

VANESSA CHENG-MATSUNO

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Research Interests

political behaviour and public policy, causal inference and experimental methods,
Latin American politics

Academic Positions

September 2023 **University of Southampton**
Lecturer in Public Policy and Administration
Department of Politics and International Relations

Affiliations and Memberships

2025 - **University of Southampton**
Centre for Behavioural Experimental Action and Research - [C-BEAR](#)
Public Opinion Research Southampton - [PORS](#)
Gender and Inequalities Centre [GAIN](#)

2025 - Member of the Public Opinion Analytics Lab - [POAL](#)

Education

2024 **London School of Economics and Political Science**
PhD in Political Science
Supervisors: Dr Florian Foos and Professor Rafael Hortala-Vallve

2015 **Harvard University**
Master in Public Administration in International Development
Supervisor: Professor Rema Hanna

2005 **Universidad del Pacífico** - Peru
Bachelor in Economics
Supervisor: Professor Eduardo Morón

Publications

Unan, A., John, P., Foos, F., and Cheng-Matsuno, V. (2024). Null effects of social media ads on voter registration: Three digital field experiments. [Research & Politics](#), 11(1), 20531680231225316

Cheng-Matsuno, V. and Berliner, D. (2024). Do voters differentially punish transnational corruption?. [European Journal of Political Research](#) 63(3), 1197-1207

Cheng-Matsuno, V., Foos, F., John, P. and Unan, A. (2023). Do text messages increase voter registration? Evidence from RCTs with a local authority and an advocacy organisation in the UK. [Electoral Studies](#), 81, p.102572

Working Papers

When Legislators Do Not Differentiate: A Field Experiment on British MPs' Responses to Constituent Policy Queries - R&R at BJPoS

(with Daniel Bischof, Gidon Cohen, Sarah Cohen, Florian Foos, Patrick M. Kuhn, Kyriaki Nanou, Nick Vivyan and Neil Visalvanich) - [OSF](#)

Government, Interrupted: Politicians' Spending in Times of Political Crisis

Vulnerabilities, Attachment, and Irregular Migration: Evidence from El Salvador
(with Guillermo García, Pía Riggiozzi and Jackie Wahba)

Understanding Women's Experiences in the UK Civil Service
(with Elizabeth Evans)

DEMBUG: Debugging Democracy: How Institutions Shape the Quality of Political Decision-Making

(with Lala Muradova, João V. Ferreira, Gerhard Riener, Katy Tabero)

Legacy Bureaucrats and Their Careers: Evidence from Guatemala

Is Social Mobilisation Gendered? Evidence from Spillover Experiments across Three Democracies

(with Eline de Rooij and Florian Foos)

Teaching

- 2023 - **University of Southampton** – Lecturer
 PAIR3003 UG Dissertation in Politics & International Relations
 PAIR2067/3079 The Government Lab
 PAIR6043 Comparative Public Administration
 PAIR6036 Advanced Policy Analysis
 PAIR6071 Issues in Contemporary Public Administration
- 2022 - 2023 **London School of Economics** – Teaching Fellow, School of Public Policy
 PP403 Public Management
- 2022 **London School of Economics** – Head Class Teacher
 MN2196 Data Analysis for Management Decision Making
- 2020 - 2021 **London School of Economics** – Graduate Teaching Assistant
 GV482 Political Science and Political Economy: Current Issues (2021)
 GV481 Quantitative Methods for Political Science (2020)
- 2017 - 2020 **King’s College London** – Graduate Teaching Assistant
 Economic Analysis of Emerging Economies (2020)
 Political Sociology of Social Networks (2019)
 Quantitative Methods for Political Science (2019) – *graduate*
 Quantitative Methods for Political Science (2018) – *undergraduate*
 Comparing Political Systems (2017 - 2019)

Conferences, Seminars, Guest Lectures

- June 2026 EPSS, Belfast; Lecturer at C-BEAR Summer School: Introduction to Experiments in Social Science, Southampton
- May 2026 University of Reading, Politics Department Seminar Series; LASA conference in Paris
- April 2026 PSA, Chair and presenter: Latin American Politics Specialist Group
- March 2026 Guest lecturer: Universidad del Pacífico International Week, Contemporary Public Administration Seminar
- April 2025 PSA, Chair and presenter: Latin American Politics Specialist Group
- March 2025 LSE Behavioural Political Economy Workshop - discussant to Acemoglu et al. (2025); Guest lecturer: Universidad del Pacífico International Week, Contemporary Public Administration Seminar
- July 2024 PSA, Early Career Network Annual Conference 2024
- May, 2024 Oxford University, Nuffield Latin American Comparative Politics Workshop
- April, 2024 Aarhus University, POLABROAD Workshop: Studying Elite Political Behaviour and Perceptions

June, 2023 EPSA; LSE Political Behaviour Workshop: Polarisation and Electoral Hostility

April, 2023 MPSA, Politics of Developing Countries; PSA, Presidentialism

November, 2022 Political Science and Political Economy Work in Progress Seminar Series, LSE

October, 2022 CIVICA Data Science Days, European University Institute

September 2022 Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP), Newcastle University

May 2022 Politics in Progress, DPhil Seminar Series, University of Oxford

May 2022 PhD Spring Seminar Series, CIVICA

March 2022 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

2021, 2020 European Political Science Association (EPSA)

2021 Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP)

2020 American Political Science Association (APSA)

2019 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA); research design presented

Grants & Awards

2022 Postgraduate Travel Fund, London School of Economics

2022 Sir Patrick Gillam Scholarship Fund, Department of Government, London School of Economics
(£1,575)

2022 PhD Seminar/Conference Fund, Department of Government, London School of Economics
(£1,073.20)

2019 DPE Research Development Fund, King's College London
(£1,682.20)

2018 DPE Research Development Fund, King's College London
(£1,397)

Review Service

Reviewer British Journal of Political Science, Political Science Research and Methods, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, Teaching Public Administration

Professional Experience

2020 - 2021 The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, J-PAL LAC
Research Associate, 'Designing Innovations for the Peruvian Personnel of the State using RCTs' - Principal Investigators: Prof. Claudio Ferraz and Prof. Frederico Finan

- 2020 - 2021 London School of Economics
Research Assistant, 'Register to Vote '21: A Mobilisation RCT for Underrepresented Groups using Behavioural Approaches'
- 2016 - 2020 The World Bank
Research Consultant and Field Coordinator; Governance Global Practice, The Bureaucracy Lab
- 2015 - 2016 Inter-American Development Bank
Research Consultant; Research Department
- 2015 City of Somerville, Massachusetts US
Social Progress Index Summer Fellow, SomerStat
- 2014 Instiglio, Colombia
Social Impact Bonds Summer Associate
- 2010 - 2013 Intercorp Group, Peru
Head of Analytics
- 2010 Ministry of Production, Peru
Advisor to the Minister
- 2009 Ministry of Transport and Communications, Peru
Advisor to the Vice-Minister of Transport
- 2007 - 2009 Ministry of Economy and Finance, Peru
Public Investment Project Analyst
- 2006 Office of the Prime Minister, Peru
Project Analyst and Field Coordinator
- 2005 - 2007 Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE), Peru
Research Assistance to Dr Martin Valdivia

Programming & Language Skills

- Programming R, Stata
- Markup \LaTeX , RMarkdown
- Natural English (fluent), Spanish (native)

Additional Information

- 2025 - Co-founder of WIPS, Women in Political Science, with Dr Katharina Lawall

2020 - 2023 Committee member of the [Public Policy Research Network](#), an initiative led by doctoral students from the London School of Economics, University College London and King's College London

Last update: March 2026