Soonhong Cho

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EDUCATION

Expected 2024	**Ph.D., Political Science**, **M.S., Statistics** University of California, Los Angeles
2018	**M.A., Political Science** Seoul National University
2016	**B.A., Economics, Political Science** (MINOR: Philosophy) Seoul National University

RESEARCH INTEREST

Political Methodology, Causal Inference, Survey Methodology, Voting Behavior

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

6. Embracing the Uncertainty: Causal Inference with Weak Specification Assumptions and No Fitted Model (with Chad Hazlett and Doeun Kim)

5. Intergenrational Effects of Education: A Principal Stratification Approach (with Ian Lundberg)

4. Bounding Approach for Undefined Outcomes in Experiments (with Ian Lundberg)

3. Modeling and Assessing Controlled Direct Effects with the Regression-with-Residuals Method (with Ian Lundberg)

2. Characterizing Voter Types with Gaussian Process Clustering: An Application to High-Dimensional Individual-level Ballot Data

1. Uncovering Policy Preferences with Repeated Mock Elections: Evidence from Conjoint Experiment in South Korean Presidential Election

EXPERIENCE

2022 -	**Graduate Student R Maven**, UCLA -Provide individual programming support for graduate students as a peer tutor
2019 -	**Graduate Teaching Fellow**, UCLA
2020 -	**Graduate Research Assistant**, UCLA - Develop and analyze datasets containing actuall ballots from LA County (1986-2010)
2016 - 2018	**Teaching Assistant**, Seoul National University
2016 - 2018	**Graduate Research Assistant**, Seoul National University - Developed GUI-based statistical tools and visualization dashboards using R - Designed, administered, and analyzed complex survey experiments
2011-2013	**Staff Sergeant**, Republic of Korea Air Force

Awards And Fellowships

2018 - 2023	**Kwanjeong Educational Foundation** Scholarship (5 year) (competitive scholarship awarded for doctoral research abroad)
2018-2020	**Graduate Dean's Scholar Award**, UCLA Graduate Division
2018-2020	**Irma Polaski Fellowship**, UCLA Graduate Division
2018-2023	**Funding for doctoral studies: Fellowship and TA position** UCLA Department of Political Science
2017	**Next-generation Researcher Fellowship**, Seoul National University
2013-2015	**Merit-based Scholarship** (4 semesters), Seoul National University
2016	**Best Research Paper** Social Science Research Grant for Undergrads, Seoul National University
2015	**Best Essay**, Annual Undergraduate Student Essay Award, Seoul National University

Teaching

2019 -	**Teaching Fellow**, UCLA Causal Inference for Social Science, PhD level (2022 Spring) **TA lecture notes** The American Presidency (2022 Winter) Politics & Strategy - Game Theory for Political Science (2022 Fall, 2021 Fall, 2021 Winter, 2020 Fall, Spring, Winter) Introduction to American Politics (2021 Spring, 2019 Fall)
2016 - 2018	**Teaching Assistant**, Seoul National University Understanding and Analyzing Korean Politics (2017 Fall) Studies in Chinese Politics (2017 Spring) Research Methods in Political Science (2016 Fall) Quantitative Political Analysis, Grad level (2016 Fall)

Skills

R (advanced), Stata (intermediate), Python (basic), C++ (basic), LaTeX, git/GitHub

Brief Descriptions of Research in Progress

6. **Embracing the Uncertainty: Causal Inference with Weak Specification Assumptions and No Fitted Model** (with Chad Hazlett and Doeun Kim)
   - We propose a Gaussian process method to estimate the Average Treatment Effect on Treated (ATT), when a researcher lacks knowledge about the functional form mapping predictors to outcome variable. The main advantage lies in the inference step: we can incorporate model misspecification uncertainty into our estimator by retaining prediction uncertainty on conditional expectation function. We also aim to develop a statistical package that provides a consistent and easy interface for social scientists.

5. **The Intergenerational Effects of Education: A Principal Stratification Approach** (with Ian Lundberg)
   - We study the intergenerational effects of education froma a principal stratification perspective. Specifically, we ask how questions such as "does a parent's education affect the education of their children" can be better answered by adopting a principal stratification perspective: that question only makes sense for those who have kids.

4. **Bounding Approach for Undefined Outcomes in Experiments** (with Ian Lundberg)
   - We propose a method to partially identify causal effects when the potential outcomes for outcome variables are undefined (e.g., attrition), by adopting a principal stratification approach.

3. **Modeling and Assessing Controlled Direct Effects with the Regression-with-Residuals Method** (with Ian Lundberg)
   - We study the performance of the Regression-With-Residuals method to estimate Controlled Direct Effects compared to the sequential g-estimator.

2. **Characterizing Voter Types with Gaussian Process Clustering: An Application to High-Dimensional Individual-level Ballot Data**
   - I propose a Gaussian process classification approach to distinguish some ways an individual voter could be classified as partisan based on their actual ballot. I apply the proposed method to a unique dataset containing actual ballots images (all of the votes cast for every candidate and every proposition by every voter) in LA County from 1986 to 2010.

1. **Uncovering Policy Preferences with Repeated Mock Elections: Evidence from Conjoint Experiment in South Korean Presidential Election**
   - In this paper I estimate citizens' multidimensional policy preferences using the conjoint experiment in the electoral context. Using the conjoint experiment which asks respondents to select one of two hypothetical candidates whose policy bundles are randomly generated, I find evidence that the ideological constraint on citizens' policy attitudes works well even without partisan labels.