

# Soonhong Cho

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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| Address | Bunche 4289, University of California, Los Angeles<br>Los Angeles, CA 90095 |
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## EDUCATION

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| 2026 | Ph.D., Political Science <b>UCLA</b><br>Committee: Jeffrey Lewis, Chad Hazlett (co-chairs), Chris Tausanovitch, Ian Lundberg (Sociology) |
| 2026 | M.S., Statistics and Data Science <b>UCLA</b>  |
| 2018 | M.A., Political Science <b>Seoul National University</b>   |
| 2016 | B.A., Economics, Political Science (Minor: Philosophy) <b>Seoul National University</b>  |

## RESEARCH INTEREST

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Political Methodology, Causal Inference, American Politics, Public Opinion

## WORKING PAPERS

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4. Inference at the data's edge: Gaussian processes for estimation and inference in the face of model uncertainty, poor overlap, and extrapolation (with [Chad Hazlett](#) and [Doeun Kim](#)) [**Minor Revision**, *Political Analysis*]
3. Non-existent outcomes in research on inequality: A causal approach (with [Ian Lundberg](#)) [**Under review**, *Sociological Methods & Research*]
2. Not quite refugees?: Examining skepticism toward climate-displaced populations. (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

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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

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|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 2025       | <b>Travel Grant</b> , Institute for Humane Studies   |
| 2025       | <b>Travel Grant for PAA</b> , CCPR   |
| 2024       | <b>Travel Scholarship for ACIC</b> , Society for Causal Inference  |
| 2023, 2024 | <b>Conference Travel Grant</b> , UCLA Graduate Division  |
| 2023-2024  | <b>Institute to Study Hate Research Grant</b> , UCLA<br>\$15,000 Grant awarded by the UCLA Initiative to Study Hate for research project |
| 2023-2024  | <b>Dissertation Year Fellowship</b> , UCLA   |
| 2022, 2023 | <b>Political Psychology Fellowship</b> , UCLA  |
| 2018-2023  | <b>Kwanjeong Educational Foundation</b> Scholarship (\$122,500)<br>A competitive scholarship awarded for doctoral research abroad        |
| 2018-2020  | <b>Graduate Dean's Scholar Award</b> , UCLA Graduate Division  |
| 2018-2020  | <b>Irma Polaski Fellowship</b> , UCLA Graduate Division  |
| 2018-2023  | <b>Funding for doctoral studies: Fellowship and TA position</b><br>UCLA Department of Political Science                                  |
| 2017       | <b>Next-generation Researcher Fellowship</b> , Seoul National University   |
| 2013-2015  | <b>Merit-based Scholarship</b> (4 semesters), Seoul National University  |
| 2016       | <b>Best Research Paper</b><br>Social Science Research Grant for Undergrads, Seoul National University                                    |
| 2015       | <b>Best Essay</b> , Annual Undergraduate Student Essay Award, Seoul National University  |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| 2019 - 2025 | <b>Teaching Assistant/Fellow</b> , UCLA<br>Causality, PhD level (2025 Spring, Statistics & Data Science)<br>Quantitative Data Analysis, PhD level (2025 Winter, Sociology)<br>Causal Inference for Social Science, PhD level (2022 Spring) <a href="#">Lecture Notes</a><br>The American Presidency (2022 Winter)<br>Politics & Strategy - Game Theory for Political Science<br>(2023 Spring, 2022 Fall, 2021 Fall, 2021 Winter, 2020 Fall, Spring, Winter)<br>Introduction to American Politics (2021 Spring, 2019 Fall, 2023 Winter) |
| 2016 - 2018 | <b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Seoul National University<br>Understanding and Analyzing Korean Politics (2017 Fall)<br>Studies in Chinese Politics (2017 Spring)<br>Research Methods in Political Science (2016 Fall)<br>Quantitative Political Analysis, Grad level (2016 Fall)  |

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**Reviewer** for Political Science Research and Methods

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

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

## SKILLS

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R (advanced), Stata, C++, Python (intermediate), L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, git/GitHub, Qualtrics