

B.K. SONG

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Full name: BYUNGKWON SONG

Current Appointment

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Sogang University *2021.3 – present*

Previous Appointments

Visiting Associate Professor, W. Allen Wallis Institute of Political Economy, University of Rochester
2022.9 – 2023.7

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Sogang University *2020.3 – 2021.2*

Assistant Professor, Department of Policy Studies, Hanyang University *2015.9 – 2020.2*

Education

Ph.D., Department of Government, Harvard University *2010.9 – 2015.5*

M.A., Department of Political Science, Seoul National University *2006.3 – 2008.8*

B.A., Department of Political Science, Seoul National University *1999.3 – 2006.2*

Research Interests

Political Economy; Research Methods; Causal Inference; Political Behavior; Inequality; Housing; Media Politics

Published or Forthcoming Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

23. “Do Voters Hold the President’s Party Accountable for Local Economic Conditions?” accepted for publication, *Electoral Studies*.

22. “The Effect of Incumbency in a Mixed-Member Electoral System,” 2025, *Electoral Studies*, vol. 98.

21. “Inequality, Local Wealth, and Electoral Politics,” (with Woo Chang Kang), 2025, *European Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 80.

20. “Making Sense of Heuristic Choice in Nonpartisan Elections: Evidence from South Korea,” (with Woo Chang Kang), 2024, *Political Behavior*, vol. 46, pp. 1865–1886.

19. “The Effect of Housing Price Inequality on Mental Health,” (with Songman Kang and Hyelim Son) 2023, *Labour Economics*, vol. 85, December.

18. “Media, Secret Ballot, and Democratization in the US,” (with Leopoldo Fergusson and Juan Felipe Riaño) 2023, *Journal of Historical Political Economy*, vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 391–425.

17. “Misleading Ballot Positions and Invalid Votes,” (with Ha Na Lee) 2023, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, vol. 23, issue 2, pp. 347–355.

16. “Television and Economic Voting in US Presidential Elections,” 2022, *British Journal of Political Science*, vol. 22, no. 4, pp. 1622–1634.
15. “The Rank Effect in Multimember District Elections,” 2022, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, vol. 17, no. 4, pp. 547–575.
14. “Did Secure Communities Lead to Safer Communities? Immigration Enforcement, Crime Deterrence, and Geographical Externalities,” (with Songman Kang) 2022, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, vol. 38, no. 2, pp. 345–385.
13. “The Longer-Term Electoral Effect of Carrying a State in U.S. Presidential Elections,” 2022, *Economics Letters*, vol. 216.
12. “The Effect of Public Financing on Candidate Reemergence and Success in Elections,” 2021, *European Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 65.
11. “Envy and Pride: How Economic Inequality Deepens Happiness Inequality in South Korea,” (with Woo Chang Kang and Jae Seung Lee), 2021, *Social Indicators Research*, vol. 150, pp. 617–637.
10. “The Cost of Presidential Impeachment to Politically Connected Firms,” (with Ha Na Lee) 2020, *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, vol. 21, issue 2, pp. 109–121.
9. “Did Television Reduce the Effect of Partisan Press on Electoral Politics?” *American Politics Research*, 2020, vol. 48, no. 1, pp. 78–98.
8. “Mind the Electoral Gap: The Effect of Investment in Public Infrastructure on Authoritarian Support in South Korea,” (with Joan E. Cho and Jae Seung Lee), *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 2019, vol. 54, issue 4, pp. 473–500.
7. “Misleading Ballot Position Cue,” *Electoral Studies*, 2019, vol. 58, pp. 1–11.
6. “Estimating Incumbency Effect Using Regression Discontinuity Design,” *Research & Politics*, 2018, vol. 5, issue 4.
5. “The Effect of Incumbency in National and Local Elections: Evidence from South Korea,” (with Woo Chang Kang and Won-ho Park) *Electoral Studies*, 2018, vol. 56, pp. 47–60.
4. “Media Control and Authoritarian Consolidation: Evidence from South Korea,” (with Joan E. Cho and Jae Seung Lee) *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 2017, vol. 17, pp. 145–166.
3. “Media Markets and Politicians Involved in Scandals,” *Social Science Journal*, 2016, vol. 53, no. 4, pp. 389–397.
2. “Newspaper Market Structure and Behavior: Partisan Coverage of Political Scandals in the U.S. from 1870 to 1910,” (with Ángela Fonseca Galvis and James Snyder), *Journal of Politics*, 2016, vol. 78, no. 2, pp. 368–381.
1. “Does President’s Popularity Matter in Korea’s Local Election?”, *Pacific Affairs*, 2009, vol. 82, no. 2, pp. 189–209.

Published or Forthcoming Articles in Korean

8. “Measuring Partisan Differences in South Korean National Assembly Speeches Using Natural Language Processing,” (with Sehoon Park), 2025, *Korean Party Studies Review*, vol. 23, no. 4, pp. 153–185.
7. “Distortion of Votes by Ballot Ordering: A Simulation Analysis of Superintendent of Education Elections,” (with Ha Na Lee), 2024, *The Study of Election*, vol. 1, no. 21, pp. 5–30.
6. “Using Statistical Methods to Detect Election Fraud in South Korea’s Elections,” 2022, *Journal of Korean Politics*, vol. 31, no. 3.
5. “The Effects of Pre-Contact and Prepaid Cash Incentives on the Quality of Telephone Surveys.” (with Won-ho Park and Shang E. Ha), 2020, *Survey Research*, vol. 21, no. 4.
4. “Estimation of Partisan Bias in Media Coverage of Polling Results during the 2017 Presidential Election,” 2019, *Korean Party Studies Review*, vol. 18, no. 4, pp. 69–94.
3. “The Effect of Candidates’ Criminal and Tax Records on Election Outcomes: Evidence from the 2018 South Korean Local Elections,” (with Jisung Yoon) 2019, *Journal of Korean Politics*, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 189–215.
2. “Assessing Partisan Gerrymandering in the 2016 Korean National Assembly Election Using Computer Simulations,” 2018, *Korean Party Studies Review*, vol. 17, no. 4, pp. 43–68.
1. “The Effect of Candidates’ Criminal Records on Election Results: Evidence from the 19th and 20th Korean National Assembly Elections,” (with Jisung Yoon), 2016, *Journal of Korean Politics*, vol. 25, no. 3, pp. 85–107.

Research Funds and Scholarships

Sogang University, Social Science Research Grant, 2024–2026.
National Research Foundation of Korea Grant, 2023–2025 (PI: Sunkyoung Park).
National Research Foundation of Korea Grant, 2020–2022 (PI: Won-ho Park).
Young Researcher Grant (PI), NRF ($\times 5$), 2017–2024.
Sogang University Research Grant, 2019–2021.
Hanyang University Research Grants, 2016–2019.
Harvard Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2014.
Kwanjeong Abroad Scholarship, 2008–2013.
Brain Korea 21 Scholarship, 2006–2007; BK21 Research Award, 2006.

Academic Awards

Sogang Albatross Academic Award, 2023.
Best Researcher Award, Sogang University, 2023.
Gallup Korea Award, 2021.
Ithiel de Sola Pool Fellow, MIT (Political Science), 2009.

Teaching Experience

Sogang University

Undergraduate: Analyzing Politics; Media Politics; Introduction to Data Analysis in Social Science

Graduate: Quantitative Methods in Political Science; Political Accountability; Gender and Political Representation

University of Rochester

Undergraduate: Data Analysis I (Spring 2023)

Hanyang University

Undergraduate: Political Economics; Principles of Politics; Electoral Politics

Graduate: Research Methods for Social Science

Conferences and Presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2007, 2015, 2025.

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2018, 2019, 2023.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2007, 2014, 2023.

Korean Association of Party Studies Annual Summer Meeting: 2017, 2022.

The World Congress for Korean Politics and Society: 2017.

Korean Political Science Association Annual Summer Meeting: 2016, 2018.

Yale, CSAP Summer Conference: 2014.

MIT, Political Economy Breakfast: 2013.

Harvard, Research Workshop in Political Economy: 2012, 2013.

Harvard, American Politics Research Workshop: 2012, 2013.

Service

Editorial Board: *Korean Political Science Review* (2018); *Journal of Contemporary Politics* (2020–present).

Referee: *American Journal of Political Science*, *Asian Survey*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Culture and Politics*, *Economics & Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Government & Opposition*, *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Contemporary Politics*, *Journal of Korean Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, *Korean Economic Review*, *Korean Journal of Public Administration*, *Korean Party Studies Review*, *Korean Political Science Review*, *Pacific Affairs*, *PLOS ONE*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Political Analysis*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Science*, *Public Choice*, *Research and Politics*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Social Science Journal*, *Survey Research*.

Languages

English (Fluent); Korean (Native); Japanese (Advanced, JLPT N1)

Updated: January 2026