

SEO-YOUNG SILVIA KIM

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Academic Positions

- 2024– Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations,
Seoul National University
- 2023–2024 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Sogang University
- 2020–2023 Assistant Professor, Department of Government, American University

Education

- 2015–2020 CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
- *Ph.D. in Social Sciences* (2020).
 - *M.S. in Social Sciences* (2017).
- 2009–2014 SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
- *B.A. in Economics, B.A. in Sociology, cum laude* (2014).

Research Interests

American politics, political methodology, computational social sciences
— Political behavior, elections, election administration, money in politics

Book

Alvarez, R. Michael, Nicholas J. Adams-Cohen, Seo-young Silvia Kim, Yimeng Li. 2020. “Securing Elections: How Data-Driven Election Monitoring Can Improve Democracy.” *Cambridge University Press*. DOI: [10.1017/9781108887359](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108887359).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

* denotes a graduate student co-author and † denotes an undergraduate student co-author.

15. Kim, Seo-young Silvia. 2025. “Fundraising on the Fringe: Do Ideologically Extreme Candidates Solicit Small Donations?” *Research & Politics*. DOI: [10.1177/20531680251362036](https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680251362036).
14. Kim, Seo-young Silvia, Marc Meredith, Michael Morse, and Stephen Pettigrew. 2025. “The State of Voter Registration Research.” *Journal of Election Administration, Research and Practice*. Forthcoming.
13. Atsusaka, Yuki, and Seo-young Silvia Kim. 2025. “Addressing Measurement Errors in Ranking Questions for the Social Sciences.” *Political Analysis*. DOI: [10.1017/pan.2024.33](https://doi.org/10.1017/pan.2024.33).

12. Kim, Seo-young Silvia, and Zhao Li. 2025. "Keep Winning with WinRed? Digital Fundraising Platform as the Party's Public Good." *Journal of Politics*. DOI: [10.1086/735435](https://doi.org/10.1086/735435).
11. Kim, Seo-young Silvia, Akhil Bandreddi, and R. Michael Alvarez. 2024. "Partisanship is why people vote in person in a pandemic." *Social Science Quarterly*. 105(4): 1042-60. DOI: [10.1111/ssqu.13380](https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.13380).
10. Kim, Seo-young Silvia, Jan Zilinsky, and Brian Brew. 2024. "Donate to Help Us Fight Back: Political Fundraising and Toxic Rhetoric Online." *Party Politics*: 13540688241235901. DOI: [10.1177/13540688241235901](https://doi.org/10.1177/13540688241235901).
9. Kim, Seo-young Silvia, and Jan Zilinsky. 2024. "Division Does Not Imply Predictability: Demographics Continue to Reveal Little About Voting and Partisanship." *Political Behavior*. 46(1):67-87. DOI: [10.1007/s11109-022-09816-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-022-09816-z).
 - [Podcast interview](#) at the Niskanen Center's The Science of Politics, May 19, 2021, "[Is Demographic and Geographic Polarization Overstated?](#)"
 - Previously circulated as "[The Divided \(But Not More Predictable\) Electorate: A Machine Learning Analysis of Voting in American Presidential Elections.](#)"
8. Kim, Seo-young Silvia. 2023. "Automatic Voter Reregistration as a Housewarming Gift: Quantifying Causal Effects on Turnout Using Movers." *American Political Science Review*. 117(3): 1137-44. DOI: [10.1017/S0003055422000983](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055422000983).
 - "[Automatic Voter Reregistration Can Substantially Boost Turnout.](#)" The Conversation. Nov 4, 2022.
7. Lopez, Jennifer,* R. Michael Alvarez, and Seo-young Silvia Kim. 2022. "Latinos, Group Identity, and Equal Opportunity on the 2020 California Ballot." *Social Science Quarterly*. 103(7): 1572-86. DOI: [10.1111/ssqu.13217](https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.13217).
6. Cao, Jian, Seo-young Silvia Kim, and R. Michael Alvarez. 2022. "Bayesian Analysis of State Voter Registration Database Integrity." *Statistics, Politics and Policy* 13(1): 19-40. DOI: [10.1515/spp-2021-0016](https://doi.org/10.1515/spp-2021-0016).
5. Kim, Seo-young Silvia, Hannah Lebovits, and Sarah Shugars. 2022. "Networking 101 for Graduate Students: Building a Bigger Table." *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 55(2): 307-12. DOI: [10.1017/S1049096521001025](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096521001025).
4. Kim, Seo-young Silvia, R. Michael Alvarez, and Christina M. Ramirez. 2020. "Who Voted in 2016? Using Fuzzy Forests to Understand Voter Turnout." *Social Science Quarterly*. 101(2): 978-988. DOI: [10.1111/ssqu.12777](https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.12777).
3. Alvarez, R. Michael, Jonathan N. Katz, and Seo-young Silvia Kim. 2020. "Hidden Donors: The Censoring Problem in U.S. Federal Campaign Finance Data." *Election Law Journal*. 19(1): 1-18. DOI: [10.1089/elj.2019.0593](https://doi.org/10.1089/elj.2019.0593).
2. Kim, Seo-young Silvia, Spencer Schneider,[†] and R. Michael Alvarez. 2020. "Evaluating the Quality of Changes in Voter Registration Databases." *American Politics Research*. 48(6): 670-676. DOI: [10.1177/1532673X19870512](https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X19870512).

