KENTARO NAKAMURA

Contact: knakamura [at] g.harvard.edu
Website: https://k-nakam.github.io

EDUCATION

Harvard University   Sep.2023 – Present
Ph.D. | *Public Policy* (Politics and Institution Track)   Cambridge, USA
- Affiliation: Institute of Quantitative Social Science (IQSS)

University of Chicago   Sep.2021 – Jun.2023
Master of Science | *Statistics*   Chicago, USA

Waseda University   Apr.2017 – Sep.2021
Bachelor of Arts | *Major: Political Science, Minor: Law, Certificate: Data Science*   Tokyo, Japan
- Best Paper Award (Excellent work at the Category of Mathematical and Statistical Measurement)

George Washington University   Aug.2019 – May.2020
Exchange Program   Washington D.C., USA

RESEARCH INTEREST

Causal Inference with Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Political Communication, Political Violence

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Understanding the Impact of Military Service on Support for Insurrection in the United States
Journal of Conflict Resolution, with Robert Pape, Keven Ruby, and Kyle Larson [URL]
- Analyzed why and how civilians with prior military experiences are prone to support political violence.

Balancing Opportunities and Incentives: How Rising China's Mediated Public Diplomacy Changes under Crisis
International Journal of Communication [URL]
- Estimated the strategic shift of the rising China's public diplomacy under crisis by machine learning

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

Causal Representation Learning with Generative Artificial Intelligence: Application to Texts as Treatments
Working paper, with Kosuke Imai [URL]
- Developed new experimental designs to use texts created by deep generative model as a treatment

SOFTWARE

Debriefly
Survey Software for Automated Cognitive Debriefing (Available upon Requests)

gpi-pack [URL]
Python module for Generative-AI Powered Inference.

PRESENTATIONS

Kentaro Nakamura (2025). "Causal Representation Learning with Generative Artificial Intelligence: Application to Texts as Treatments", *Applied Statistics Workshop, Harvard University*

Kosuke Imai, **Kentaro Nakamura** (2025). "Causal Representation Learning with Generative Artificial Intelligence: Application to Texts as Treatments", *Japanese Society for Quantitative Political Science 2025 Winter Meeting*

Kentaro Nakamura (2024, Poster). "Causal Inference with Unstructured High-Dimensional Treatments using Deep Generative Models: Applications to Images and Texts", *2024 Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology*

Kentaro Nakamura (2023). "Improving Text as Treatment Framework", *Japanese Society for Quantitative Political Science 2023 Summer Meeting*

Kentaro Nakamura, Yuki Mikiya (2023). "International Credibility for Domestic Legitimacy? How Authoritarian Country Coordinated its Narratives during the Crisis", *Southern Political Science Association*

Kentaro Nakamura (2022). "How Rising Powers' Public Diplomacy Changes under Difficulties: the case of China", *Japanese Society for Quantitative Political Science 2022 Winter Meeting*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant of Prof. Gary King	May.2024 – Present
Harvard University	Cambridge, USA

- Worked on the project of the automated cognitive debriefing (co-author)

Research Assistant of Prof. Matthew Baum	Nov.2023 – Present
Shorenstein Center, Harvard Kennedy School	Cambridge, USA

Data and Causal Inference Analyst	Sep.2022 – Aug.2023
Chicago Projects on Security and Threats (CPOST), University of Chicago	Chicago, USA

- Designed experiments, discussed identification strategies, and implemented causal mediation analysis

Research Assistant of Prof. Shuhei Kurizaki	May.2020 – Sep.2021
Waseda University	Tokyo, Japan

- Conducted the qualitative research on the foreign takeover in Europe (Co-Author since September 2020)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant at the Center for Data Science	Sep.2020 – Mar.2021
Waseda University	Tokyo, Japan

- Checked class materials and answered the questions about Statistics and Machine Learning

HONORS AND AWARDS

IQSS Research Grant	Apr.2025
Research Grant for Dissertation Research (USD2,000)	
IQSS Research Grant	Apr.2025
Research Grant for the joint project with Jing Ling Tan and George Yang (USD2,000)	
Harvard Kennedy School Travel Grant	Jan.2025
Travel Grant for attending JSQPS2025 Winter Meeting (USD1000)	
The Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) Travel Grant	Jul.2024
Travel Grant for attending PolMeth2024 (USD500)	
Japanese Student Service Organization Scholarship	Sep.2023 - Aug.2026
Merit-based scholarship. Partial tuition coverage (JPY 3 million yen) and monthly stipends.	
Graduate Council Research & Personal Development Fund, University of Chicago	Jan. 2023
Travel Grant for attending SPSA2023 (USD600)	
Tuition Fellowship, University of Chicago	Sep. 2021 - Jun. 2023
Equivalent to 25 percent of my approved tuition. Increased to 30% from 2nd year	
Statistics Consulting Cup Awards	Dec.2021
Best Prize in the Consulting Program at the Department of Statistics. [News]	
NSK Ltd. Scholarship	Sep.2021 – Jun.2023
Scholarship provided only for top four students in Japan. JPY13,600,000 ≈ USD100,000	

Japanese Student Service Organization Scholarship   Mar.2021
Declined to accept NSK Scholarship. Merit-based scholarship.

Best Paper Award (Category of Mathematical and Statistical Measurement)   Feb.2021
Thesis Competition of the Waseda Association for Political Science and Economics [News]

Japanese Student Service Organization Scholarship   Aug.2019 – May.2020
Merit based scholarship to support exchange program. JPY900,000. $\approx$ USD7,000

ACADEMIC SERVICES / DISCUSSANT ROLES

Discussant: SPSA (2023), APSA (2025, scheduled)
Reviewer: International Studies Quarterly

SKILLS

Languages: Japanese (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (B1; Intermediate)
Programming: (Proficient) Python(3.X), R, C++ (Rcpp), LaTeX, ArcGIS, STATA, HTML / (Experience) C, SQL

REFERENCES

Available upon request

Last updated on May 3, 2025