

Soonhong Cho

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address	Bunche 4289, University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA 90095
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EDUCATION

2026	Ph.D., Political Science UCLA Committee: Jeffrey Lewis, Chad Hazlett (co-chairs), Chris Tausanovitch, Ian Lundberg (Sociology)
2025	M.S., Statistics and Data Science UCLA
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, American Politics, Public Opinion

WORKING PAPERS

4. Inference at the data's edge: Gaussian processes for estimation and inference in the face of extrapolation uncertainty (with [Chad Hazlett](#) and [Doeun Kim](#)) [**Conditionally accepted**, *Political Analysis*]
3. Non-existent outcomes in research on inequality: A causal approach (with [Ian Lundberg](#)) [**R&R**, *Sociological Methods & Research*]
2. When help seems optional: Why climate refugees face greater skepticism than war refugees (with [Jieun Park](#) and [Margaret E. Peters](#))
1. Causal inference without controls: Gaussian Processes for estimating treatment effects in Interrupted Time Series [**Job Market Paper**]

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

3. The Effects of COVID-19 Stay-at-home orders on gun purchasing (with Jack Kappelman, Tanvi Shinkre, Ryan Baxter-King, and Haotian (Barney) Chen)
2. Drivers of attitudes toward Asian Americans: Disentangling stereotyping from racial identity (with [Jieun Park](#) and [Jesscia Hyeonjeong Lee](#))
1. Modeling and assessing controlled direct effects with the regression-with-residuals method (with [Ian Lundberg](#))

GRANTS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025	Travel Grant , Institute for Humane Studies
2025	Travel Grant for PAA , CCPR
2024	Travel Scholarship for ACIC , Society for Causal Inference
2023, 2024	Conference Travel Grant , UCLA Graduate Division
2023-2024	Institute to Study Hate Research Grant (\$15,000), UCLA
2023-2024	Dissertation Year Fellowship , UCLA
2022, 2023	Political Psychology Fellowship , UCLA
2018-2023	Kwanjeong Educational Foundation Scholarship (\$122,500) A 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
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, Seoul National University
2015	Best Essay , Annual Undergraduate Student Essay Award, Seoul National University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025	Instructor , UCLA Data Analysis Workshop, PhD level (2025 Fall)
2019 - 2025	Teaching Assistant/Fellow , UCLA Causality, PhD level (2025 Spring, Statistics & Data Science) Quantitative Data Analysis, PhD level (2025 Winter, Sociology) Causal Inference for Social Science, PhD level (2022 Spring) Lecture Notes The American Presidency (2022 Winter) Politics & Strategy - Game Theory for Political Science (2023 Spring, 2022 Fall, 2021 Fall, 2021 Winter, 2020 Fall, Spring, Winter) Introduction to American Politics (2021 Spring, 2019 Fall, 2023 Winter)
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)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024 - 2026	Graduate Research Assistant , UCLA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Write R codes, analyze data, conduct simulations, and write research paper.
2023 - 2024	Graduate Research Assistant , Cornell University <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Collaborate on projects to study causal inference when the treatment causes sample attrition, as well as projects on mediation analysis.- Write R codes, analyze data, review literature, and write research paper.
2020 - 2021	Graduate Research Assistant , UCLA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop and analyze datasets containing actual ballots from LA County (1986-2010)
2016 - 2018	Graduate Research Assistant , Seoul National University <ul style="list-style-type: none">- An Exploratory Study for Development of GUI-based Statistical Package- Establishment of Networks for the Next Generation of Women Scientists- The Legislative Effectiveness of Women in the 19th National Assembly- Cooperation and Integration of Economic and Social Community in East Asia- What Good Governments Are Made of: Measuring and Untangling the Quality of Government Using Lab, Survey, and Field Experiment- Gender Inequality on Campus: An Emphasis on the Next Generation of Female Academics

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025	American Causal Inference Conference , Detroit, MI.
2025	Population Association of America Annual Meeting , DC.
2024	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting , Riverside, CA.
2024	American Causal Inference Conference , Seattle, WA.
2023	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting , Los Angeles, CA.
2017	Midwest Political Science Association , Chicago, IL.
2016	Korean Political Science Association , Busan, Korea.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for Political Science Research and Methods

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2024 - Present	Affiliated with California Center for Population Research
2023 - Present	Affiliated with Practical Causal Inference Lab
2022 - Present	Graduate Student R Maven , UCLA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provide statistics/programming support for graduate students as a tutor
2021 - Present	Affiliated with Inequality Data Science Lab
2017	Vice-President of Graduate Students Council , Political Science Major, Seoul National University
2011-2013	Staff Sergeant , Republic of Korea Air Force (2 years)

SKILLS

R (advanced), Stata, C++, Python (intermediate), L^AT_EX, git/GitHub, Qualtrics