

## CLARA H. SUONG, PH.D.

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CONTACT INFORMATION Virginia Tech Department of Political Science  
220 Stanger Street, Major Williams Hall  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
E-mail: [clara.suong@vt.edu](mailto:clara.suong@vt.edu)  
Website: [www.clarahsuong.com](http://www.clarahsuong.com)  
[Google Scholar Profile](#)

RESEARCH INTERESTS Substantive: International Relations, International Security, Diplomacy, U.S. Foreign Policy, War and Society  
Methodological: Computational Social Science (Natural Language Processing), Formal Modeling, Survey Experiments

ACADEMIC POSITION / AFFILIATION **Virginia Tech**, Blacksburg, VA  
*Assistant Professor*, Department of Political Science 2021–  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*, Department of Political Science 2020–21  
*Affiliated Faculty*, Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics 2022–  
*Affiliated Faculty*, Center for Human-Computer Interaction 2023–  
*Affiliated Faculty*, School of Public and International Affairs 2025–27  
*Deputy Director*, Tech4Humanity Lab 2020–22  
*Research Associate*, Center for Humanities 2020-21

**Waseda University**, Tokyo, Japan October–December 2025  
*Visiting Scholar*, School of Political Science and Economics

**University of California, San Diego**, San Diego, CA 2020–25  
*External Research Associate*, Center for Comparative Immigration Studies (CCIS)

**Duke University**, Durham, NC Fall 2019–Summer 2020  
*Postdoctoral Associate*, Department of Political Science

**New York University**, New York, NY Fall 2018–Summer 2019  
*Postdoctoral Associate*, Wilf Family Department of Politics & Center for Data Science

Supervisor: [Arthur Spirling](#)

Project: Computational and Historical Resources on Nations and Organizations for the Social Sciences

EDUCATION **University of California, San Diego**, San Diego, CA  
Ph.D., Political Science, 2018  
Fields: International Relations, Political Methodology  
Dissertation: *In the Name of National Interest: Persuasion in Security Politics*  
Dissertation Committee: [Branislav L. Slantchev](#), [David A. Lake](#), [Margaret E. Roberts](#), [Samuel Kernell](#), [Joel Sobel](#)

**Stony Brook University (SUNY at Stony Brook)**, Stony Brook, NY  
M.A., Political Science, 2011  
Fields: Political Psychology, Political Economy

**New York University**, New York, NY

M.A. (Terminal), Politics, **2009**

**Seoul National University**, Seoul, Korea

B.A., Anthropology (Major) and Law (Minor), **2004**

PEER-REVIEWED /  
ACCEPTED PAPERS

- [1] **Suong, Clara H.** (Online First). “Unnamed but Reassuring? Quasi-Secrecy and Public Support for Foreign Policy.” *International Studies Quarterly*. doi:10.1093/isq/sqaf095
- [2] **Suong, Clara H.**, Scott Desposato, and Erik Gartzke (2025). “Ubiquitous but Heterogeneous: International Organizations’ Influence on Public Opinion in China, Brazil, Japan, and Sweden.” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 25 (2). doi:10.1093/irap/lcae018
- [3] **Suong, Clara H.** (2023). “Authoritarian Media Coverage of International News: The Case of North Korea.” *East and West Studies* 35 (3): 107–135. Early draft available at SSRN.
- [4] **Suong, Clara H.**, Scott Desposato, and Erik Gartzke (2023). “Thinking Generically and Specifically in International Relations Survey Experiments.” *Research & Politics* 10 (2). doi:10.1177/20531680231165871
- [5] Connelly, Matthew J., Raymond Hicks, Robert Jervis, Arthur Spirling, and **Clara H. Suong** (2021). “Diplomatic Documents Data for International Relations: The Freedom of Information Archive Database.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 38 (6): 762–781. doi:10.1177/0738894220930326
- [6] **Suong, Clara H.**, Scott Desposato, and Erik Gartzke (2020). “How Democratic is the Democratic Peace? A Survey Experiment of Political Preferences in Brazil and China.” *Brazilian Political Science Review*, 14 (1), e0002. doi:10.1590/1981-3821202000010002
- [7] Norpoth, Helmut, Andrew H. Sidman, and **Clara H. Suong** (2013). “Polls and Elections: The New Deal Realignment in Real Time.” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 43 (1): 146–166. doi:10.1111/psq.12007