1. Kim, Seo-young Silvia. 2015. "Can Franchisor Efforts Discourage Its Franchisees? Evidence from South Korea." *The Comparative Economic Review* 22(1): 1–40.
DOI: [10.23014/kace.22.1.201506.1](https://doi.org/10.23014/kace.22.1.201506.1).

Book Chapter

Alvarez, R. Michael, and Seo-young Silvia Kim. 2019. "Computational Social Science." In *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. Ed. Sandy Maisel. New York: Oxford University Press.
DOI: [10.1093/obo/9780199756223-0285](https://doi.org/10.1093/obo/9780199756223-0285).

Book Reviews

Kim, Seo-young Silvia. 2023. "Money in Politics: Self-Enrichment, Campaign Spending, and Golden Parachutes by Simon Weschle." *Political Science Quarterly* 138(3): 461-63.
DOI: [10.1093/psquar/qqad047](https://doi.org/10.1093/psquar/qqad047).

Kim, Seo-young Silvia. "Grumbach, Jacob M. 2022. *Laboratories Against Democracy: How National Parties Transformed State Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press." *Korean Journal of Legislative Studies* 29(1): 207-212 (in Korean).

Selected Working Papers

"Support and Preference for Grassroots Fundraising." (with Yimeng Li).

"When Do Voter Files Accurately Measure Turnout? How Transitory Voter File Snapshots Impact Research and Representation." (with Bernard Fraga).

Works in Progress

"Who Do People Blame for Affective Polarization?" (with Yuki Atsusaka)

"In Data We (Shouldn't?) Trust: A Comprehensive Guidebook to Social Science Data." (with R. Michael Alvarez; book project)

"Counting Concerns: Unpacking Voter Skepticism in U.S. Elections." (with Jian Cao and R. Michael Alvarez)

"Partisan Asymmetry in Ideological Incongruence." (with Sangmyung Lee and Shang E. Ha)

"What Determines the Government's Responses to Public Petitions in Democracies? Evidence from South Korea." (with Byungkoo Kim and Kyusik Yang)

Other Writings

"Thriving in Graduate School as an International Student: How to Combat the Hidden Costs and Barriers." (with Melanie Sayuri Dominguez).

"The Academic Job Market: Timeline, APSA, and the Packet."

Kim, Seo-young Silvia and Syngjoo Choi. 2015. "Game Theory and the Rational Man." *Physics and High Technology* 24(2): 12-17. doi: [10.3938/PhiT.24.003](https://doi.org/10.3938/PhiT.24.003) (in Korean).

Translation

Korean translation of Gelman, Andrew et al. 2013. Bayesian Data Analysis, Third Edition. CRC Press. ([e-Book publication at BookCube](#), 2020; one of eight translators).

Teaching

Seoul National University

216B.803 Dissertation Research (master's/doctoral).
— Fall 2024.

Sogang University

POL 3185 Special Lecture in American Politics (undergraduate).
— Spring 2024.
POL 5301/G301 Empirical Methods I (master's/doctoral + advanced undergraduates).
— Spring 2024.
POL 2003 Data Science for Social Scientists (undergraduate).
— Fall 2023.
POL 3111 Politics of Information Society (undergraduate).
— Fall 2023.

American University

SPA-613 Conduct of Inquiry II (doctoral).
— Spring 2023, Spring 2022.
GOVT-310 Introduction to Political Research (undergraduate).
— Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.
GOVT-650 Political Analysis (master's).
— Fall 2022.
GOVT-656 Voting Behavior, Elections, and Campaigns (master's).
— Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

Caltech Teaching assistant, *Ps 121b* A History of Budgetary Politics in the U.S., 1913-2019 (2020);
Guest lecturer, *Ps 120* American Electoral Behavior and Party Strategy (2019, 2020);
Teaching assistant, *An 22* Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology (2016).

Seoul National University Teaching assistant, Behavioral Economics (2015).

Software

[rankingQ](#) Package to produce quantities of interest from rank order questions after correcting for bias from random responses.

