

SEONUK KIM (김선욱)

Comic Artist · Undergrad HAI Researcher
Department of Industrial Engineering · Department of Design
Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST)

seonuk.kim@unist.ac.kr
<https://seonukkim.com>

Last updated: August 5, 2026

Contents

1	Education	1
2	Research Interests	1
3	Industry Experience	1
4	Research Experience	1
5	Publications	1
6	Honors and Awards	2
7	Invited Talks	3
8	Honors and Awards	3
9	Projects	3
10	Artworks	5
11	Teaching Experience	6
12	Extracurricular Activities	6
13	Additional Information	6
14	References	6
15	Early Experience Archive (Before Undergrad)	7
16	Early Research Interests	7

Education

Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST)

Undergraduate – Total GPA of 3.81 / 4.3 (95.1 / 100)

Ulsan, Korea
Mar 2020 – Present

B.S. (in progress) in Industrial Engineering

B.S. (in progress) in Design

- *Alternative Military Service as Industrial Technical Personnel*
- *Cross-Registration*
 - Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)
 - Seoul National University

Sep 2023 – Aug 2025

Dec 2022 – Jan 2023

Dec 2021 – Jan 2022

Research Interests

My research focuses on human-centered AI for comics and webtoon creation, particularly creativity support tools (CSTs) that reduce repetitive work while preserving creators' intent, visual style, and creative control.

Industry Experience

LionRocket

MLOps Engineer – *Alternative Military Service*

AI webtoon startup specializing in generative AI technology for comic creation

Seoul, Korea
Jan 2025 – Aug 2025

thingsflow

Machine Learning Scientist – *Alternative Military Service*

Machine Learning Scientist Intern (Mentors: Dr. Joonhee Kim, Prof. Jooyeon Kim)

AI content creation startup, subsidiary of KRAFTON

Seoul, Korea
Sep 2023 – Nov 2024
May 2023 – Aug 2023

Research Experience

Epictive Lab, Center for Digital Humanities, UNIST

Undergrad Research Assistant (Advisor: Prof. Jae-Yon Lee)

Digital humanities research on Korean literature, computational literary analysis

Ulsan, Korea
Apr 2026 – Present

iDea Team, Human-Data Interaction Lab (HDIL), Yonsei University

Undergrad Researcher (Advisor: Prof. Dae Hyun Kim)

Human-data, human-AI interaction, and visualization research for multimodal data communication

Seoul, Korea
Jan 2026 – Present

Expressive Computing Lab (EXPC), UNIST

Undergrad Researcher (Advisor: Prof. Kyungho Lee)

Human-AI interaction design and emerging media arts research lab

Ulsan, Korea
Dec 2021 – Mar 2024

Service Engineering and Knowledge Discovery Lab, UNIST

Undergrad Research Collaborator (Advisor: Prof. Chiehyeon Lim)

Data science research for real-world service impacts in industry and society

Ulsan, Korea
Nov 2020 – Dec 2021

Publications

* denotes equal contribution

Conference

- [c.2] Taebaek Hwang*, Minseo Kim*, Gisang Lee, **Seonuk Kim**, Hyujun Eun.
KRETA: A Benchmark for Korean Reading and Reasoning in Text-Rich VQA At- tuned to Diverse Visual Contexts
EMNLP 2025. 12 pages. 22.16% acceptance rate (1,811/8,174).

- [c.1] **Seonuk Kim**, Taeyoung Ko, Yousang Kwon, Kyungho Lee.
Designing Interfaces for Text-To-Image Prompt Engineering with Stable Diffusion Models: A Human-AI Interaction
IASDR 2023. 13 pages. 56.4% acceptance rate (241/427).

Workshops and Posters

- [w.1] Yousang Kwon, **Seonuk Kim**, Taeyoung Ko, Juhyeok Yoon, Kyungho Lee.
Representing the Timbre of Traditional Musical Instruments Based On Contemporary Instrumental Samples Using DDSP
UIST 2023 Adjunct Poster.

