Do Won Kim

dowonkim@umd.edu
do-won.github.io

Research Interests

Democratic Information Environments; Platform Design for Social Good; Human–AI Interaction; Computational Social Science; Digital Field Experiments

Education

2023–Present **PhD in Information**, University of Maryland, United States
Committee: Giovanni Luca Ciampaglia (Chair), Cody Buntain (Co-chair), Ernesto Calvo, Yiwei Xu, Ceren Budak
Dissertation: *Leveraging AI-Mediated Information Environments for Democracy*

2018 **MSc in European Studies (Research)**, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom
Dissertation: *Dimensionality, Party Competition and Voter Preference in the Era of Populism: The Case of England 2010–2017*

2017 **Bachelor of Business Administration**; **Bachelor of Science in Engineering** (2nd degree conferred through the SKKU Institute for Convergence), Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea

Research Affiliations

2023–Present **Computational Sociodynamics Lab, University of Maryland**
2026–27 Graduate Assistant, MPower Early Scholars Investment Fund [F1]
2025–26 Graduate Assistant, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (Supervisor: Eun Kyoung Choe) [F4]
2023–25 Research Assistant. Project: *Muting low-quality sources: A field experiment to mitigate the harm of inaccurate health information online* (Social Science Research Council). PIs: Giovanni Luca Ciampaglia (UMD), Brendan Nyhan (Dartmouth), Ro'ee Levy (TelAviv University), Maria Elizabeth Grabe (BU), and Filippo Menczer (IU)

2024–Present **Institute for Trustworthy AI in Law & Society (TRAILS)**
2026 Principal Investigator, TRAILS Mini-Grant [G1]

2020–23 **Center for Political Communication, Seoul National University**
2020–22 Research Assistant. Project: *Korean Voter in the Age of Deepfake: Measuring the Impact of Fake News with Big Data and Experiments* (National Research Foundation of Korea). PIs: Won-ho Park (SNU), Woo Chang Kang (Korea University), Shang E. Ha and BK Song (Sogang University)

Publications

G Google Scholar
† → Equal contribution

Journal Articles

J1. **Kim, Do Won**, Kim, H. & Park, W.-h. Two Spheres of Korean Politics: Knowledge Production and Dissemination across Linguistic Divides. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (2026). Forthcoming.

J2. Kim†, H., **Kim†, Do Won** & Yang, J. Understanding motivations and future needs for data deposits at Korea Social Science Data Archive. *IASSIST Quarterly* **48,** 1–10. https://doi.org/10.29173/iq1110 (2024).

J3. Kang, W. C., **Kim, Do Won** & Kang, J. Smile to Win: How do Candidates' Smiles Affect Election Results? *Korean Political Science Review* **56,** 59–82. https://doi.org/10.18854/kpsr.2022.56.4.003 (2022). *KCI (In Korean)*.

J4. **Kim, Do Won**. Voting against in the 2017 French presidential election. *French Politics* **20,** 121–146. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41253-021-00165-7 (2022).

J5. **Kim, Do Won** & Kim, H. Strategic Allocation of Political Funds and Re-election of Incumbents in South Korea. *Journal of Korean Politics* **31,** 57–91. http://dx.doi.org/10.35656/JKP.31.2.3 (2022). *KCI (In Korean)*.

Work in Progress

W1. **Kim, Do Won**, Nyhan, B., Levy, R., Menczer, F., Grabe, M. E. & Ciampaglia, G. L. *Muting Durably Reduces Engagement with Untrustworthy Online Sources; Media Literacy Doesn't.* Manuscript in preparation. 2026.

W2. **Kim, Do Won**, Seckin, O. C., Bhadani, S., Flammini, A., Ciampaglia, G. L. & Truong, B. T. *Challenging Partisan Expectations Reduces Political Polarization.* Preprint. 2026. https://arxiv.org/abs/2606.15901.

