea University Sejong Campus</i> , Sejong City, South Korea ● Unification, Diplomacy, and Security undergraduate degree ● Completed various DPRK-focused classes, some fully conducted in the Korean language
Aug 2009 – Jan 2012 Aug 2016 – Dec 2016	<i>University of Oklahoma</i> , Norman, Oklahoma, United States ● Completed undergraduate classes in Political Science, Film and Video Studies, and International Studies

Work Experience

Jun 2025 - Present	Manager of DPRK Athletics, an independent news organisation covering North Korean Sport ● Provided on-site coverage of the DPRK's run at the 2026 AFC Women's Cup, 2025-2026 AFC Women's Champions League, and 2026 U20 Women's Asian Cup ● Produced over 35 videos with over 8000 total views and gained over 110 subscribers
Oct 2009 – Jan 2017	Manager of Welcome to Loud City, a division of Vox Media ● Received press credentials for the NBA Finals, FIBA Basketball World Cup, and Team USA Basketball ● Appeared as a guest on various media outlets, including Radio Sport New Zealand, Dime Magazine, and Sports Illustrated Online ● Managed a team of up to 20 writers that regularly covered the Oklahoma City Thunder
Dec 2016 – Feb 2017 Apr 2016 – Nov 2016	Candidate for Oklahoma Legislature and Oklahoma City Council ● Ran independent campaigns that received coverage in the local press and received a significant percentage of the overall vote ● First transgender candidate to ever run for Oklahoma City Council, third transgender candidate to ever run for Oklahoma State Legislature

Published Academic Articles

2026	"조선민주주의인민공화국 체육교육 정책담론 - 시대 구분 중심으로", International Journal of Korean Studies, Vol. 20, pp. 495-514.
Mar 2026	"Transgression within limitations: The increasing agency of the female athlete in DPRK video", East Asian Journal of Popular Culture
2023	Master's Thesis, "The Evolution of Basketball in the DPRK: Factors of Ascendancy and Decline/북조선 농구의 발전: 우월성과 감소의 요인, Korea University

Academic Conferences

Jul 2026	<i>Vereinigung für Koreaforschung (Vfk) Conference</i>, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany ● Individual Paper Presentation: "Der Rolle von Fussball als eine weltanschauliche Mittel in dem Norden von Korea unter Japanischer Herrschaft" (German Language)
Aug 2025	<i>The 16th ISKS International Conference of Korean Studies</i>, National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia ● Individual Paper Presentation: "조선민주주의인민공화국 체육교육 정책 담론 - 시대 구분 중심으로" (Korean Language)
Apr 2025	<i>Reflections on the North Conference</i>, University of Sheffield, England, United Kingdom ● Individual Paper Presentation: "Reflecting on the Chollima Movement: How Landmark Athletics Reforms Boosted Mass Mobilisation"

Feb 2025	<i>2025 IKSU Annual International Conference: The Korean Peninsula and Other Divided Nations</i>, University of Central Lancashire, Pyla, Cyprus ● Individual Paper Presentation: "The Birth of North Korean Women's Football: Focusing on Historical Factors and International Influence"
Nov 2024	<i>ACAS 2024: 18th Annual Conference on Asian Studies – Asian Temporalities: Chronologies, Seasons, Tenses</i>, Palacký University Olomouc, Olomouc, Czechia ● Individual Paper Presentation: "Finding Similarities and Differences between Athletics in Korea under Japanese Rule and Early North Korea"
May 2024	<i>Transgressive Women in East Asian Screen Cultures</i>, University of Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom ● Individual Paper Presentation: "Transgression within Limitations: The Increasing Agency of the Female Athlete in North Korean Video"

Speaking Engagements

Aug 2026	<i>University of Vienna</i>, Vienna, Austria (Online) ● European Centre for North Korean Studies Webinar: "Solo Engagement: Meeting DPR Korea Sport Delegations in a Polarized World"
Jun 2025	<i>University of Vienna</i>, Vienna, Austria ● European Centre for North Korean Studies Guest Lecture: "Football in the DPR Korea: Propaganda vs. Practicality"

Press Articles and Interviews

Apr 2026	Tribuna Expresso, Lisbon, Portugal
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	● Interviewed about the history, developmental system, and personality of the DPRK Women's Football Team
Apr 2026	TV360 Thể Thao, Hanoi, Vietnam (Minh Quân Tiktok) ● Interviewed about the DPRK women's football team, featured on television and in a viral Tik Tok Video with over 2 Million Views
Oct 2023 – Apr 2026	NK News, Seoul, South Korea ● Authored ten feature articles about DPRK Sport ● Interviewed about DPRK Sport history for podcast
Aug 2024	South China Morning Post, Hong Kong SAR, China Video Interview, "Why North Korea has done so well in the Olympics", approx. 700,000 views on YouTube

Further Education

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

Jul 2017	<i>Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, Pyongyang, North Korea</i> ● Successfully completed 3 weeks of basic Korean language courses ● Second visit to the DPRK (first in 2012 as a tourist)
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Additional Skills

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