

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 BJPols

(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 Riggirozzi 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)

Talks, Conferences, 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)

Academic Service

- Peer-review British Journal of Political Science, Political Science Research and Methods, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, Teaching Public Administration
- 2025 - Co-convenor of the PSA Latin American Politics Specialist Group
- 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

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)

Last update: April 2026