Conference Proceedings and Workshop Papers

C1. **Kim, Do Won**, Buntain, C. & Ciampaglia, G. L. *Understanding the Gap Between Stated and Revealed Preferences in Social Media News Feeds* in *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW '26)* **10(CSCW6)** (Association for Computing Machinery, 2026), CSCW181:1–30. https://doi.org/10.1145/3817029.

C2. **Kim, Do Won** & Buntain, C. *Emotional Appeals in the 2020 #SaveTheChildren Campaign: A Multi-Platform Study of Online Engagement in QAnon Messaging* in *Companion Publication of the 17th ACM Web Science Conference 2025 (WebSci Companion '25)* (Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 2025), 1–10. https://doi.org/10.1145/3720554.3733843.

Funding & Awards

Grants

G1. Mini-Grant, NSF–NIST Institute for Trustworthy AI in Law & Society ($6,250; Role: PI). 2026.

G2. Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies ($3,000; Role: PI). 2026.

G3. Doctoral Students Research Awards, University of Maryland ($1,500; Role: PI). 2026.

G4. Doctoral Students Research Awards, University of Maryland ($1,500; Role: PI). 2024.

Fellowships & Scholarships

F1. MPower Early Scholars Investment Fund, University of Maryland ($ 38,332). 2026–27.

F2. Dean's Fellowship, University of Maryland ($2,500). 2026.

F3. Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship, University of Maryland ($5,000). 2026.

F4. Graduate Assistantship, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, University of Maryland ($33,453). 2025–26.

F5. Dean's Fellowship, University of Maryland ($2,500). 2025.

F6. College of Information Studies Alumni Chapter Scholarship, University of Maryland ($1,000). 2024.

F7. Dean's Fellowship, University of Maryland ($5,000). 2023–24.

F8. GSI Scholarship, Seoul National University ($13,663). 2020–22.

Research Prizes

A1. Finalist of the Prosocial Ranking Challenge, UC Berkeley Center for Human-Compatible AI ($6,000; with Bao Tran Truong, Saumya Bhadani, and Ozgur Can Seckin). 2024.

Travel Awards

TA1. Presenter Honorarium, AI and Social Research: Empathic AI, Metascience, and Methodology Conference, Penn State University ($500). 2026.

TA2. Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland ($600). 2025.

TA3. Dr. Dana Rotman Doctoral Student Travel Award, University of Maryland ($600). 2025.

TA4. International Conference Student Support Award, University of Maryland ($208). 2025.

TA5. PolNet-PaCSS 2025 Graduate Student Fellowship, co-hosted by Harvard University and Northeastern University ($200). 2025.

TA6. Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland ($250). 2024.

Presentations

* Presenter

Conference Talks

T1. Kim, H., **Kim, Do Won** & Park*, W.-h. *Discovery Bottleneck: Infrastructural Barriers to Local Scholarship.* Japanese Political Science Association (JPSA) General Assembly & Annual Conference (Osaka, Japan). Oct. 2026.

T2. **Kim, Do Won**, Seckin, O. C., Bhadani, S., Flammini, A., Ciampaglia, G. L. & Truong*, B. T. *Challenging Partisan Expectations Reduces Political Polarization.* The Nordic Conference on Computational Social Science (CS2Nordics) (Copenhagen, Denmark). Sept. 2026.

T3. **Kim*, Do Won**, Ciampaglia, G. L., Grabe, M. E., Levy, R., Menczer, F. & Nyhan, B. *Muting Durably Reduces Engagement with Untrustworthy Online Sources; Media Literacy Doesn't.* APSA Preconference in Political Communication (Boston, USA). Sept. 2026.

T4. **Kim*, Do Won** & Shin, H. *Learning Politics with AI: Political Knowledge, Institutional Trust, and Attitudes Toward Interbranch Conflict.* American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting (Boston, USA). Sept. 2026.