Domestic Conference and Journal (in Korean)

- [d.3] Yousang Kwon, Jonghoon Byun, **Seonuk Kim**, Taeyoung Ko, Juhyeok Yoon, Kyungho Lee.
Representing the Timbre of Traditional Musical Instruments Based On Contemporary Instrumental Samples Using DDSP
HCIK 2024: HCI KOREA Conference.
- [d.2] **Seonuk Kim**, Yousang Kwon, Kyungho Lee.
#taggenerator: How an Online Community Designs an Interface for Text Prompt Inputs Using a NovelAI's Diffusion Model
HCIK 2023: HCI KOREA Conference.
- [d.1] **Seonuk Kim**, Kyungho Lee.
A Study on the Use of AI as Creative Support Tool for Line Drawing in Manga Production
KSDS 2022: 2022 Korea Society of Design Science Spring Conference.
Student Paper Honorable Mention (Third Award Tier)

Honors and Awards

Scholarships

- 2024 – 27 🏆 **National Presidential Science Scholarship**, President of South Korea
60 scholarship recipients selected nationwide. \$5,500 per semester.
- 2020 – 23 **Academic Performance Scholarship**, UNIST
Merit-based full scholarship including monthly academic stipend.

Awards

- 2026 🏆 **First Place, The 5th KAIST-POSTECH-UNIST AI & Data Science Competition**
83 teams, 238 participants. Team Leader and Presenter. \$2,300 as award.
- 2025 **Second Place, The 4th UNIST-KAIST-POSTECH AI & Data Science Competition**
62 teams, 237 participants. Team Leader and Presenter. \$1,500 as award.
- 2024 🏆 **Talent Award of Korea**, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister of Korea
Most prestigious award in Korea. 50 adults selected nationwide.
- Third Place, The 3rd POSTECH-UNIST-KAIST Data Science Competition**
46 teams, 172 participants. Team Leader and Presenter. \$1,500 as award.
- 2023 **Second Place, The 2nd KAIST-POSTECH-UNIST Data Science Competition**
43 teams, 177 participants. Team Leader and Presenter.
\$1,500 + MakinaRocks internship opportunity as award.
- Ambassador Certificate**, Consulate-General of Japan in Busan
JENESYS 2022 Certificate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Official invitation by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo, Miyagi, Iwate).

- 2022 **Best Student Paper Honorable Mention**, The Korea Society of Design Science
Top 39% among 54 submissions. Research on AI-assisted comic creation.
- Excellence Prize, The 9th IEEE Quiz Contest for undergraduates**
Literature search and analysis-based competition organized by IEEE and KITIS.
- Fourth Place, The 1st UNIST-POSTECH-KAIST Data Science Competition**
38 teams, 144 participants. Team Leader and Q&A Responder. \$800 as award.
- 2021 **Second Place, Lee Soo-hyun 20th Memorial Book Review Essay Contest**
32 undergraduate participants. JENESYS selection and Japan invitation.
- 2020 **Samsung Electronics Vice-chairman Prize, Campus Patent Universiade**
Team Leader and Presenter. Digital healthcare refrigerator project. \$2,300 as award.

Challenges

- 2026 Sixth Place, QCRE Data Challenge Competition
Top-5 Finalist among 33 teams. Team Leader.
- 2021 Advanced to Presentation Round, Campus Patent Universiade

Invited Talks

- ComfyUI: Technical Introduction and Implementation Guide**
Tightsaju Jul 2026
- LESSON 5: The Shortest Path Is the Long Way Around**
Young Engineers Honor Society (YEHS), National Academy of Engineering of Korea (NAEK) Jul 2026
- After JENESYS: From Network to Chance, From Chance to Career**
Consulate-General of Japan in Busan Mar 2025

