

# Luke Sanford

✉ [lcsanford@ucsd.edu](mailto:lcsanford@ucsd.edu)

🌐 <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=hzh7H9gAAAAJ&hl=en>

🐙 [lcsanford.github.io](https://github.com/lcsanford)

## Education

- Expected 2021    📌 **University of California San Diego.** Ph.D. International Affairs  
Concentrations: Political Methodology, Political Economy of Natural Resources.
- 2017    📌 **Political Science, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UCSD.** M.A.  
Focus Areas: International Economics, China
- 2009    📌 **BA Politics, Whitman College.** B.A.  
Thesis: China's Olympic Trial: The Environmental Effects of the Beijing Olympic Games

## In Progress

- Accepted    📌 Democratization, Elections, and Public Goods: The Evidence from Deforestation  
*Accepted at AJPS*

## Research Publications

### Journal Articles

- 1    **Sanford, L. & Burney, J.** (2015). Cookstoves illustrate the need for a comprehensive carbon market. *Environmental Research Letters*, 10(8), 084026.  
<https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/10/8/084026>
- 2    Lautze, J., de Silva, S., Giordano, M. & **Sanford, L.** (2011). Putting the cart before the horse: Water governance and IWRM. *Natural Resources Forum*, 35(1), 1–8.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1477-8947.2010.01339.x>
- 3    Molden, D., Lautze, J., Shah, T., Bin, D., Giordano, M. & **Sanford, L.** (2010). Governing to Grow Enough Food without Enough Water—Second Best Solutions Show the Way. *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, 26(2), 249–263.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07900621003655643>

### Books and Chapters

- 1    Lautze, J., de Silva, S., Giordano, M. & **Sanford, L.** (2014). Water Governance (J. Lautze, Ed.). In J. Lautze (Ed.), *Key concepts in water resource management: A review and critical evaluation*. London ; New York, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- 2    Boelee, E., Atapattu, S., Amede, T. & **Sanford, L.** (2011). *Ecosystems for water and food security* [OCLC: 771993931]. Nairobi, UNEP. March 16, 2018, 📄  
[http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Topics/Ecosystems/PDF/Background\\_Document-Ecosystems\\_for\\_Water\\_and\\_Food\\_Security\\_2011\\_UNEP-IWMI.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Topics/Ecosystems/PDF/Background_Document-Ecosystems_for_Water_and_Food_Security_2011_UNEP-IWMI.pdf)

## Research

- Research Interests    📌 Political Economy, Environment, Natural Resources, Causal Inference, Machine Learning, Remote Sensing, Text as Data.
- Working Papers    📌 Discovery of Influential Text in Experiments Using Deep Neural Networks, with Molly Roberts

## Research (continued)

- Environmental injustice in California revealed by the COVID-19 economic shutdown, with Richard Bluhm, Pascal Polonik, Kyle S. Hemes, Susanne A. Benz, Morgan Levy, and Jennifer Burney.
- Ongoing Projects
  - Remote Sensing: Measurement and Causal Inference
  - The Effects of Land Tenure Security on Agricultural and Environmental Outcomes in Benin: New Evidence from Satellite Data [Polmeth 2019 Best Poster Award, AGU 2018 Student Presenter Award]

## Grants and Awards

- 2019
  - Best Graduate Student Poster, Political Methodology Annual Conference
  - Institute of Global Conflict and Cooperation Herb York Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
- 2018
  - Winner of American Geophysical Union Outstanding Student Presenter Award
  - Sage Foundation grant (\$174,702) research assistant.
- 2018–2020
  - Sanford Lakoff dissertation improvement grant
- 2018
  - Grad SLAM public speaking semifinalist.
- 2015
  - Dean of Social Sciences fellowship recipient.
- 2014–2015
  - Boren Fellow. China.
- 2014
  - GPS Dean's Fellow
  - Robinson Research Fellow
  - Doming Liu award for for Wisdom, Exuberance, Warmth, and Leadership.
- 2008
  - Cross Examination Debate Association National Tournament: 5th place.

## Teaching (School of Global Policy and Strategy)

- 2019, 2020
  - Poli 270: Mathematical & Statistical Foundations. Instructor.
- 2015–2020
  - Math Skills for Graduate Students. Instructor.
- 2015–2016
  - Economic and Social Development of China. Naughton.
  - International Politics and Security. Walter.
- 2016–2017
  - Quantitative Methods 1: Statistics and Probability. Garg.
  - Quantitative Methods 2: Regression Analysis. Burney.
  - Quantitative Methods 3: Panel Data and Causal Inference. McIntosh.
- 2018
  - Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing. Goldblatt.
- 2019
  - Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis. McCord.

## Conferences

- 2020
  - “The effects of land tenure security on agricultural and environmental outcomes in Benin: New evidence from satellite data” APSA (talk, submitted panel)
- 2019
  - “Discovery of Influential Text in Experiments Using Deep Neural Networks” Polmeth (talk), APSA (talk)
  - “Democratization, Elections, and Public Goods: The Evidence from Deforestation” MPSA (talk), Institutions and Lawmaking Conference (poster), WPSA (talk)
  - “Geospatial synthetic controls for agricultural impact evaluation” Polmeth (poster), Sustainability and Development Conference (talk)
- 2018
  - “How to property rights affect agricultural productivity?” Paper presented at *American Geophysical Union* Washington DC.

## Conferences (continued)

- “Mining Human Decision Making” with Molly Roberts. Paper presented at *Text as Data* University of Washington.
- “Democratization, Elections, and Public Goods: The Troubling Evidence from Deforestation” Paper presented at *Working Group on Africal Political Economy Annual Meeting* UCLA.
- 2017 ■ “Democratization, Elections, and Public Goods: The Troubling Evidence from Deforestation” Poster presented at *American Geophysical Union* New Orleans, LA. Media Coverage: <https://blogs.agu.org/geospace/2018/01/09/elections-may-catalyst-deforestation-new-research-suggests/>
- “Detecting Land-Use Change and On-Farm Investments at the Plot Scale” with Jen Burney and Ran Goldblatt. Poster presented at *American Geophysical Union* New Orleans, LA.
- “Mass Digitization of Chinese Court Decisions” with Molly Roberts, Rachel Stern, Ben Liebman. Paper presented at *American Political Science Association* San Francisco, CA
- “Measuring the Impact of Land Titling on Investment via Satellite” with Jen Burney and Ran Goldblatt. Paper presented at *CEGA Research Retreat* Berkeley, CA
- 2010 ■ “Water Governance in the Middle East North Africa Region: Applying a Multifaceted Benchmarking Approach.” Session: Climate Change and Environmental Conflict. *American Association of Geographers*. Seattle, WA
- “Water Governance Survey Results.” USAID MENA Benchmarking Conference, Amman, Jordan.

## Service

- 2019 ■ Graduate student representative on the admissions committee
- Faculty Liaison, UCSD Political Science Graduate Council
- 2018 ■ Co-Chair, UCSD Political Science New Student Orientation
- 2017 ■ Co-Chair, UCSD Political Science Social Events
- Memberships: *American Political Science Association*, *American Economic Association*, *American Geophysical Union*, *Midwest Political Science Association*, *Western Political Science Association*, *AAAS*

## Skills

- Languages ■ Native: English. Strong reading, writing and speaking competencies in Mandarin Chinese (HSK6). Conversational Spanish.
- Coding ■ Expert: R, Git/GitHub, ArcGIS . Intermediate: Stata, Python,  $\LaTeX$ , JavaScript.

References available upon request.