Bomi K. Lee

367 Schaeffer Hall · Iowa City · IA 52242

✉ bomi-lee-1@uiowa.edu ⬮ bomibonnie 🌐 bomiklee.com | *Updated:* June 15, 2020

Education

Ph.D. candidate, Political Science, University of Iowa   2016 -

Dissertation: Interconnected Rivalries

Committee: Sara McLaughlin Mitchell (chair), Kelly M. Kadera, Brian Lai, Elizabeth Menninga, and Paul Diehl

MA, Political Science, University of Iowa   2019

MA, International Relations, Seoul National University (South Korea)   2013

BA, Political Science, Seoul National University (South Korea)   2011

Additional Training

ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan

Game Theory 1 & Rational Choice Theories of Politics and Society

ISRC Workshops, University of Iowa

Python Basics

Research and Teaching Interests

International Relations: International Conflict and Cooperation, Interstate Rivalries, Interaction between Domestic and International Politics, Regional Security (East Asia)

Political Methodology: Introductory Statistics, Network Analysis, Time Series Analysis, Duration Analysis, Spatial Analysis

Book Chapter

[1] **Lee, Bomi K.** 2014. "North Korea's Peace Proposals in the 1970s," *Segye Jeonchi [World Politics]* 20: 323-370 [in Korean].

Papers Under Review

[1] Schmidt, Cody J., **Bomi K. Lee**, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, "Climate Bones of Contention: How Climate Variability Influences Territorial, Maritime, and River Interstate Conflicts" [Under Review]

Working Papers

[2] **Lee, Bomi K.**, "Beyond a Dyadic Approach: Triangles, Major Powers, and Rivalry Duration"

Abstract: Why do some interstate rivalries last longer than others? Most rivalry literature focuses on the dyadic interactions within rivalries over time (temporal interdependence), but a considerable number of rivalries are connected to other rivalries (spatial interdependence). For instance, if there is a third country connected to two rival countries, this third party

can be their common enemy (the enemy of my enemy is my enemy), common friend (the friend of my enemy is my friend), or one's friend as well as the other's enemy (the friend of my enemy is my enemy). Depending on the dynamics with the third country, the duration of the focal rivalry can vary. This paper examines the interdependence among rivalries by focusing on triangular relationships as well as power dynamics within them. I argue that rivalries embedded in balanced triangles are more likely to last, while rivalries in imbalanced triangles are more likely to terminate. Additionally, in terms of the power dynamics, the third party's power status can affect rivalry termination. Analyses of rivalry duration show that rivalries are more likely to terminate when they have a common friend and particularly, the friend is a major power.

[1] **Bomi K. Lee**, Schmidt, Cody J., and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, "Paths to Peace in Issue Rivalries"

Abstract: Conflict scholars examine how rivalry contexts and past militarization influence the chances for future conflicts, yet these approaches typically focus on dyadic interactions and ignore spatial interdependence. This paper moves beyond the dyadic rivalry context by considering how issue rivalry networks and extra-rivalry reputations influence peaceful and militarized conflict management in diplomatic issue conflicts. We capture interdependence by assessing the degree to which states are embedded in multiple rivalries using network analysis. We also identify how past behavior in issue claims influences states' reputations as credible negotiating partners. Our theory and empirical findings reveal several interesting patterns. First, we find that rivalry networks constrain militarization by target states in issue claims but have no effect on challengers. Revisionist states are less constrained by their position in rivalry networks, while status quo defenders seek to reduce escalation in at least some rivalries when they have high rivalry network vulnerability. We show that rivalry network interacts with issue salience, such that states are more likely to peacefully settle less salient issues when they experience multiple issue rivalries simultaneously. Second, we show that reputation influences challenger and target states equally, with past reputations for incompetence resulting in more militarization and peaceful settlement attempts of issue claims. We also find that the effect of reputation on interstate conflict depend on issue salience. Our findings demonstrate the importance of accounting for spatial and temporal interdependence in conflict models and highlight how diplomatic issue conflicts create different contexts for dispute settlement.

In Progress

[3] **Lee, Bomi K.**, "Do Doves Cry When They Face Multiple Rivals? Evidence from Survey Experiments in Japan and South Korea"

Abstract: What rival relationship matters in domestic politics? Some scholars show that leaders who cooperate with a rival country are more likely to be removed (e.g., Colaresi 2004). Although they examine the effects of policy choices (conflict v. cooperation) and policy outcomes (success v. failure) on leadership tenure in the context of rivalry, they rarely discuss the countries facing multiple rival relationships. When a country has multiple rivals, the effects of conflictual/cooperative policies and their outcomes can vary depending on the characteristics of rival relationships. This article focuses on how the public approves of its leader's cooperative or conflictual foreign policies toward a rival country depending on the characteristics of rivals. For analysis, online survey experiments in Japan and South Korea are employed.

[2] **Lee, Bomi K.**, "Formation and Termination of Interstate Rivalries"

Abstract: Do rivalry relationships interact each other? In other words, do existing rivalries lead to rivalry creation or termination? In this paper, I focus on the formation and termination of ties in rivalry networks considering the endogenous effects of rivalry relationships. In order to capture the network dynamics, I employ two temporal ERGMs: the Temporal Exponential Random Graph Models (TERGMs) with memory terms and the Separable Temporal Exponential Random Graph Models (STERGMs).