Honors and Awards

Projects

- [p.28] **Coverage Path Planning for a Ship Hull Maintenance Rover** Mar 2026 – Jun 2026
Implementing and validating path planning on a physical rover
- [p.27] **A Financial-Risk Review Assistant for Creator Contracts** [site] [github] Jun 2026
On-device tool for creator contracts.
- [p.26] **Perforation Defect Classification for Quality Inspection** Mar 2026 – Apr 2026
Led the development of an image-based defect classification model evaluated on predictive performance and inference time.
- [p.25] **Tire Defect Prediction for Pilot Decisions** Nov 2025 – Jan 2026
Developed a defect rate prediction framework for tire pilot production using Transformer and LSTM models.
- [p.24] **Anime Image-to-Animation Pipeline** May 2025 – Jul 2025
Developed comprehensive pipeline for converting static anime images into dynamic animations using VLM API for automatic prompt generation and Wan 2.1 model.
- [p.23] **SMPL Blender Add-on Integration** Mar 2025 – Apr 2025
Real-time SMPL model integration with Blender for pose manipulation. TokenHMR parameter conversion and Blender Add-on development for 3D human pose editing workflow.

- [p.22] **ARIA: AI-Powered Interactive Avatar Assistant** [github] Feb 2025
Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) based virtual assistant with VRoid Studio avatar integration. Google API connectivity for Drive, Calendar, and Gmail automation with FastAPI backend and React frontend.
- [p.21] **GAN-based Comic Line Art Super-Resolution** Jan 2025 – May 2025
Generative Adversarial Network for comic line art thickness adjustment. Perceptual loss functions and style transfer techniques.
- [p.20] **Automatic Speech Balloon Processing System** Jan 2025
YOLO object detection with diffusion-based inpainting for speech balloon removal. Preprocessing pipeline for clean background generation.
- [p.19] **Financial RAG System Development** [news] Oct 2024 – Jan 2025
Developed hybrid search system with Voyage-3, cross-encoder reranking, LLMingua-2 compression, and LLM ensemble.
- [p.18] **KRETA: Korean Text-Rich VQA Benchmark** Jul 2024 – Nov 2025
Korean text-rich Visual Question Answering benchmark for Vision-Language Models. Multi-modal data processing and evaluation metrics.
- [p.17] **LUCiD: AI-based Animation** Jun 2024 – Jul 2024
AI animation creation using Luma AI Dream Machine and video generation models. Multi-modal content creation including image, video, audio, and text synthesis.
- [p.16] **Byte: AI Animate Digital Comic** Mar 2024
AI-generated digital comic exploring memory and AI consciousness. Created using Stable Diffusion XL for images and I2VGen-XL for animation within six hours. Memorial tribute examining humanity's future amidst AI transformation.
- [p.15] **StorySnap: Interactive Novel Branching Generator** May 2024 – Sep 2024
Interactive novel branching generator with character rendering, background image generation, and audio effects using Stable Diffusion and Claude 3.5 Sonnet.
- [p.14] **Hellobot Pet AI Profile Generator** Oct 2023 – Apr 2024
Commercial pet anthropomorphic image generator using Stable Diffusion XL, LoRA fine-tuning, and ControlNet enhancement.
- [p.13] **LG Electronics Parts Demand Forecasting** Oct 2023 – Jan 2024
Ensemble models including LightGBM, XGBoost, CatBoost, Random Forest, Extra Tree, and K-Nearest Neighbor with Soft Voting, Weighted Voting, and Stacking approaches. Auto ARIMA for time-series forecasting and inventory optimization.
- [p.12] **Web Novel Episode 1 Generator** May 2023 – Aug 2023
Cover and illustration generator for web novel episodes using Stable Diffusion and LoRA fine-tuning with character consistency.
- [p.11] **Movie Trailer to Webtoon Conversion** May 2023 – Aug 2023
Movie trailer to webtoon conversion using LoRA and ControlNet. Created webtoon adaptation of Barbie movie trailer and demonstrated at AI Graduate School Symposium.
- [p.10] **NEXUS: CSE Alumni Homecoming Event** Mar 2023
Event planning and management for Computer Science and Engineering Major Alumni Homecoming. Coordinated 6 lecturers and 70 participants.
- [p.9] **xDiffusers: Ball-Jointed Doll Tangible User Interface** Mar 2023 – Nov 2023
Tangible User Interface with ControlNet-based Stable Diffusion. Real-time webcam capture and pose estimation pipeline. Secured UNIST AI Challenge Program grant funding of \$ 3,000.

