

# Seongjoon Ahn

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### University of Iowa

Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2025 -  
Researcher Affiliate, Center for Social Science Innovation, 2025 -

## EDUCATION

### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D., Political Science, 2025  
Committee: Scott Althaus (chair); Jeffery J. Mondak, Damarys Canache, Benjamin Miller

### University of Chicago

M.A., Social Sciences, 2018

### Korea University

M.A., Political Science and International Relations, 2017  
B.A., Political Science and International Relations, 2015

## PUBLICATIONS

**Ahn, S.** and Nam-kook Kim. 2019. *The Korean Review of Political Thought*. 25 (2): 9-38.

## WORKING PAPERS

"Mapping the Spectrum of Democratic Conceptions in the United States." (*Under Review*)

"Democratic Backsliding as Political Information: How the News Media Transforms its Portrayal of Democracy Over Time." (with Jeongho Choi; *Under Review*)

"Democracy for True Americans: Variations in Citizenship Norms and Democratic Norm Support (with Yujin J. Jang) (*Accepted for Inclusion in Political Psychology Special Issue*)

## SELECTED PROGRESS WORK IN

"50 States, 50 Democracies: Variations in Conceptions of Democracy Across 50 U.S. States"

"How Do You Want To Fix Your Democracy?: Diverse Democratic Perceptions of Populist Voters and Their Correlates (with Jeongho Choi)"

"How Citizens Give Up Democracy in America: An Experimental Study of Democratic Value Volatility"

"What Does Democracy Mean When My Neighbors Don't Like It: Two Cases in East Asia"

## PRESENTATIONS

### *Invited Talks*

#### "Democratic Crisis or Democratic Resilience in South Korea (Round Table)"

- University of Illinois, Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies, 2025

#### "Mapping the Spectrum of Conceptions of Democracy in the United States"

- Purdue University, Department of Political Science, 2024

- University of Illinois, Department of Political Science, 2024

- Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Political Science, 2023

- University of Cincinnati Graduate Student Political Science Symposium, 2022

### *Conference Paper Presentations*

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2025, 2024

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2026

Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference, 2025  
 Norms and Behavioral Change (NoBeC) Conference, 2024  
 American Political Science Association Political Communication Pre-conference, 2024

## **FELLOWSHIPS GRANTS**

### ***External***

CHIP50 Early Career Investigator Competition Winner (Survey time for N=25,902), 2024  
 Rapoport Family Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Survey Research Grant (\$15,000), 2024  
 Institute for Humane Studies Humane Studies Fellowship (\$2,000), 2024  
 American Political Science Association Travel Grant (\$200), 2024  
 International Foundation for Korea University Scholar (\$1,000), 2021

### ***Internal***

University of Illinois Graduate College Kneier Fellowship (\$1,000), 2025  
 University of Illinois Graduate College Conference Presentation Grant (\$200, \$400), 2024, 2022  
 University of Illinois Dean S. Dorman Scholarship (\$1,500, \$500), 2023, 2020  
 University of Illinois Constantine W. Curris Award (\$500, \$325), 2023, 2022  
 University of Chicago Summer Language Scholarship (\$3,300), 2018  
 University of Chicago Social Science Scholarship (\$28,000), 2017  
 Korea University International Conference Travel Grant (\$300), 2016  
 Korea University Brain Korea 21 Grant (\$3,600), 2015  
 Korea University Undergraduate Scholarship (\$2,100), 2014

## **RESEARCH HONORS**

University of Illinois William T. Bernhard Award for Best Dissertation Prospectus, 2025  
 University of Iowa Best Graduate Student Conference Paper Award, 2024  
 Best Presentation Award at the U of Cincinnati Grad Student Poli Sci Symposium, 2022  
 University of Illinois Rita and Leonard Ogren Prize for Best Academic Performance, 2021  
 Korea University Best Graduate Thesis Proposal, 2016

## **TEACHING**

### **Instructor**

#### ***University of Iowa***

Public Opinion, Spring 2026  
 Democracy: Global Trends and Struggles, Fall 2025  
 Introduction to American Politics (Honors), Fall 2025

#### ***University of Illinois***

Introduction to American Politics, Spring 2025  
 Democratic Backsliding, Spring 2025  
 Introduction to Political Theory, Fall 2024  
 Introduction to Political Research (Quantitative Methods), Spring 2024  
 Introduction to Political Science (Online), Fall 2020

### **Teaching Assistant**

Introduction to American Politics (UIUC), Spring 2022, Fall 2021  
 Introduction to Comparative Politics (UIUC), Fall 2023  
 Introduction to Political Theory (UIUC), Fall 2022, Fall 2019  
 On Multiculturalism (Korea Univ), Fall 2015  
 Law and Political Thought (Korea Univ), Fall 2015

## **TEACHING AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants, 2024  
 University of Illinois Campus-Wide Undergraduate Research Symposium: Mentor of Awardee for Outstanding Poster Presentation, 2024  
 University of Illinois Teachers Ranked as Excellent (Outstanding), FA2022, SP2022, FA2021  
 University of Illinois Teachers Ranked as Excellent, SP2025, FA2024, SP2024, FA2023, FA2019

<b>ADDITIONAL TRAINING</b>	University of Illinois Dr. Sandra J. Finley Teacher Scholar Certificate, 2024 GESIS Spring Method Seminar – Modeling Group Differences (Cologne, Germany), 2023 University of Illinois Graduate Teaching Certificate, 2022 University of Illinois Master Course in Online Teaching, 2022 Big 10 Academic Alliance Traveling Scholar to the University of Chicago, 2021
<b>OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES</b>	<b><i>Research Assistant</i></b> Professor Emeritus James H. Kuklinski, University of Illinois, 2023 Professor Nam-kook Kim, Korea University, 2015 - 2017
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>Services in Political Science</b> Panel Chair for "Competition and Exclusion in Public Opinion," SPSA, 2026 Panel Discussant for "Support for Democratic Norms," MPSA, 2026 Panel Chair for "Identity and Political Engagement: Behavior and Methods," MPSA, 2022  <b>University of Iowa</b> Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2025-2026  <b>University of Illinois</b> Research Mentor, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP), 2023-2024 Grievance Representative for the Poli. Sci. Grad Student Assoc., 2020-2021
<b>ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES</b>	Woorigachi (Online Social Science Publisher, 1M+ Views), <i>Editor, Writer</i> , 2016-2022 Blue House (The Office of the President of the Republic of Korea), <i>English Editor</i> , 2013