SOJEONG LEE

Teaching Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Tennessee

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
1001 McClung Tower
1115 Volunteer Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37996-0410
Email: slee138@utk.edu
Website: www.sojeonglee.com

EMPLOYMENT

- Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee (Aug 2024–Present)
- Senior Fellow, Center for National Security and Foreign Affairs, University of Tennessee (Aug 2024–Present)
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Research Associate, University of Tennessee (2018–Jul 2024)
- Managing Editor, *International Studies Quarterly*, International Studies Association (2018–2023)

EDUCATION

University of Iowa

- Ph.D., Political Science, 2018
  — Dissertation: *Water and Energy Resource Dependence and Conflict*
  — Committee: Sara Mitchell (Chair), Kelly Kadera, Brian Lai, Alyssa Prorok, and Tyler Priest
- M.A. Political Science, 2014

Seoul National University, South Korea

- M.A., Political Science, 2010
- B.A., Political Science, 2007

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

ICPSR Summer Program

- Maximum Likelihood Estimation for Generalized Linear Models, 2015

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

International Relations

International Conflict; Water Conflict and Cooperation; Territorial, Maritime, and River Disputes; Natural Resources and Security

Comparative Politics

Politics in Northeast Asia; U.S. Alliances and Regional Security in East Asia and the Indo-Pacific; South Korea's Foreign Policy; Territorial and Maritime Disputes in East Asia and the Indo-Pacific

Environmental Politics

Climate Change; Politics of Natural Resources; Environmental Politics and Security

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

- "Contested boundaries in changing climates: Precipitation variability and interstate diplomatic conflict." 2025. *Environment and Security* 3(4):555-576. (with Bomi Lee)
- "South Korea's Foreign Policy Strategies in the Contemporary Era." 2024. *Journal of East Asian Studies.* 24(3):277-285. (with Krista E. Wiegand)
- "South Korea's Strategy toward the U.S.-China Rivalry." 2024. *Journal of East Asian Studies.* 24(3):305-323. (with Krista E. Wiegand)
- "Walking a Fine Line: U.S. Involvement in Bilateral Tensions between South Korea and Japan." 2024. *Journal of East Asian Studies.* 24(3):386-407. (with Krista E. Wiegand)
- "The US-South Korea Alliance: How the Patron Benefits from the Protege." 2021. *International Area Studies Review.* 24(2):97-117. (with Brandon Prins and Krista E. Wiegand)
- "Energy Resources and the Risk of Conflict in Shared River Basins."2019. *Journal of Peace Research.* 56(3):336-351. (with Sara Mitchell)
- "Politics of Managing Economic Crisis: A Comparative Analysis of Korea and Japan." 2011. *Social Science Studies* 19(1):164-192.
- "The Identity of American Political Science: Research and Education in the United States." 2008. *Journal of Korean Politics* 17(2):245-271. (with Chang Jae Baik)

Book Chapters

- "Peace and SDG 14: Life Below Water."*Forthcoming 2026.* In Havard Hegre, Kristina Petrova, and Stefan Doring Eds. *Elgar Companion to Peace and the Sustainable Development Goals.* Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. (with Krista E. Wiegand)

Other Publications

- "Costs of South Koreas Shifts in Foreign Policy in the Increasing U.S.-China Rivalry." 2022. *JPI PeaceNet.* 2022-11. (with Krista E. Wiegand)

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

- "Water dependence and conflict"
  — *Abstract* : This study examines the effect of water dependence on the likelihood of water conflict between states in transboundary rivers. As states are in great need of water resources for their survival and security, they fear losing water resources due to conflict. As the cost of conflict becomes larger given greater dependence on water resources, states with higher water dependence are less likely to engage in conflict over freshwater. Using the the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) river claim data and TFDD water events data, this study tests how water dependence affects the chances for conflict over freshwater resources between states in a dyad. The empirical results confirm a conflict-reducing effect

of dyadic water dependence, showing that as two states in a dyad become more dependent on water resources, they are less likely to experience water conflict, and water cooperation is more likely between states in a dyad.

· "Strategic contention between South Korea and China in the Yellow Sea"
— *Abstract* : Chinese illegal fishing have been a major problem in the Yellow Sea, while there are continued bilateral efforts to manage the illegal fishing issue. Due to their complex relationship with close economic ties and security challenges, both South Korea and China seem to enjoy this relatively peaceful contention in the Yellow Sea over the past years. In the midst of the U.S.-China power competition, such status-quo would be likely shifted. As China becomes more aggressive in its maritime and territorial disputes with other countries in the region, it pushes South Korea into a more insecure, uncertain, and potentially unfavorable position in the boundary dispute with China in the Yellow Sea. This study examines how the changing strategic security environment affects South Koreas perception toward its contested maritime boundary in the Yellow Sea and how it influences the dynamics of maritime disputes between South Korea and China in the Yellow Sea.