- [p.8] **Hana Bank Customer Targeting Strategy** [news] Oct 2022 – Jan 2023
CNN ensemble models for customer business probability prediction and advertising strategy optimization. Simulated Annealing for decision-making and bounce rate analysis for customer engagement.
- [p.7] **Diffusion Model Interface Design Research** Oct 2022 – Oct 2023
User research-driven UX/UI improvements for diffusion-based image generation including NovelAI interface analysis and prompt engineering workflows.
- [p.6] **Print.ly: Style Transfer Integration** [news] Jan 2022 – May 2022
Style transfer pipeline development for LG Household & Health Care's mini tattoo printer using SOTA models.
- [p.5] **AI-Assisted Comic Line Art Enhancement Research** Dec 2021 – May 2022
Research on comic line art quality improvement using deep learning models. Analog sketch to digital art conversion pipeline.
- [p.4] **KNOC Shale Gas Production Optimization** [news] Oct 2021 – Jan 2022
AutoML PyCaret for prediction and binary integer programming for optimization.
- [p.3] **Industrial Safety AI System Patent Commercialization** Apr 2021 – Oct 2021
ETRI patent commercialization for motion-based accident prevention using CCTV and patrol robots. Market research and business strategy development using PESTEL, SWOT analysis.
- [p.2] **Cat Movement Analysis with IMU Sensors** Nov 2020 – Nov 2021
Cat movement measurement device using 9-axis IMU sensor for arthritis prediction. Time-series data collection and behavioral analysis. Secured AI Graduate School Creative Independent Project grant funding of \$ 3,800.
- [p.1] **Smart Healthcare Refrigerator Development** [news] Apr 2020 – Nov 2020
Smart refrigerator platform for health management and trainer communication.

Artworks

Literature

- [l.1] **Swings and Blossoms** [book]
In *The Moment when the Star is Born*. egowriting. 2021. pp.133-166.
Short stories written by different people including the disabled.

Comics and Webtoons

- [t.2] **Academic Leave Letter from Science High School** [instagram]
Instagram webtoon series. since 2025.
Personal narrative about health struggles and academic decisions during high school. The series is now published in the Best Challenge section on Naver Webtoon
- [t.1] **Barbie Webtoon** [post]
AI-generated webtoon adaptation of Barbie movie trailer. 2023.
Created using Stable Diffusion, LoRA, and ControlNet for character consistency.

Animation and Digital Art

- [a.2] **LUCiD: AI Animation Trailer** [YouTube]
AI-generated animation trailer using Luma AI Dream Machine. 2024.
Images created with Stable Diffusion XL, videos with Luma AI, music with Suno AI.
Synopsis about two children's quest to find the legendary World Tree.

- [a.1] **Byte: AI Animate Digital Comic** [YouTube]
 AI-generated digital comic about memory and AI consciousness. 2024.
 Created using Stable Diffusion XL and I2VGen-XL within six hours.
 Commemorative piece exploring humanity's future amidst AI transformation.

Essays

- [e.2] **Snow Flowers, Poetry of Life and Connection** [essay]
 JENESYS outstanding essay. 2023.
 Reflected on disaster preparedness tourism through Northeast Japan earthquake sites and shared insights on Korea-Japan friendship inspired by Lee Soo-hyun bridge-building spirit.
- [e.1] **Expansion**
 Second Place, Lee Soo-hyun 20th Memorial Book Review Essay Contest. 2021.
 Wrote about Korea-Japan cultural and scientific exchange beyond political controversies, drawing on Lee Soo-hyun spirit as a model for cross-cultural understanding.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2026 **ITP117: Introduction to AI Programming II** (Instructor: Prof. Jooyeon Kim), UNIST
 Spring 2023 **ITP107: Introduction to AI Programming I** (Instructor: Prof. Michael Burrell), UNIST

