

SOJEONG LEE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2018 - present: Global Security Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Tennessee
- 2018 - present: Managing Editor, *International Studies Quarterly*

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
 - M.A.Thesis: *Politics of Managing Economic Crisis: A Comparative Analysis of Korea and Japan*
- 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; Natural Resource Conflict; Water Conflict and Cooperation; Maritime Conflict; Natural Resources and National Security

Comparative Politics

Asian Security and Politics; Politics in Northeast Asia; South Korea's Foreign Policy; Comparative Resource Politics;

Environmental Politics

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

PUBLICATIONS

- “The US-South Korea Alliance: How the Patron Benefits from the Protege” (with Brandon Prins and Krista E. Wiegand). *International Area Studies Review*. 24(2): 97-117.
- “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.

WORKING PAPERS

- “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.
- “South Korea’s Strategy toward the U.S.-China Rivalry” (with Krista E. Wiegand)
— *Abstract* : In this study, we examine South Korea’s strategy in its role as a U.S. ally in the context of the increasing strategic rivalry between the United States and China. We ask why South Korea as an ally (protg) of the United States is more hesitant than other U.S. allies in the region in actively balancing against China. We present a theory that examines the role of territorial and maritime disputes and issue linkage. For protg states that are engaged in active and hostile territorial and/or maritime disputes with a patron states rival, we expect protg states to clearly side with the patron state, against the patrons rival. Such hostile relations with China mean that protg states can afford to provoke China by siding with the U.S. against China because any retaliation would be less intense in relative terms. On the other hand, when there are no ongoing territorial or maritime disputes between a protg state and the patron states rival, the protg state is expected to be more cautious in siding with the patron state. By provoking the rival, protg states that have generally positive relations with the patron state will experience significantly worse retaliation by the patron states rival in other issue areas that makes these states vulnerable and cautious. In the context of South Korea, based on a comparison of strategies of other U.S. treaty allies since 2011, we find that South Korea is relatively more vulnerable to Chinese retaliation. This vulnerability makes it difficult for South Korea to actively balance against China, clearly siding with the United States in its rivalry.

- “Waking a Fine Line: Trilateral Tensions between South Korea, Japan, and the United States” (with Krista E. Wiegand)
 - *Abstract* : Despite being the closest and most important allies of the United States in East Asia and the Indo-Pacific, South Korea and Japan maintain tense bilateral relations over unresolved historical issues and territorial and maritime disputes. As close allies of the U.S., it seems that these tensions could be costly for the alliance system. The U.S. has certainly attempted to mediate and prioritize improving relations, but mostly through political rhetoric, about trilateral cooperation and good relationship in general. Why have U.S. efforts to help alleviate the tensions not been very effective? Why have we not witnessed more direct pressures from the U.S. on the governments of South Korea and Japan to resolve or set aside the hostilities? In this paper, we argue that in addition to the challenges of nationalism and public opinion, which make it difficult to resolve or set aside the tensions, the U.S. pursues a risk analysis about how much the tensions influence the U.S. and alliances security capabilities and security interests. As long as tensions between South Korea and Japan are not damaging the U.S. and alliances ability to effectively deter threats and address regional security issues, the U.S. will not strongly pressure South Korea or Japan. On the other hand, when tensions between South Korea and Japan move beyond their bilateral realm and actually jeopardize U.S. regional security and interests, the U.S. will pressure the two allies to change their course of actions toward each other. Examining U.S. government statements and meetings about the relationships and analysis of interviews that we conducted, our findings support the argument that the U.S. responses to tensions between South Korea and Japan depend on the degree to which the U.S. perceives tensions as costly and risky to the ability of the U.S. and the alliance to deter regional security threats.

- “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.

- “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.
- “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

The South Korea-U.S. Alliance, Threats, Security, and Cooperation Jan 2022 - Jan 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** August 2021 - July 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

“*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)

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)

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

“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 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)

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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

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

International Studies Association Annual Convention (2016, 2017, 2018, 2020(*cancelled due to pandemic*), 2021, 2022)

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 (APSA)

Association of Korean Political Studies (AKPS)

Bridging the Gap Project

International Studies Association (ISA)

Journeys in World Politics

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

National Women's Caucus for Political Science (WCPS)

Peace Science Society

Society of Political Methodology

Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)

Women in Conflict Studies (WICS)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Managing Editor, *International Studies Quarterly* Oct 2018 - present

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

Reviewer, *Foreign Policy Analysis; International Studies Review; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Peace Research; 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

Krista Wiegand

Associate Professor, Political Science

Director, Global Security

Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Sara Mitchell

F.Wendell Miller Professor

Department of Political Science

University of Iowa

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