BOOK CHAPTERS

- [1] **Suong, Clara H.** (2019). “6. PAKISTAN, 2001–11: Washington’s Small Stick.” In Eli Berman, David A. Lake (Eds.), *Proxy Wars: Suppressing Violence through Local Agents* (pp. 159–184). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. doi:10.7591/9781501733093-009
  - Reviewed in Hager, Robert P. (2022). “Proxy Wars: Suppressing Violence through Local Agents.” *Democracy and Security*, 18:1, 90-94. doi:10.1080/17419166.2022.2029002

WORKING PAPERS

- [1] **Suong, Clara H.**, Scott Desposato, and Erik Gartzke. “Rethinking the Tradeoffs of Within-Subjects Designs in International Relations Experiments.” Draft available at [SocArXiv Papers](#).
- [2] **Suong, Clara H.**, Scott Desposato, and Erik Gartzke. “The Democratic Sensitivity: How Shared Identity Shapes International Organization Cue-Following.” *Revise and Resubmit*.
- [3] **Suong, Clara H.**, Scott Desposato, and Erik Gartzke. “Unconstrained Doves and Unconstrained Hawks: How Issues Reshape the Foreign Policy Attitude Constraint.”
- [4] **Suong, Clara H.** “Contextualizing Global Issue Salience.”

- [5] **Suong, Clara H.** “The Cost of Not Being Male, Pale, and Yale: Ambassadorial Attributes and Influence.”
- [6] **Suong, Clara H.** “Anonymity Index: Automatic Extraction and Classification of Sources.”
- [7] **Suong, Clara H.** “The Potential and Limits of Digital Diplomacy.”

WORK IN  
PROGRESS

- [1] **Suong, Clara H.** “The Credibility Dilemma.”
- [2] **Suong, Clara H.** “Bureaucratic Hierarchy in Diplomacy.”
- [3] **Suong, Clara H.** “Crisis and Command: How External Threats Reshape Political Control of the Bureaucracy.”
- [4] **Suong, Clara H.** “Echoes of Displacement: Forced Relocation and Political Awakening in the Post-World War II America.”

DATA

- [1] **Suong, Clara H.** (2025). “Replication Data for: Unnamed but Reassuring: Quasi-Secrecy and Public Support for Foreign Policy.” Harvard Dataverse. doi:10.7910/DVN/UBOMUH
- [2] **Suong, Clara H.,** Scott Desposato, and Erik Gartzke (2023). “Replication Data for: Thinking Generically and Specifically in IR Survey Experiments.” Harvard Dataverse. doi.org/10.7910/DVN/PA45UO
- [3] Connelly, Matthew J., Raymond Hicks, Robert Jervis, Arthur Spirling, and **Clara H. Suong** (2020). “Replication Data for: Diplomatic Documents Data for International Relations: The Freedom of Information Archive (FOIArchive) Database.”
- [4] **Suong, Clara H.,** Scott Desposato, and Erik Gartzke (2020). “Replication Data for: How ‘Democratic’ is the Democratic Peace? A Survey Experiment of Foreign Policy Preferences in Brazil and China, published in BPSR vol.14, n. 1, 2020.” Harvard Dataverse. doi.org/10.7910/DVN/PNDP4V

PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT

- [1] Interview with Middle East Broadcasting Networks (Alhurra TV), August 2020.

INVITED  
PRESENTATIONS/  
WORKSHOPS

- Pre-ISA Mini Conference on the Decline of the LIO Workshop (Scheduled 2026)
- Japan Institute of International Affairs, Japan (2026)
- Waseda University, School of Political Science and Economics (2025)
- National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense, Japan (2025)
- [Online Peace Science Colloquium \(2025\)](#)
- National Institute for Unification Education, Ministry of Unification, Republic of Korea (2025)
- PPE Research Fellow Panel, Virginia Tech (2025)
- Virtual IPES (Online, 2025)
- CAIR Reading Group, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech (Scheduled 2026, 2025, 2024)
- Chinese Politics Research in Progress Workshop (Online, 2024)
- David Lake’s “Academic Family Reunion” Conference, La Jolla, California (2024)
- Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science (SoWEPS), Vanderbilt University (2024)
- Hack n Yak, Center for Human-Computer Interaction, Virginia Tech (2024)
- Journeys in World Politics Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison (2023)
- [Workshop on Diplomats and Bureaucrats in International Relations, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University \(2023\)](#)