[1] **Lee, Bomi K.**, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, Cody J. Schmidt, and Yufan Yang, "How Natural Disasters Influence Interstate Rivalry De-escalation"

Abstract: Interstate conflict often occurs in a rivalry context, with enduring rivals participating in 49% of wars and 40% of militarized disputes (Diehl and Goertz 2001). Rivalry de-escalation fosters peace regionally and globally and improves trading and diplomatic relationships. However, rivalries are difficult to de-escalate because enemy images intensify as a history of conflict accrues and as the rivalry accrue multiple diplomatic issues (Dreyer 2010; Mitchell and Thies 2011). Leaders pay electoral costs for cooperating with their enemies (Colaresi 2004). Often it takes some form of political shocks (e.g. world wars, civil wars, leadership change) for rivalry to de-escalate (Diehl and Goertz 2000). We examine how natural disasters act as political shocks for interstate rivalry de-escalation and we consider how different types of disasters influence interstate conflict and cooperation dynamics. We argue that slow onset disasters (e.g. droughts) may increase resource competition between rival states, but they do not cause dramatic shifts in dyadic conflict relationships because both sides have time to adapt to the exogenous shocks. On the other hand, rapid onset disasters (e.g. earthquakes, floods) shock mutual threat perception and induce domestic resource crises that encourage leaders to cooperate with rivals. We compare the effects of slow and rapid onset disasters (EMDAT) on cooperation and conflict within rivalry dyads (with events data), with an expectation that rapid onset disasters provide more immediate opportunities for cooperation and dispute de-escalation. Our research contributes to the rivalry literature by considering natural disasters as external shocks which can temporarily break the conflict cycle. We also consider how these effects vary based on rivalry/disaster types and the salience of contested issues. Leaders may be less willing to broker peace with enemies following natural disasters if the issues at stake in the rivalry are highly salient and important to domestic audiences.

Research Experiences

University of Iowa

PI on Doves Facing Multiple Rivals Project (online survey experiment in South Korea and Japan)   2019 -

Designed experiment/questionnaire and received the IRB approval (n=1,200 for each).

Research Assistant on Project Haystack (with GoDaddy.com) for Prof. Caroline Tolbert and Prof. Karen Mossberger (Arizona State University)   September 2018 - December 2019

Cleansed raw data (n=20 million), visualized collapsed data (at the state/county/ZIP code levels), and conducted empirical analysis.

Research Assistant for Prof. Elizabeth Menninga   Summer 2019

Combined civil war datasets (UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, Non-State Actors in Armed Conflict Dataset, etc), and visualized networks and empirical results.

Research Assistant on Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) Project for Prof. Sara McLaughlin Mitchell   Summer 2017

Searched identity claims in Asia via LexisNexis.

The Institute for Far Eastern Studies (South Korea)

Research Intern for Prof. Jong-Dae Shin   March 2015 - October 2015

Searched and made a list of released governmental documents on the relationship between South Korea and North Korea.

Seoul National University (South Korea)

Research Assistant on East Asian International Relations Theory Project for Prof. Wookhee Shin   September 2012 - August 2015

Teaching Experiences

University of Iowa

Instructor for Analyzing Political Data   Spring 2020

Guest Lecturer for Introduction to International Relations   Spring 2018

Teaching Assistant for Introduction to International Relations   Fall 2016/2017, Spring 2018

(Online) Teaching Assistant for Introduction to International Relations   Summer 2018

Teaching Assistant for Introduction to American Politics   Spring 2017

Iowa Social Science Research Center, University of Iowa

Statistical Consultant   Fall 2019 -

Taught workshops: Introduction and Data Management Using R, Network Visualization Using R, and Network Analysis Using R

ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan

Teaching Assistant for Time Series Analysis 1   Summer 2019

Taught six computer lab sessions with Dr. Desmond Wallace, and graded assignments.

Seoul National University (South Korea)

Teaching Assistant for Introduction to International Relations   Fall 2011

Awards

The Frank J. Klingberg Award, Cody Schmidt, **Bomi Lee**, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, "Climate Bones of Contention", International Studies Association Midwest (2019)

Best Course Paper Award, "Dissolution of Rivalries and Formation of Warm Peace," Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2018)

Grants

Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Iowa ($10,000)   2020

Graduate College Summer Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Iowa ($5,000)   2020

Research Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa   2019, 2020

Research Grant, Graduate & Professional Student Government, University of Iowa   2019

Travel Grant, International Studies Association-Midwest   2020

Travel Grant, American Political Science Association   2019

Travel Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa   2017, 2018, 2019

NSF Fellowship, Political Networks Workshops & Conference ($900)   2019

Travel Funds Award, Graduate Student Senate (GSS), University of Iowa   2019

Summer Training Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa ($3,300)   2017

Invited Conferences

University of Alabama's ISSR Workshop on International Conflict (2020): delayed due to the COVID-19

Minnesota Political Methodology Graduate Student Colloquium (2019)

Conferences

Paper Presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2020)

Peace Science Society Annual Meeting (co-author) (2019)

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (co-author) (2019)

International Studies Association Midwest Annual Conference (2017, 2018, 2019)

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2018)

Poster Presentations

International Studies Association Annual Conference (2020): canceled due to the COVID-19

Peace Science Society Annual Meeting (2019)

Political Networks (2019)

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Peace Science Society

Department Service

Instructor, Math Camp for incoming graduate students, University of Iowa (2019)