T5. **Kim*, Do Won**, Truong, B. T., Seckin, O. C. & Bhadani, S. *The Effects of Outgroup Agreement and Ingroup Dissent on Political Polarization.* PolNet-PaCSS (Boston, USA). Aug. 2025.

T6. **Kim, Do Won**, Truong, B. T., Seckin*, O. C. & Bhadani, S. *The Effects of Outgroup Agreement and Ingroup Dissent on Political Polarization.* International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC^2S^2) (Norrköping, Sweden). July 2025.

T7. **Kim*, Do Won**, Kim, H. & Park, W.-h. *Two Spheres of Korean Politics: Knowledge Production and Dissemination across Linguistic Divides.* IPSA World Congress of Political Science (Seoul, South Korea). July 2025.

T8. **Kim*, Do Won** & Buntain, C. *Emotional Appeals in the 2020 #SaveTheChildren Campaign: A Multi-Platform Study of Online Engagement in QAnon Messaging.* Global Election and Information Security Workshop (New Brunswick, NJ, USA), part of the 17th ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci '25). May 2025.

T9. **Kim*, Do Won** & Ha, S. E. *Narcissistic Personality and Political Behavior of Korean Voters.* Annual Conference of Korean Political Science Association (Seoul, South Korea). Dec. 2022.

T10. Kang*, W. C., **Kim, Do Won** & Kang, J. *Individual Conditional Effect of Sex-Typicality and Trait Assessment of Politicians.* Annual Conference of Korean Political Science Association (Seoul, South Korea). Dec. 2022.

T11. Tae*, H. & **Kim, Do Won**. *The Effect of the Government's Response to COVID-19 on Voting Behavior in the 2020 South Korean Legislative Election.* European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Virtual Joint Sessions. May 2021.

T12. **Kim*, Do Won** & Kim, H. *Strategic allocation of political funds: How does spending money help reelection?* Fall Conference of Korean Association of Party Studies (Seoul, South Korea). Nov. 2021.

Posters

P1. **Kim*, Do Won**, Nyhan, B., Levy, R., Menczer, F., Grabe, M. E. & Ciampaglia, G. L. *Muting Durably Reduces Engagement with Untrustworthy Online Sources; Media Literacy Doesn't.* Conference on Digital Experimentation at MIT (CODE@MIT) (Cambridge, MA, USA). Nov. 2026.

P2. **Kim*, Do Won**, Buntain, C., Ciampaglia, G. L. & Lankes, R. *Can AI Strengthen Democracy? Improving Public Trust in Elections with a Civic Chatbot.* International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC^2S^2) (Burlington, VT, USA). July 2026.

P3. **Kim*, Do Won**, Seckin, O. C., Bhadani, S., Flammini, A., Ciampaglia, G. L. & Truong, B. T. *AI Can Reduce Political Polarization by Challenging Partisan Expectations.* AI and Social Research: Empathic AI, Metascience, and Methodology (University Park, PA, USA). June 2026.

P4. **Kim*, Do Won** & Bhadani, S. *Testing Alternative Algorithms for Social Media News Feeds: Audience Diversity and Stated Preferences-Based Recommender Systems.* International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC^2S^2) (Norrköping, Sweden). July 2025.

P5. Seckin*, O. C., Truong, B. T., **Kim, Do Won** & Bhadani, S. *Predicting Constructive Conflict in Social Media Discussions.* International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC^2S^2) (Norrköping, Sweden). July 2025.

P6. **Kim*, Do Won**, Ciampaglia, G. L., Grabe, M. E., Levy, R., Menczer, F. & Nyhan, B. *Muting low-quality sources: A field experiment to mitigate the harm of inaccurate information online.* International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC^2S^2) (Philadelphia, PA, USA). July 2024.

P7. Jeon*, S. & **Kim, Do Won**. *Emotion in Presidential TV Debate: Real-time Responses and Political Information Processing.* 39th Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth XXXIX) (St. Louis, MO, USA). July 2022.