Primary School Student Mentoring

- Career Mentor*, Motgol Hanok Children's Library, Seoul Jan – Jun 2024
Tutor, AI & SW, 1784 School Revolution Program, NAVER CONNECT Fdn. Feb 2023
Head Tutor, Python, Ulju The Dream Campus Program, UNIST May – Dec 2022
Head Tutor, 3D Printing & Arduino, Ulju The Dream Campus Program, UNIST Sep – Dec 2021

Extracurricular Activities

- Student Fellow (Cohort 6)*, **Forest of Talent, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS)** Jul 2026 – Present
VLM Researcher (Cohort 4), **AttentionX**, AI research group and startup accelerator Jun 2024 – Nov 2025
President (Aug 2022 – Jul 2023), **HeXA** (Hacker's eXciting Academy), UNIST Club Union Sep 2020 – Present
Co-President (Mar 2022 – Aug 2023), **brAIns** (brew AI neo scientist), UNIST AI Graduate School Jan 2021 – Aug 2023
Full Member, **Young Intellectual Property Leaders**, Korea Invention Promotion Association Nov 2020 – Present
Full Member & 2025-26 Representative of UNIST, **Young Engineers Honor Society**, National Academy of Engineering of Korea Jul 2024 – Present
Student Ambassador & Japan East-Asia Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS), **Consulate-General of Japan in Busan** Aug 2022 – Feb 2023
Policy Team Member, **UNIST Undergraduate Student Council Emergency Committee** Mar – Jun 2023
Chair, **UNIST Club Union Election Commission** Feb – Mar 2023
Legal Support TF Member, **UNIST 11th Undergraduate Student Council WE:TH U** Sep – Dec 2021

Additional Information

- Podcast Collaborator*, SideB, Seoul Webtoon Academy [list] Feb 2024 – Aug 2025

References

References available upon request.

Early Experience Archive (Before Undergrad)

Education

Baron Academy of Manga and Webtoon
Full-Time Specialized Training (Non-Degree)
Mentored by Professional Webtoonists

Busan, Korea
Jun 2019 – Jan 2020 (*Gap Year*)

Busan Science High School (BSS)
Specialized STEM high school for academically gifted students
Academic leave for health reasons

Busan, Korea
Mar 2015 – Jan 2019
Sep 2015 – Aug 2016

Early Research Interests

During high school, I studied psychology, neuroscience, and data science to better understand how people think, behave, and form relationships, with a particular interest in applying these insights to character creation and interpersonal dynamics in comics. I also explored how AI could enable next-generation comic creation tools, beginning with TensorFlow in 2016 and closely following early AI-assisted art systems such as PaintsChainer by Preferred Networks, Inc.

Research and Education (R&E)

Pusan National University
High School Researcher (R&E Mathematics; Teacher: Kyung-Il Park, Advisor: Prof. Young-Ho Im)
Research Project: The Set of Virtual Knot Polynomial Invariants.

Busan, Korea
Mar – Dec 2017

Busan Science High School
High School Researcher (R&E Information Science; Teacher: Jae-Deuk Son)
Research Project: Research on Telecommunication Drone using HTTP and Bottle.

Busan, Korea
Mar 2015 – Dec 2016

Early Research

- [er.6] **Seonuk Kim**.
A Study of Conformity Effects Induced by Movie Ratings and Online Review Comments: Opinion Mining, Data Collection, and Analysis Automation with Python
The 9th KSCY Journal, 2018. Psychology Session.
- [er.5] **Seonuk Kim**.
A Study of Conformity Effects Induced by Movie Ratings and Online Review Comments
Proceedings of the 7th International Youth Creative Research Contest, 2017.
- [er.4] Jungyo Jung, Dowoon Lee, Sunwoo Hwang, **Seonuk Kim**
The Set of Virtual Knot Polynomial Invariants.
BSS Journal of Science R&E, 2017. Teacher: Kyung-Il Park; Advisor: Prof. Young-Ho Im.
- [er.3] Ki-Beom Park, **Seonuk Kim**, Tae-Hyun Song, Dowoon Lee, Yeon-Su Jeong.
Research on Telecommunication Drone using HTTP and Bottle
BSS Journal of Science R&E, 2016. Teacher: Jae-Deuk Son.
- [er.2] **Seonuk Kim**.
The BSS Mold Eradication Project: Investigating the Antifungal Effects of Snail Mucus
Art Science Inquiry research paper, Busan Science High School, 2017. Teacher: Ok-Hwa Kang
- [er.1] Junyeop Ha, **Seonuk Kim**.
Damage, Conservation Treatment, and Restoration of Granite Stone Cultural Heritage
Field Science Inquiry report, Busan Science High School, 2016.