Invited Talk, International Theory and Research Seminar (GUITARS), Department of Government and School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University (2023)  
 Hume Seminar Series, National Security Institute, Virginia Tech (2022)  
 Faculty Research Associate Colloquium Series, Center for Humanities, Virginia Tech (2021)  
 Institute for Politics and Strategy, Carnegie Mellon University (2021)  
 Department of Politics, Mount Holyoke College (2019)  
 Defense and Political Sciences Department, RAND Corporation (2018)  
 Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University (2017)  
 Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Tech (2017)  
 Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland (2017)  
 Proxy Wars Conference, George Washington University (2016)  
 European Consortium for Political Research's Research Session on Survey Experiments in International Relations, University of Essex (2014)  
 Operant Research Group, Department of Psychology, UC San Diego (2013)

CONFERENCES

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2018, 2017 (Pre-Conference), 2011, 2010  
 International Studies Association Annual Meeting: 2026 (Scheduled), 2025, 2024, 2022  
 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2011  
 Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (Poster): 2024, 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017  
 North American Meeting of the Peace Science Society (International): 2025, 2023, 2022  
 Japanese Society for Quantitative Political Science Meeting: Winter 2026, Summer 2025  
 International Political Science Association World Congress: 2025  
 American Political Science Association Virtual Research Meeting: 2024  
 Annual California Graduate Student Conference, UC Irvine: 2015  
 Experiments in International Relations Conference, Princeton University: 2014  
 Southern California Comparative Political Science Conference, UC Santa Barbara: 2013  
 American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ: 2011

HONORS, AWARDS, ISA Travel Grant (2026)

AND GRANTS

Summer Stipend, Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies, Virginia Tech (2026)  
 International Performance and Presentation Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (2025–26)  
 Subvention Fund, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (2025–26)  
 Global Project Partnership Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (2025–26)  
 Research Fellowship, Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Virginia Tech (2024–25)  
 Summer Stipend, Center for Humanities, Virginia Tech (2024)  
 Faculty Research Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022)  
 American Political Science Association Centennial Center Research Grant (Summer 2023)  
 Virginia Tech Open Access Subvention Fund (Spring 2023)  
 Google Cloud Program Academic Research Grant (2022–23)  
 Social Sciences PREP Program, Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE), Virginia Tech (2022–23)  
 Niles Research Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (Fall 2021)

New Faculty Mentoring Grant, Office of the Provost, Virginia Tech (2022–24)  
 Juneteenth Scholar, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (2022–23)  
 Research Grant, Center for Humanities, Virginia Tech (2020)  
 NYU Future Labs Scholarship Award (2019)  
 Nominee for the Chancellor’s Dissertation Medal, UC San Diego Dept. of Political Science (2019)  
 Sanford Lakoff Research Fellowship, UC San Diego Dept. of Political Science (2018, 2017)  
 Seoul National University Alumni Association San Diego Chapter Scholarship (2015–16)  
 NSF Conference Grant, Society for Political Methodology (2019, 2018, 2017)  
 Travel Grant, American Political Science Association (2019, 2018, 2017)  
 Travel Grant, UC San Diego Dept. of Political Science (2018, 2017, 2014, 2013)  
 Travel Grant, Jack W. Peltason Center for the Study of Democracy, UC Irvine (2015)

TEACHING AND  
 MENTORING

**Virginia Tech**, Blacksburg, VA **Fall 2020–**  
*Instructor of Record*, Department of Political Science  
 • Foundations of Security Environments (cross-listed in Computer Science and Business Information Technology)  
 • National Security  
 • Research Methods (Undergraduate)  
 • Research Methods II (Graduate)

**Virginia Tech**, Blacksburg, VA **Fall 2020–**  
*Mentoring*  
 • Begum Zareefa Islam, Ph.D. Student, Virginia Tech Department of Sociology (2025–)  
 • Cassandra Cogan, research assistant (2022)  
 • Scott Mogensen, research assistant (2022)  
 • Mounika Abbineni, research assistant (2021)

**University of California, San Diego**, San Diego, CA **Spring 2018**  
*Instructor of Record*, Department of Political Science  
 • Data Analytics for the Social Sciences (cross-listed in Economics)

**Stony Brook University**, Stony Brook, NY **Summer 2010 and 2011**  
*Instructor of Record*, Department of Political Science  
 • World Politics