[swirl-tidy](#) Learn tidyverse in R via a set of [swirl](#) lessons on introductions to tidyverse.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

2025 SNU 10-10 Project Research Support, Seoul National University.

- 2024 SNU 10-10 Project Research Support, Seoul National University.
- 2023–2024 Sogang Research Grant, Sogang University.
- 2023 Public Affairs and Policy Lab (PAPL) summer research grant, American University.
- 2022 MIT Election Data + Science Lab, Evolving Election Administration Landscape Grant. *Leveraging Historical Voter Files as Accurate Measures of Who Votes: Analyzing and Disseminating Voter File Data to Enhance Understanding of Elections* (with Bernard Fraga and Daron Shaw). \$120,603 in total.
2022 SPA/WIPAR Summer Faculty Research Fellow, American University.
Public Affairs and Policy Lab (PAPL) summer research grant, American University.
- 2021 Public Affairs and Policy Lab (PAPL) summer research grant, American University.
- 2020 Lance Davis fellowship, California Institute of Technology.
- 2019 Lance Davis fellowship, California Institute of Technology.
Travel grants: ESRA NSF, PolMeth NSF travel, Caltech, and Connect Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
- 2018 Travel grants: PolMeth NSF and APSA NSF.
- 2017 Travel grant: PolMeth NSF.
- 2014–2015 Brain Korea 21 Plus Scholarship, Ministry of Education, South Korea.

Professional Activities and Service

- Reviewer *Political Psychology, American Journal of Political Science, Political Science Research Methods, Journal of Politics, Public Opinion Quarterly, American Political Science Review, Science Advances, Political Behavior, Political Analysis, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Political Research Quarterly, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, European Political Science Review.*
- 2024– Committee member, [Seoul Workshop for Empirical Research in Politics \(SWERP\)](#)
- 2023– Social Science Advisory Panel, The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.
- 2023–2024 Program Chair (joint with Yimeng Li), [2024 Election Science Conference within a Conference, Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#).
- 2021– Faculty Fellow, [Center for Data Science](#), American University.
- 2021– [Software Carpentry](#) and [Data Carpentry](#) certified instructor.
- 2019–2020 Graduate research assistant, [Monitoring the Integrity of Elections in Southern California: The 2020 Elections](#), The John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation.
PI: R. Michael Alvarez, Caltech.
- 2019 Researcher, *Performance Audit and Polling for Oregon Elections Division*.
PI: Paul Gronke, Reed College.

2017–2019 Graduate research assistant, *Assuring Election Integrity: A Comprehensive Ecological Framework for Evaluating Elections in Southern California*, The John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation. PI: R. Michael Alvarez, Caltech.

Conferences, Invited Talks, and Seminar Presentations

2025 SICSS-Korea, KDI School, Sejong; KDIS-EU Summer School (scheduled).

2024 SPSA 2024; 2024 APSA Annual Meeting (declined due to parental leave).

2023 MEDSL's 2023 Pre-SPSA Workshop; [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Political Science: A Roundtable, Dartmouth College](#); [Quantitative Social Science colloquium 2022–23, Dartmouth College](#); Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Conference, Florida State University; 80th Annual MPSA Conference; [Challenges in American Institutions, Hoover Institution/Stanford University](#); PolMeth XL; 2023 APSA Annual Meeting; KAIS 2023 Annual Meeting; Korean American Political Research Society/Jeju Peace Institute Joint Seminar.

2022 Asian PolMeth IX; [Center for the Study of Democratic Politics \(CSDP\) American Politics Colloquium, Princeton University](#); 79th Annual MPSA Conference; Sogang University, Department of Political Science; Hanyang University, Department of Economics; Chung-Ang University, Department of Economics; Korean Association of Party Politics Annual Conference, Yeosu; 2022 APSA Annual Meeting; Emory University, Department of Political Science.

2021 78th Annual MPSA Conference; KAIST College of Business Seminars, Seoul, South Korea; Data-driven and Experiment-based Evidence for Policy Seminars, Seoul, South Korea; PolMeth XXXVIII; ESRA 2021 (Election Sciences, Reform, & Administration Conference); 2021 APSA Pre-conference: Frontiers of Money in Politics Research; 2021 APSA Annual Meeting; Korean Association of American Politics seminars.

2020 PolMeth XXXVII; ESRA 2020 (Election Sciences, Reform, & Administration Conference); 2020 WPSA Annual Meeting (canceled due to COVID-19); 78th Annual MPSA Conference (canceled due to COVID-19); 2020 Iowa Caucus Conference.

2019 77th Annual MPSA Conference; ESRA 2019; PolMeth XXXVI; 2019 Securing Elections pre-APSA conference; 2019 APSA Annual Meeting.

2018 Money and Politics II, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE; 76th Annual MPSA Conference; PolMeth XXXV; 2018 APSA Annual Meeting; Southern California Methods Conference 2018, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES.

2017 PolMeth XXXIV; 13th Annual California Graduate Student Conference, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE.