

Bomi K. Lee

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Education

Ph.D. candidate, Political Science, University of Iowa 2016 -

Dissertation: Interconnected Rivalries

Abstract: This project examines the termination of interstate rivalries by focusing on dynamics in interconnected rivalries at the systemic, dyadic, and domestic levels. First, at the systemic level, I test whether a state's features in networks (e.g., popularity) and network configurations (e.g., triangle) affect the dissolution of rivalry ties. Second, the dyadic level of analysis focuses on the effects of network centralities and balanced/imbanced triangular relationships on rivalry duration. Lastly, the domestic level of analysis examines what rival relationship matters in domestic politics by employing survey experiments in Japan and South Korea.

Committee: Sara McLaughlin Mitchell (chair), Kelly M. Kadera, Brian Lai, Elizabeth Menninga, and Paul F. Diehl

MA, Political Science, University of Iowa 2019

MA, International Relations, Seoul National University (South Korea) 2013

BA, Political Science, Seoul National University (South Korea) 2011

Additional Training

ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan Summer 2017

Game Theory 1 & Rational Choice Theories of Politics and Society

ISRC Workshops, University of Iowa Fall 2018

Python Basics

Research and Teaching Interests

International Relations: International Conflict and Cooperation, Interstate Rivalries, Interaction between Domestic and International Politics, Environmental Issues, Regional Security (East Asia)

Political Methodology: Introductory Statistics, Network Analysis, Time Series Analysis, Survival Analysis, Spatial Analysis

Publications

[1] Schmidt, Cody J., **Bomi K. Lee**, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2021. "Climate Bones of Contention: How Climate Variability Influences Territorial, Maritime, and River Interstate Conflicts." *Journal of Peace Research* 58(1): 132-150. DOI: [10.1177/0022343320973738](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343320973738)

Book Chapter

[1] **Lee, Bomi K.** 2014. "North Korea's Peace Proposals in the 1970s," *Segye Jeongchi [World Politics]* 20: 323-370 [In Korean].

Papers Under Review

[1] **Lee, Bomi K.**, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, Cody J. Schmidt, and Yufan Yang, "Disasters and the Dynamics of Interstate Rivalry" [Under Review]

Abstract: This project examines how disasters influence conflict dynamics in interstate rivalries. Drawing on the rivalry literature's idea of political shocks and the logic of diversionary conflict, the authors argue that rapid onset disasters shorten the duration between militarized disputes in rivalry dyads. However, the conditions for diversionary conflict depend on the degree of intrastate turmoil and the number of interstate rivalries, with disaster diversion happening most frequently in rivalry active dyads with significant internal strife. Given the increased frequency and severity of disasters globally in recent decades, our findings suggest a possibility by which disasters can act as conflict triggers for dangerous dyads.

Working Papers

[3] **Lee, Bomi K.**, "Beyond a Dyadic Approach: Triangles, Major Powers, and Rivalry Duration"

Abstract: Why do some rivalries last longer than others? Most rivalry literature focuses on the dyadic interactions within rivalries over time (temporal interdependence), but a considerable number of rivalries are connected to other rivalries (spatial interdependence). For instance, when there is a third-party country connected to two rival countries, this third-party can be their common enemy, common friend, or one's friend as well as the other's enemy. Rivalry duration can vary depending on the existence and characteristics of the third-party country. I focus on three mechanisms to explain the effects of the third-party: information flow, prioritization, and intensified clique. I argue that rivalries having common enemies or allies are more likely to terminate than ones without those third-parties. Additionally, the pacifying effects vary depending on the relative power between the focal rivalry and its third party.

[2] **Lee, Bomi K.**, "Formation and Termination of Interstate Rivalries"

Abstract: Do rivalry relationships interact each other? In other words, do existing rivalries lead to rivalry creation or termination? In this paper, I focus on the formation and termination of ties in rivalry networks considering the endogenous effects of rivalry relationships. In order to capture the network dynamics, I employ two temporal ERGMs: the Temporal Exponential Random Graph Models (TERGMs) with memory terms and the Separable Temporal Exponential Random Graph Models (STERGMs).

[1] **Lee, Bomi K.**, Cody J. Schmidt, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, "Paths to Peace in Issue Rivalries"

Abstract: Conflict scholars examine how rivalry contexts and past militarization influence the chances for future conflicts, yet these approaches typically focus on dyadic interactions and ignore spatial interdependence. This paper moves beyond the dyadic rivalry context by considering how issue rivalry networks and extra-rivalry reputations influence peaceful and militarized conflict management in diplomatic issue conflicts. We capture interdependence by assessing the degree to which states are embedded in multiple rivalries using network analysis. We find that rivalry networks constrain militarization by target states in issue claims but have no effect on challengers.

In Progress

[2] Lee, Sojeong, and **Bomi K. Lee**, "Uncovering spatial variability of climate change, water, and conflict"

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, but 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. 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. Given the fact that water becomes a key to national and human security, and as climate change amplifies water stress, this research carries important implications for scholars and policy makers interested in understanding the spatial dynamics of interstate conflicts.