· "Diffusion of water conflicts: Maritime issue claim"
— *Abstract* : As climate change worsens environmental stresses and competitions over crucial natural resources, water becomes crucial to potential conflict among actors. To what extent do water disputes in the surrounding areas affect the likelihood for water conflict? This study expects that the likelihood of maritime claim onset increases when there are proximate maritime claims in neighborhood and when a potential challenger states observes nearby maritime claims in water contiguity. By using the the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) maritime claim data, I examine whether there are any spatial neighboring effects of maritime claim on claim initiation. Empirical analysis shows that the proximity of maritime claims, in particular the existence of challengers and targets of maritime claims in nearby water contiguity, increases the likelihood of maritime claim onset in the Western Hemisphere and Europe in 1945-2001.

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

— Introduction to International Relations
— International Conflict
— Regional Analysis of International Politics: Northeast Asia
— Contemporary International Problems: Climate Change

University of Iowa

· Instructor
— Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation — Fall 2015

· Teaching Assistant
— Introduction to Political Thought and Action — Spring 2018
— Introduction to American Politics — Fall 2017
— Introduction to International Relations — Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016
— Introduction to American Foreign Policy — Summer 2016
— International Conflict — Spring 2014
— Politics of Terrorism — Fall 2013
— Latin American Politics — Fall 2013

ICPSR Summer Program

· Teaching Assistant
— Time Series Analysis I 2016, 2017, 2018

Chung-Ang University, South Korea

· Lecturer
— International Organization and Cooperation Fall 2011

Seoul National University, South Korea

· Teaching Assistant
— Modern and Postmodern International Relations Spring 2008
— Governments and Politics of America Fall 2008
— Studies in American Politics Fall 2008

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

· Securing South Korean-U.S. Scientific-Technological Innovation and Cooperation May 2024 - Apr 2025
— Krista E. Wiegand and Sojeong Lee
— Funded by Korea Foundation
— Co-PI

· The South Korea-U.S. Alliance, Threats, Security, and Cooperation Jan 2022 - Jun 2023
— Krista E. Wiegand, Wonjae Hwang, and Sojeong Lee
— Funded by Global Catalyst Program, University of Tennessee
— Researcher

· South Korea's Role in the Era of a U.S. and China Rivalry: Territorial and Maritime Disputes, Alliances, and Regional Security Aug 2021 - Jul 2022
— Krista E. Wiegand and Sojeong Lee
— Funded by Korea Foundation
— Co-PI

· Project on Dams and Social Unrest in Sub-Saharan Africa Jan 2018 - Dec 2019
— Eric Keels, Krista E. Wiegand, and Sojeong Lee
— Funded by Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) / Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
— Co-author of the research paper funded by the research project

· Issue Correlates of War Project Maritime Claims May 2014 - Dec 2014
— Sara Mitchell, University of Iowa
— Research Assistant

· Evolution of International Political Economic Order and Korea's Response Sept 2010 - Jul 2011
— Hyeong-Ki Kwon, Seoul National University, South Korea
— Research Assistant

· Production Matters: Globalization of Production Value Chains and Its Impact on National Politico-economic Order Jul 2009 - Jun 2010
— Chang Jae Baik, Seoul National University, South Korea
— Research Assistant

FELLOWSHIP, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Fellowship

- *U.S.-Korea NextGen Scholars Program*, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Korea Chair and the University of Southern California Dornsife Korean Studies Institute (2022-2023)

Grants

- "*Securing South Korean-U.S. Scientific-Technological Innovation and Cooperation*," Korea Foundation's Support for Policy Oriented Research, Korea Foundation (2024)
  — Co-PI, with Krista E. Wiegand (Lead PI) and Elis Vllasi (Co-PI)
- "*The South Korean-U.S. Alliance, Threats, Security, and Cooperation*," Global Catalyst Program, University of Tennessee (2022)
  — Researcher, with Krista E. Wiegand (Lead PI) and Wonjae Hwang (Co-PI)
- "*South Korea's Role in the Era of a U.S. and China Rivalry - Territorial and Maritime Disputes, Alliances, and Regional Security*," Korea Foundation's Support for Policy Oriented Research, Korea Foundation (2021-2022)
  — Co-PI, with Krista E. Wiegand (Lead PI)

