Damhee D. Hong

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.   **University of California, Santa Barbara**   **2026**
Education, *Program Area: Higher Education Policy, Program Evaluation, and Research Methods*
- *Committee:* Dr. Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj, Dr. Antar Tichavakunda, Dr. Hui-Ling Malone
- <u>*Dissertation Project Topic:*</u> The role and importance of culturally relevant foods on college campuses for Asian American students and their sense of belonging

M.S.   **Northwestern University**   **2020**
Higher Education Administration and Policy
- <u>*Thesis Title:*</u> "But Where Are You Really From: Korean American Ethnic Identity Development"

B.A.   **University of California, San Diego**   **2009**
Political Science - *International Relations*

CERTIFICATION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education Certificate   **2026**
University of San Diego

Certificate in Inclusive Teaching   **2024**
University of California, Santa Barbara

Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies, *Inter-Asia emphasis*   **2019**
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, *ED 125 Schooling in the US*   **2025**
Gevirtz School of Education | UC Santa Barbara   Santa Barbara, CA

Teaching Assistant, *Korean Language 2 and 5*   **2025**
East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, UC Santa Barbara   Santa Barbara, CA

Graduate Teaching Fellow, *School Kids Investigating Language in Life and Society (SKILLS)*   **2024**
San Marcos High School, Santa Barbara and UC Santa Barbara   Santa Barbara, CA

Teaching Assistant, *ED 123 Culture, Development, and Education*   **2023**
Gevirtz School of Education | UC Santa Barbara   Santa Barbara, CA

Teaching Assistant, *SOC POL 332: Economics of the University*   **2020**
School of Education and Social Policy| Northwestern University   Evanston, IL

English Teacher (Education Volunteer)   **2012 - 2014**
Slahung High School | Peace Corps Indonesia   Slahung, Indonesia

English Teacher   **2009 - 2010**
Veritas Associate English Academy   Daejeon, South Korea

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Dissertation Research   **2024 - Current**
Advisors: Dr. Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj, Dr. Hui-Ling Malone, Dr. Antar Tichavakunda   UC Santa Barbara
- Conducted qualitative interviews and thematic coding to examine how culturally relevant food experiences relate to belonging among Korean American undergraduates

- Analyzed narratives using CECE and Suda frameworks to explore visibility, inclusion, and cultural engagement
- Prepared dissertation chapters focusing on campus dining, identity, and institutional policy implications

Research Assistant   **2024 – Current**
Advisor: Dr. Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj   UC Santa Barbara

- Conducted coding and thematic analysis of interview transcripts, identifying patterns and insights to support ongoing research initiatives
- Developed data visualization tools and charts to present research results effectively, aiding in the interpretation and communication of the data findings

Independent Research Project   **2022- 2023**
Advisors: Dr. Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj, Dr. Tarek Azzam   UC Santa Barbara

- Evaluated the provision of Interpretation and translation services across 120 California school district websites, resulting in a 50-page final project that was successfully defended to the advisory committee
- Developed a rubric to assess language services provision, quality, and accessibility, revealing significant information gaps
- Identified trends showing larger districts more likely to provide language support, emphasizing the need for clearer and more accessible content

Graduate Research Assistant   **2021 –2023**
Advisor: Dr. Linda Adler-Kassner   UC Santa Barbara

- Conducted comprehensive interviews with student focus groups from diverse disciplines as part of a university reaccreditation project for the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITRAL), gathering valuable insights to inform program improvements
- Developed coding schemes and conducted qualitative data analysis to identify key themes and patterns, enhancing the understanding of student experiences and learning outcomes
- Collected, organized, and archived secondary data sources, ensuring accessibility and integrity of research materials for future analysis and reference
- Facilitated communication and collaboration between quantitative and qualitative research teams, streamlining project workflows and promoting interdisciplinary insights

PUBLICATIONS

Sattin-Bajaj, C., Romo-González, L., & **Hong, D.** (2025). Building Classroom Relationships Through Photovoice: What Immigrant-Origin Students Want Their Teachers to Know and Understand about Them. The Elementary School Journal, 000–000. https://doi.org/10.1086/735473

Sattin-Bajaj, C., Barrera Alcazar, J., **Hong, D.,** & Romo-González, M. (2023). An expanded framework for preparing teachers to educate children of immigrant backgrounds. *Teaching and Teacher Education,* 129, 104120. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2023.104120

PRESENTATIONS/ INVITED TALKS

[accepted] **Hong, D.** (April 2026). "Not on the Menu: Korean American Students' Reflections on Campus Food and Belonging." Roundtable Presentation at the 2026 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

[accepted] **Hong, D.** (April 2026). "Eating Together, Standing Strong: Food, Legacy, and Belonging among Korean American Students." Panel Presentation at the 2026 Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) National Conference, Anaheim, CA.

[accepted] **Hong, D.** (April 2026). "Beyond the Hype: Critical and Inclusive Uses of AI for Student Success." Workshop Presentation at the 2026 Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) National Conference, Anaheim, CA.

Hong, D., Rodriguez, R. (November 2025). "Navigating the PhD Journey.", Guest Lecture, ED 200A: Education Proseminar, Gevirtz School of Education, UC Santa Barbara, CA.

Hong, D. (September 2025). "Using AI as Your Study Buddy." Invited speaker at the 2025 Black AI: Inclusive Innovation for All Conference, Santa Barbara, CA.

Hong, D. (May 2025). "A Study Buddy, Not a Shortcut: An Asset-Based Approach to Cultivating Ethical Usage of AI." Poster presentation at the 2025 AI Community of Practice Spring Symposium, Santa Barbara, CA.