[1] Lee, Bomi K., "Do Doves Cry When They Face Multiple Rivals? Evidence from Survey Experiments in Japan and South Korea"

Abstract: What rival relationship matters in domestic politics? Some scholars show that leaders who cooperate with a rival country are more likely to be removed (e.g., Colaresi 2004). Although they examine the effects of policy choices (conflict v. cooperation) and policy outcomes (success v. failure) on leadership tenure in the context of rivalry, they rarely discuss the countries facing multiple rival relationships. When a country has multiple rivals, the effects of conflictual/cooperative policies and their outcomes can vary depending on the characteristics of rival relationships. This article focuses on how the public approves of its leader's cooperative or conflictual foreign policies toward a rival country depending on the characteristics of rivals. For analysis, online survey experiments in Japan and South Korea are employed.

Research Experiences

University of Iowa

Countries Facing Multiple Rivals Project (online survey experiment in South Korea and Japan)
August 2019 -

Designed experiment/questionnaire and received the IRB approval (n=1,200).

Research Assistant on Project Haystack (with GoDaddy.com) for Prof. Caroline Tolbert and Prof. Karen Mossberger
January 2021 - ; September 2018 - December 2019

Cleaned raw data (n=20 million), visualized collapsed data (at the state/county/ZIP code levels), and conducted empirical analysis.

Research Assistant for Prof. Elizabeth Menninga
Summer 2019

Combined civil war datasets (UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, Non-State Actors in Armed Conflict Dataset, etc), and visualized networks and empirical results.

Research Assistant on Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) Project for Prof. Sara McLaughlin Mitchell
Summer 2017

Searched news stories for identity claims in Asia via LexisNexis.

The Institute for Far Eastern Studies (South Korea)

Research Intern for Prof. Jong-Dae Shin
March 2015 - October 2015

Searched and made a list of released governmental documents on the relationship between South Korea and North Korea.

Seoul National University (South Korea)

Research Assistant on East Asian International Relations Theory Project for Prof. Wookhee Shin
September 2012 - August 2015

Teaching Experiences

University of Iowa

(Online) Teaching Assistant for Consequences of War Spring 2021
Instructor for Analyzing Political Data Spring 2020
Guest Lecturer for Introduction to International Relations Spring 2018
Teaching Assistant for Introduction to International Relations Fall 2016/2017, Spring 2018
(Online) Teaching Assistant for Introduction to International Relations Summer 2018
Teaching Assistant for Introduction to American Politics Spring 2017

Iowa Social Science Research Center, University of Iowa

Statistical Consultant Fall 2019 -
Taught workshops: Introduction and Data Management Using R, Network Visualization Using R, and Network Analysis Using R

ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan

Teaching Assistant for Time Series Analysis 1 Summer 2019
Taught six computer lab sessions with Dr. Desmond Wallace, and graded assignments.

Seoul National University (South Korea)

Teaching Assistant for Introduction to International Relations Fall 2011

Honors, Awards, and Grants

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (\$1,000), University of Iowa (2021)
Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship (\$10,000), Graduate College, University of Iowa (2020)
Graduate College Summer Fellowship (\$5,000), Graduate College, University of Iowa (2020)
Travel Grant (\$150), International Studies Association-Midwest (2020)
Research Grant (\$1,000), Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2020)
The Frank J. Klingberg Best Paper Award, Cody Schmidt, **Bomi Lee**, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, "Climate Bones of Contention", International Studies Association Midwest (2019)
Research Grant (\$1,400), Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2019)
Research Grant (\$500), Graduate & Professional Student Government, University of Iowa (2019)

Travel Grant (\$200), American Political Science Association (2019)
Travel Grant (\$500), Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2019)
NSF Fellowship (\$900), Political Networks Workshops & Conference (2019)
Travel Funds Award (\$750), Graduate Student Senate (GSS), University of Iowa (2019)
Best Course Paper Award, "Dissolution of Rivalries and Formation of Warm Peace," Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2018)
Travel Grant (\$550), Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2018)
Summer Training Grant (\$3,300), Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2017)
Travel Grant (\$600), Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2017)

Invited Conferences

Visions in Methodology (VIM) at Claremont Graduate University (2020): postponed due to the COVID-19
University of Alabama's ISSR Workshop on International Conflict (2020): postponed due to the COVID-19
Minnesota Political Methodology Graduate Student Colloquium (2019)

Conferences

Paper Presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2020)
Peace Science Society Annual Meeting (co-author) (2019, 2020)
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (co-author) (2019)
International Studies Association Midwest Annual Conference (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2018)

Poster Presentations

International Studies Association Annual Conference (2020): canceled due to the COVID-19
Peace Science Society Annual Meeting (2019)
Political Networks (2019)

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Peace Science Society

Department Service

Instructor, Math Camp for incoming graduate students, University of Iowa (2019, 2020)