APSA Travel Grants, American Political Science Association (2022)
Graduate Student Travel Grants, Peace Science Society (2017)
ISA Midwest Annual Conference Travel Grant, International Studies Association (2014, 2015)
Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students Grant for ISA Midwest Annual Conference (2013)
Graduate Assistantship, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2013 - 2018)
Summer Training Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2015)
Conference Travel Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2014 - 2018)
Lecture and Research Support Scholarship, Seoul National University (2008, 2010, 2011)
Lecture and Research Scholarship, Seoul National University (2008, 2010, 2011)
SNU Development Fund Scholarship, Seoul National University (2008)
Superior Academic Performance Scholarship, Seoul National University (2002 - 2006)

Awards

Lynne Rienner Award For Best Paper Presented by a Graduate Student, International Studies Association Midwest (2017)
Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Awards, University of Iowa (Spring 2017)

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCES

"South Korea's foreign policy toward the U.S.-China rivalry," *KPSA-APSA panel on interesting and timely topics, 2023 Korean Political Science Association Annual Conference* (December 2, 2023)

"Strategic contention between South Korea and China in the Yellow Sea," *Territory and Sovereignty on the Korean Peninsula, Korea Institute, Harvard University* (March 9, 2023)

"Walking a fine line: Trilateral tensions between South Korea, Japan, and the United States," (with Krista E. Wiegand) *Stimson Center* (January 5, 2023)

"South Korea's strategy in the era of the U.S.-China rivalry," (with Krista E. Wiegand) *Korea-U.S. Alliance and Regional Security in East Asia, Jeju Peace Institute-Baker Center Joint Conference* (June 13, 2022)

"South Korea's strategy in the era of the U.S.-China Rivalry," "Cost of tensions: South Korea, Japan, and the U.S. alliances and regional security." (both with Krista E. Wiegand) *South Korea's Role in the Era of a U.S.-China Rivalry Workshop, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee* (April 22-24, 2022)

"Conflict and the natural world." *Peace Science Society International Annual Meeting 2020* (November 9-11, 2020)

"New applications of the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) data." *Peace Science Society International Annual Meeting 2020* (November 9, 2020)

"Next stages of the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) data project." *Peace Science Society International Annual Meeting 2019* (November 7, 2019)

"Transboundary water conflict and cooperation." *Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee* (October 30, 2020)

"New Era Workshop 2019." *Bridging the Gap* (February 24-26, 2019)

"Maritime conflicts: general patterns." *University of Iowa* (February 20, 2018)

"Organizational models and Cuban missile crisis." *University of Iowa* (October 26, 2017); *University of Iowa, Des Moines Campus* (October 20, 2016)

"Resource dependence and conflict in shared river basins." *Journeys in World Politics, University of Iowa* (April 2, 2016)

"International and transboundary water conflicts." *Augsburg River Semester, Augsburg College* (September 29, 2015)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition (2014, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025)

ISSS-IS (International Security Studies Section of ISA (ISSS) and the International Security and Arms Control Section of APSA (IS)) Annual Conference (2019, 2021, 2024)

International Studies Association Annual Convention (2016, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

International Studies Association Midwest Annual Conference (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018)

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

Southern Political Science Association Conference Within A Conference (CWC) (2022)

Peace Science Society International Annual Meeting (2017, 2018)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
Association of Korean Political Studies
Bridging the Gap
International Studies Association
Journeys in World Politics
Midwest Political Science Association
Peace Science Society
Southern Political Science Association
Women's Caucus for Political Science
Women in Conflict Studies

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Managing Editor, *International Studies Quarterly* Oct 2018 - Dec 2023

Managing Editor, *International Studies Review* Aug 2016 - Dec 2016

Reviewer, *Asian Survey; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Foreign Policy Analysis; International Studies Review; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Peace Research; Pacific Review; Water International*

Secretary-Treasurer, Graduate Association of Political Science, University of Iowa 2015 - 2017

Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Department of Political Science, College of Social Science, Seoul National University, South Korea Sept 2011 - May 2012

REFERENCES

Sara McLaughlin Mitchell
Professor and Collegiate Fellow
Department of Political Science
College of Law
University of Iowa
309 Schaeffer Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242
(319) 335-2356
sara-mitchell@uiowa.edu

Brandon Prins
Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Tennessee
1001 McClung Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996
(865) 974-2261
bprins@utk.edu

Krista E. Wiegand
Director, Center for National Security and Foreign Affairs
University of Tennessee
1640 Cumberland Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37996
(865) 974-0969
kwiegand@utk.edu