Hong, D. (April 2025). "Feeding Diversity: Toward Culturally Sustaining School Food." Poster Presentation at the 2025 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

Hong, D. (February 2025). "Interpretation and Translation Service at K-12 School District Websites." Guest Lecture, ED 197: Special Topics in Education, Gevirtz School of Education, UC Santa Barbara, CA.

Hong, D. (April 2024). "Provision and Accessibility of Interpretation and Translation Services on K-12 School District Websites." Roundtable session presented at the 2024 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Sattin-Bajaj, C., Romo-González, M., **Hong, D.,** (April 2024). "Building Classroom Relationships Through Photovoice." Roundtable session presented at the 2024 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Sattin-Bajaj, C., Barrera Alcazar, J., **Hong, D.,** & Romo-González, M. (April 2023). "An Expanded Framework for Preparing Teachers to Educate Children of Immigrant Backgrounds." Paper session presented at the 2023 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Hong, D., Su, J., Barrera Alcazar, J., Romo-González, M. (May 2022). "Teacher Preparation for Immigrant-origin Children." Paper session presented at the GGSE Research Symposium 2022, Santa Barbara, CA

Nissen, S., Tolman, S., and **Hong, D**. (March 2020). "A Crucial Intersection: International Student Career Advising." Conference session presented at the International Educators of Illinois 2020 Annual Conference, Bloomington, IL.

MEDIA/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

"A Plate of School Food with a Side of Belonging: Scholar Spotlight," *Feminist Food Journal*, Oct 7 2025 (Interview), https://www.feministfoodjournal.com/p/a-plate-of-school-food-with-a-side

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UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT

International Graduate Student Peer Advisor   **2022 –2024**
Graduate Student Resource Center | UC Santa Barbara   Santa Barbara, CA
- Developed and executed 8-12 community-building events annually for international graduate students
- Fundraised for future events by presenting event ideas at various organizations on campus, including securing enough funding for 40 tickets to the Santa Barbara Zoo
- Met with international students via one-on-one on Zoom and in person to provide mentorship, share resources, and serve as a peer mentor

Graduate Intern   **2021 –2021**
SESP Leadership Institute | Northwestern University   Evanston, IL
- Redesigned program marketing materials focused on outreach to first-generation, lower-income students
- Orchestrated the student leader recruitment process, from advertising to training and mentorship
- Supervised a team of 5 student leaders; managed the alumni database and communication

Virtual Course Moderator   **2020 –2021**
Kellogg School of Management | Northwestern University   Evanston, IL
- Hosted virtual classroom meetings through Zoom; provided technical support to faculty and students
- Assessed classroom logistics data through analytics reports and monitored classroom participation
- Collaborated with faculty to establish best practices for the hybrid learning environment

Graduate Assistant/ Career Advisor   **2019 - 2020**
Medill School of Journalism | Northwestern University   Evanston, IL
- Advised graduate students in one-on-one meetings regarding the job search and career exploration process

- Promoted campus events and job opportunities by authoring department newsletters distributed to 100+ graduate students every two weeks using the Handshake program
- Analyzed career appointment data to quantify quarterly outreach efforts and to measure program effectiveness
- Developed and presented career workshops on Zoom for graduate students on topics of career development and financial literacy

Coordinator for Conduct and Community Standards (full-time)   **2016 - 2019**
Student Housing Services | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa   Honolulu, HI
- Maintained the Advocate and Maxient conduct database systems, supporting usage by 20+ staff members daily
- Scrutinized documents to ensure compliance to CLERY, FERPA, and other national, state, and local regulations
- Authored and edited conduct procedure manuals and policies, streamlining the new staff training processes
- Assessed conduct cases and evaluated evidence to absolve cases or assign sanctions as appropriate

Student Services Specialist/ Admissions Officer (full-time)   **2014 - 2016**
International Education Center | Santa Monica College   Santa Monica, CA
- Presented immigration, campus-life, and general orientation information to incoming international students
- Advised applicants, parents, and agencies regarding immigration policies as the Designated School Official
- Supervised and recruited a team of 7-8 international student employees (peer mentors) each quarter
- Evaluated applicants' admission documents to determine eligibility into the school program

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Korean Translator for Immigration Resource Documents   **2025 – Current**
UC Immigrant Legal Services Center   University of California (Virtual)
- Translate legal and informational documents into Korean to improve access to immigration resources for UC students and families
- Ensure translations reflect formal legal language, cultural accuracy, and alignment with official formatting for publication on the UC ILSC website

Conversation Teacher   **2023 –2024**
English Conversation Program   UC Santa Barbara
- Facilitated weekly English conversation sessions that fostered cultural exchange and community for international students and students' family members
- Adapted activities to different proficiency levels to ensure inclusive participation
- Nominated for UC Santa Barbara Leadership and Activities Award (SEAL), 2023

Vice President of Communication and Social Media   **2022 –2023**
Graduate Student Association in Education   UC Santa Barbara
- Managed communications across email, social media, and department channels, strengthening student engagement
- Coordinated social programs, town halls, and symposium recruitment efforts, including keynote outreach

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Dissertation Grant	2025
Fourth Place, Poster Presentation Award at the 2025 AI Community of Practice Spring Symposium.	2025
UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant Award	2024
UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant Award	2023
UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant Award	2022
UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant Award	2021

MEMBERSHIPS/ AFFILIATIONS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)	**2022- Present**
International Educators of Illinois (IEI)	**2019 - 2021**
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)	**2017- 2020**

SKILLS

Languages: Fluent in Korean; Conversational in Bahasa Indonesia
Computer: Advanced in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Adobe Photoshop, Dedoose, and Qualtrics
Higher Education Systems: Maxient, Advocate, Banner, fsaAtlas, Odyssey, Handshake