Invited Talks & Tutorials

I1. **Kim, Do Won**. *Tutorial on Large Language Model (LLM) Applications for Political Science Research.* Graduate Methods Workshop, Department of Political Science & International Relations at Korea University. Jan. 2026.

I2. **Kim*, Do Won**, Kim, H. & Park, W.-h. *Two Spheres of Korean Politics: Knowledge Production and Dissemination across Linguistic Divides.* Brown Bag Seminar, Computational Social Science Group at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). July 2025. https://knowdem.github.io/css-group/css-brown-bag.html.

I3. **Kim, Do Won**. *Role of Emotions in #SaveTheChildren Campaigns Across Parler, Gab, Twitter/X, and Facebook.* Computational Linguistics and Information Processing (CLIP) Lab, University of Maryland. Nov. 2024. https://talks.cs.umd.edu/talks/3972.

Teaching & Mentoring

Teaching

2025 **University of Maryland**
- 2025 INST408G: Special Topics in Information Science (Instructor for Quantitative Methods Sessions); part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program

2021–24 **Korea Social Science Data Archive**
- 2023–24 Introduction to R (Recorded online course)
- 2022–23 Intermediate Statistics (Lab session)
- 2021–23 Panel Data Analysis (Lab session)

2020–22 **Seoul National University**
- 2020–22 Scope and Methods of Political Science (TA)
- 2021 Human Rights (TA)
- 2021 Studies in Law and Politics: Discrimination and Inequality (TA)
- 2021 Principles of Political Science (TA)

Mentoring & Advising

2024–Present **Computational Sociodynamics Lab, University of Maryland**
- 2026–Present *William Bradshaw*, BSc in Computer Science; co-built the agentic sockpuppet experiment framework (see [S1])
- 2024–25 *Krishnan Tholkappian*, BSc in Computer Science

2026 **Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, University of Maryland**
- Spring 2026 *Ryan Yu* (BSc in Information Science and Applied Mathematics), *Megan Lu, Lina Romero-Fabian, Vashawn Robinson, Johnny Zhu* (BSc in Information Science); co-built the RAG election chatbot (see [S2])

Software & Research Systems

S1. **Agentic sockpuppet experiment framework**: LLM-driven sockpuppet agents for controlled platform-intervention experiments on X. Built with mentee William Bradshaw (see Mentoring & Advising). . 2026.

S2. **VIOLETS**: retrieval-augmented civic chatbot grounded in official state and local election information. Built with mentees in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (see Mentoring & Advising). . 2026.

S3. **Muting experiment on X**: data-collection and intervention pipeline for the SSRC-funded Mercury field experiment. . 2023–26.

S4. **Bridging news-feed ranking algorithm**: finalist submission to the Prosocial Ranking Challenge, UC Berkeley Center for Human-Compatible AI. (see [A1]). 2024.

Academic Service

Program Committee	International Workshop on Cyber Social Threats, at the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM; 2024–2026)
Journal Reviewer	*Nature Communications* (2026); *Nature* (2025); *Behaviour & Information Technology* (2024)
Conference Reviewer	ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI; 2025–2026); ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing, (CSCW; 2025–2026); International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC^2S^2; 2024–2026); ICWSM (2024, 2026)

Skills

Programming & Markup	Python, R, Stata, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, LaTeX
Research Tools	Flask/FastAPI, LangChain; PostgreSQL, Pinecone, pgvector; API integration (X/Twitter, OpenAI, Hugging Face); Qualtrics
Computing	High-performance computing, Linux, Git/GitHub
Methods	Causal inference, survey and digital field experiments, algorithmic auditing, LLM-based simulation, natural language processing

Continuing Education

2026	Introduction to High-Performance Computing, Division of Information Technology, University of Maryland
2026	Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS-Stanford)
2024	Mercury Project Solutions Summit, Social Science Research Council

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