SERVICE

Editorial Board Member: *International Interactions* (2025–)

Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *Conflict Management and Peace Science*; *Global Studies Quarterly*; *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*; *International Interactions*; *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*; *International Organization*; *International Studies Quarterly*; *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; *Journal of Peace Research*; *Journal of Politics*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Political Communication*; *Research and Politics*; *Review of International Organizations*; Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference 2023, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021; Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Midwinter Conference 2021; International Communication Association Conference 2025, 2019; 2025 Summer APSA Centennial Grant

Conference/Workshop/Meeting Panel Organizer/Committee Member (O), Chair (C), Discussant (D), and Panelist (P): American Political Science Association Political Economy Section William H. Riker Book Award Committee (2026: C); American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2025: D; 2021: C, D; 2019: D); International Studies Association Annual Meeting (2025: C, D); Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2025: C, D; 2024: C, D; 2023: C, D); Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (2022: D; 2019: D); International Political Science Association World Congress (2025: D); Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science (2024: O); WE-SPICE Workshop, Waseda University (2025: D); Conversations in International Studies, Virginia Tech (2024: D); Journeys in World Politics Workshop (2023: D); Violence, Instability, and Peace (VIP) Workshop (2025: D); Virtual IPES (2023: D); Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Midwinter Conference (2021: D); Women in Conflict Studies' Professional Development Panel on Race, Ethnicity, and Inclusion in IR (2023: P)

Virginia Tech: Department Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Spring 2026); College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Spring 2026); Department Executive Committee (AY 2024–25); Department Diversity Committee (AY 2024–25, 2023–24); Destination Area/Research Frontier Department Committee (AY 2024–25, 2022–23, 2021–22); Integrated Security Destination Area University Committee (AY 2024–25, 2023–24, 2022–23, 2021–22); Commencement/End of Year Awards Department Committee (AY 2022–23, 2021–22); Reviewer for Center for Humanities (2024); [Speaker at the Dean's State of College 2022 \(Sept. 29, 2022\)](#); Search Committees for Instructor and Visiting Assistant Professor in Integrated Security (2022); Panelist at the Office of the Vice Provost's New Faculty Welcome (August 20, 2021)

OTHER  
EXPERIENCE

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>University of California, San Diego</b> , San Diego, CA<br><i>Graduate Student Researcher</i> , Department of Political Science  | <b>2015–18</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PI: David A. Lake</li> <li>• Project: “Deterrence with Proxies”</li> </ul>   |                |
| <b>Stony Brook University</b> , Stony Brook, NY<br><i>Research Assistant</i> , Department of Political Science  | <b>2010–11</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PI: Helmut Norpoth</li> <li>• Project: “The New Deal Realignment in Real Time”</li> </ul>  |                |
| <b>Inter-American Development Bank</b> , Washington, DC<br><i>(Full-Time) Consultant</i> , Integration and Trade Sector   | <b>2008</b>    |
| <b>U.S. Department of State</b> , Washington, DC<br><i>Intern</i> , Office of Korean Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Main State; and Political Section, U.S. Embassy Seoul | <b>2007</b>    |
| <b>U.S. Institute of Peace</b> , Washington, DC<br><i>Research Assistant</i> , Jennings Randolph Program  | <b>2006–7</b>  |
| <b>Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade</b> , Seoul, Korea<br><i>Intern</i> , Multilateral Treaties Division, Treaties Bureau  | <b>2004–5</b>  |

COMPUTER SKILLS R, Python, HTML, bash, Stata, Mathematica, Git, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Qualtrics, and HPC

LANGUAGE SKILLS English (native), Korean (native), Japanese (certificate in Level N2 of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test), Chinese (reading knowledge of Traditional Chinese)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING Certified Instructor, Software and Data Carpentries; Digital Learning Essentials, Virginia Tech Professional Development Network (Fall 2023); Anti-Racist Teaching Training, Virginia Tech Professional Development Network (Fall 2021); Foundations of Online Teaching Training, Virginia Tech Professional Development Network (Fall 2021); Certificate in Teaching and Learning at the College Level, UC San Diego (Winter 2017); Certificate in Public Speaking, UC San Diego (Summer 2013); Public Policy and Nuclear Threats Program, UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (Summer 2013)

CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.

(Last Update: March 1, 2026)