

SOJEONG LEE

Global Security Post-Doctoral Research Associate
Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
University of Tennessee

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

University of Iowa

- Ph.D., Political Science, 2018
 - Title of Dissertation: *Water and Energy Resource Dependence and Conflict*
 - Dissertation 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

Introduction to International Relations; International Conflict; Natural Resource Conflict; Water Conflict and Cooperation; Maritime Conflict; Natural Resources and National Security

Environmental Politics

Introduction to Environmental Politics; Environmental Politics and Policy; Politics of Natural Resources; Politics of Water; Politics of Energy Resources; Resources and Human Security

Comparative Politics

Introduction to Comparative Politics; Comparative Resource Politics; Asian Security and Politics; Politics in Northeast Asia

PUBLICATIONS

- “The US-South Korea Alliance: How the Patron Benefits from the Protege” (with Brandon Prins and Krista E. Wiegand). Forthcoming at *International Area Studies Review*
- “Energy Resources and the Risk of Conflict in Shared River Basins” (With Sara Mitchell). 2019. *Journal of Peace Research*. 56(3):336-351.
- “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” (With Chang Jae Baik). 2008. *Journal of Korean Politics* 17(2):245- 271.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

- “Water Dependence and Conflict”
 - *Abstract* : This study examines the effect of water dependence on the likelihood of water conflict between states. As states are in great need of water resources for their survival and security, they fear more 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 TFDD water events data, this study tests how water dependence affects the chances for conflict over freshwater resources between states in a dyad. A states level of water dependence is created as a composite indicator of a states needs in water resources, in terms of hydroelectricity, basin areas in territory, and agriculture values. 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.
- “Dam Purpose and Contentious Political Behavior: It’s Dam Complicated” (with Krista E. Wiegand and Eric Keels)
 - *Abstract* : This study examines how the purposes of dams affect contentious politics. We argue that dams influence the likelihood of political and social contentions, but that these relationships vary by the specific purposes of dams. While hydropower or flood control dams (non-rivalrous dam) may offer wider benefits throughout society, water-supply or irrigation dams (rivalrous dam) are intended for the control and monopolization of access to water. Rivalrous dams are therefore more likely to spur political contention related to water and environmental issues than non-rivalrous dams. Examining data on dams in Africa and the Social Conflict Analysis Dataset (SCAD), we find support for our argument that non-rivalrous dams are less likely to incite political contentions, while rivalrous dams are more likely to do so. The implication is that not all dams are the same and the varying level of public goods provided by dams greatly influences the likelihood of political contentions.

WORKING PAPERS

- “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. Previous literature has explored the causes of water conflict, but relatively fewer efforts explore potential geographical influences and the diffusion of water conflict. To what extent do water disputes in the surrounding areas affect the likelihood for water conflict? Is water conflict more or less likely as a state and the neighborhood have experienced water conflict? In this study, I examine the spatial clustering and diffusion aspects of water-related events. By using the ICOW issue claim data, I explore whether there are any spatial neighboring effects of maritime claim on claim initiation. I argue 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. 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.

- “Uncovering spatial variability of climate change, water, and conflict” (with Bomi Lee)
 - *Abstract* : As climate change worsens environmental stresses and freshwater availability, water becomes crucial to potential both intra- and inter-state conflict. Previous research has been largely focused on the effect of temporal variations of water (water scarcity) on conflict. However, existing research has paid little attention to the links between the spatial distribution of water within countries (water accessibility) and conflict. We focus on two mechanisms to examine the relationship between climate variability and interstate conflict: scarcity and accessibility. First, climate variability can increase the risk of interstate conflict as countries are under severe water-scarce situations. To increase the amount of available water, they could pursue more aggressive actions toward neighbor countries for the sake of its own survival. Second, the effects of climate variability can vary within a country. For instance, if major crop-producing regions in a country experience extreme drought and have fewer accessible water sources, then the effects of climate variability on interstate conflict can be larger in this country. We use river and territorial claims data from the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) project and precipitation and drought information from the PRIO-GRID dataset to focus on geographical variations of water and climate conditions and river and territorial disputes between states.
- “South Korea's Strategies as a Middle Power in the Era of a U.S.-China Rivalry” (with Krista E. Wiegand)
 - *Abstract* : In this study, we examine South Korea's foreign policy strategies in the context of the increasing power competition between the United States (U.S.) and China. Despite South Korea's strong alliance with the U.S., South Korea's relationship with China is complicated due to China's influence in North Korea, trade relations, and other issues that can be linked through issue linkage. As a U.S. ally, how aggressive should South Korea be in U.S. led initiatives in the region, particularly advocating U.S. led strategy in East Asia with territorial and maritime disputes involving China? As a middle power engaged in an alliance with a major power that is involved in a power competition with another major power, how should South Korea strategize, particularly in the context of maximizing its own national interests? To analyze such complexity, we propose a triadic framework of alliances and issue linkages. Specifically, we argue that, as a protégé state of an asymmetric alliance, South Korea's strategies will vary depending on the potential of issue linkage by the U.S. as its patron state and China as the revisionist state. This study will provide important insight into the dynamics of alliance politics, issue linkages, and strategies of a middle power.
- “Water Resource Dependence and Domestic Conflict and Cooperation”
 - *Abstract* : This study explores the relationship between a state's dependence on water resource and domestic water-related conflict and cooperation. By using the Water-Related Intrastate Conflict and Cooperation event dataset and an original measure of a state's dependence on water resource in shared river basins, the empirical results show that as a state is more dependent on water resource, it is more likely to experience domestic water-related cooperation, such as an improvement with respect to water quantity/quality. In addition, higher level of water resource dependence decreases the severity of domestic water-related conflict.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Project on Dams and Social Unrest in Sub-Saharan Africa

Jan 2018 - Dec 2019

— Eric Keels, Sojeong Lee, and Krista Wiegand

— Funded by Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) / Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy

- Issue Correlates of War Project Maritime Claims** May 2014 - Dec 2014
 — Sara Mitchell, University of Iowa
- Evolution of International Political Economic Order and Korea's Response** Sept 2010 - Jul 2011
 — Hyeong-Ki Kwon, Seoul National University, South Korea
- 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

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

University of Iowa

- Instructor
 - Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation Fall 2015
- Teaching Assistant
 - Intro 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

GRANTS AND AWARDS

External grants

Korea Foundation's Support for Policy Oriented Research, "South Korea's Role in the Era of a U.S. and China Rivalry - Territorial and Maritime Disputes, Alliances, and Regional Security," with Krista E. Wiegand, \$40,000, Korea Foundation (2021)

Peace Science Society's 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)

Internal grants

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 (2017)
Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Awards (Spring 2017)

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCES

“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 Project* (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)

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

International Studies Association Annual Convention (2016, 2017, 2018, 2020(*cancelled due to pandemic*))

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

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association	2014 - present
Bridging the Gap Project	2019 - present
International Studies Association	2013 - present
Journeys in World Politics	2016 - present
Midwest Political Science Association	2014 - present
National Women's Caucus for Political Science (WCPS)	2015 - present
Peace Science Society	2014 - present
Society of Political Methodology	2015 - present
Southern Political Science Association	2018 - present
Women in Conflict Studies (WICS)	2015 - present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Managing Editor, <i>International Studies Quarterly</i>	Oct 2018 - present
Managing Editor, <i>International Studies Review</i>	Aug 2016 - Dec 2016
Reviewer, <i>Foreign Policy Analysis; International Studies Review; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Peace Research; Water International</i>	
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

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