Early Projects

- [ep.1] **Real-Time Ocean Information Visualization and the Seriousness of Global Warming**
OceanICT Program research festival, Busan Science High School, 2018. Teacher: Soyoung Park.

Honors and Awards

- 2019 🏆 **Principal's Award for Excellence in Research**, Busan Science High School
Graduated with honors for outstanding achievement in research.
- 2018 **Ambassador Certificate**, The 10th Korea Scholar's Conference for Youth
- 🏆 **First Prize, STEAM Essay Writing Competition**, Busan Science High School
1st among 99 participants. Neuroprosthetics, human-machine boundaries, and ethics.
- 🏆 **Excellent Youth Scholars Award**, The 9th Korea Scholar's Conference for Youth
Psychology Session. Research paper on movie-rating and online-review conformity.
Certificate, High School Psychology Class, Korean Psychological Association Conference
- 2017 🏆 **Best Student Paper Award**, The 7th International Youth Creative Research Contest
Top award tier. 10 papers selected; Best Student Paper Honorable Mention tier: 12 papers.
Certificate, The 13th Kyung Ahm Bio Youth Camp, DGIST
- Student Membership Certificate**, Korean Society for Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Certificate**, The 9th Korea Brain Camp
- Silver Prize, The 30th Seoul National University Data Mining Camp**
25 teams, 99 students. Team leader of the only three-member team.
- Excellence Prize, Nobel Prize Youth Festival Busan Review Essay Contest**
Review essay award after attending invited lectures by scientists and Nobel laureates.
- Bronze Prize, Creative Project Presentation Competition**, Busan Science High School
Mathematics track. Joint award for the R&E project on virtual knot polynomial invariants.
- 2016 **Silver Prize, Field Science Inquiry Competition**, Busan Science High School
Silver-tier prize among 101 first-year students.
- 2015 🏆 **Korean Red Cross President Award**
Recognized for active youth volunteer service through Korean Red Cross Youth.

Challenges

- 2018 *Finalist*, Talent Award of Korea, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister of Korea

Extracurricular Activities

<i>Founding Member & Vice President</i> , Korean Youth Society of Neuroscience (KYSN)	Aug 2017 – Jan 2020
<i>Founding President</i> , Neuro , neuroscience club, Busan Science High School	Mar 2017 – Jan 2019
<i>Member</i> , Explorer , Mathematics club with Geogebra software, Busan Science High School	Mar 2015 – Feb 2018
<i>Member</i> , BSS Library and School Newspaper Club , Busan Science High School	Mar 2015 – Feb 2018
<i>Member</i> , BSS Photography Club , Busan Science High School	Mar 2018 – Jan 2019
<i>Member</i> , Red Cross Youth (RCY) , Korean Red Cross	Mar 2013 – Jan 2019

Teaching and Service

<i>Neuroscience Booth Organizer</i> , Dongnae-gu Youth Culture Festival, Busan, Korea	May – Jul 2018
<i>Volunteer</i> , Daerim Welfare Center (elder care for neurological conditions), Busan, Korea	Dec 2017 – Aug 2018
<i>Math Tutor</i> , Education Donation Learning Volunteer Program, Busan Science High School	Apr – Jul 2017

Additional Information

<i>Independent Researcher</i> , Computational Social Psychology	Sep 2016 – Jan 2019
Individual project on conformity with Python-based opinion mining, sentiment analysis, and visualization.	