

Jackie Ku

(626) 759-7044 || jackieku23@gmail.com
742 Mansfield Drive, Claremont, CA 91711

Education

University of California, Irvine

Ph.D. in Political Science

expected June 2026

Fields: International Relations; Comparative Politics; Political Theory

Dissertation: “Client to Citizen: How Hardware Shapes Digital Citizenship”

Committee: Simone Chambers (chair), Mary McThomas, Jeffrey Kopstein

Master of Arts in Political Science

December 2024

University of La Verne

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, summa cum laude: Honors Program

May 2019

Academic Employment

University of California, Irvine - Teaching Assistant

2020-present

Courses Taught:

Politics Around The World; East Asian Security; Introduction to American Government; US Supreme Court; Honors: Explanation in the Social Sciences; Academic Writing: American Culture; Basic Economics II, Economics of International Business

Working Papers

“Digital Violent Displays: How Political Meaning is Eroded Online”

“Civic Empowerment in Cyberspace”

“Buddhist Praxis in Just Cyberwarfare”

Presentations

Ku, Jackie. “*How TikTok Leveraged User Hardware to Avoid a Federal Ban.*”

American Political Science Association

upcoming 2025

Ku, Jackie. “*Buddhist Praxis in Just Cyberwarfare.*”

International Studies Association-West

2024

Ku, Jackie. “*Client to Citizen: The Impact of Digital Hardware Distribution on Civil Empowerment.*”

Western Political Science Association

2023

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Ku, Jackie. “Memeification: Ontological Security of Nomadic Internet Identities.”

American Political Science Association

2021

Service Activities

University of La Verne Alumni Advisory Board

Member

2019 - present

- Communicate with and advise the Board of Trustees on alumni relations and feedback
- Develop professional development opportunities for current and former students of the University of La Verne by organizing professional networking events and facilitating mentorship
- Develop alumni support for the University of La Verne through the organization of alumni appreciation events
- Promote the unique La Verne experience to potential friends of the university

Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience (DECADE)

Department Representative, Social Science Council

2021-2022

- Represented interests of graduate students in coordination with the Faculty Senate, resulting in expanded funding and professional development resources.
- Hosted feedback forums and faculty town halls between faculty and graduate students for inclusive program review and improvement.

UAW 4811 Irvine

Department Steward

2021

- Represented workplace interests of academic student employees in the Political Science department over matters of workplace safety, contract enforcement, and benefits.

Bargaining Team Member

2021-2022

- Engaged and coordinated with the offices of Academic Labor Relations, Chancellors, Board of Regents, and the Office of the President over two years in contract negotiations for over 48,000 academic student employees of the University of California.
- Negotiated an average 40% wage increase, stronger workplace protections against discrimination, expanded mental healthcare benefits, robust grievance process, among other terms.

Unit Chair

2021-2023

- Acted as executive officer in charge of multiple organizing teams across the Irvine chapter of UAW 2865, now UAW 4811.
- Organized, represented, and advocated for 5,000 local UC employees over matters of compensation, workplace protections, healthcare, and childcare benefits.
- Led chapter efforts during 2021-2022 contract negotiations in statewide coordination between all ten UC campuses and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

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Division of Teaching Excellence & Innovation (DTEI)

Graduate Scholar

2023

- Collaborated with pedagogical fellows to design, develop, and implement inclusive course design across traditional, hybrid, and virtual modalities.
- Worked closely with faculty to digitize impacted courses and to expand online accessibility and to optimize asynchronous instruction.

Skills and Languages

- Cantonese (native proficiency); Mandarin (working proficiency)
- Content analysis, Comparative historical analysis, Process-tracing
- R (working proficiency)

Membership

American Political Science Association (APSA)
International Studies Association (ISA)
Western Political Science Association (WPSA)

References

Erin Lockwood, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Political Science
University of California, Irvine
eklockwo@uci.edu

Mary Anne S. Mendoza-Davé, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Political Science
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
maryannem@cpp.edu

Samantha Vortherms, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Political Science
University of California, Irvine
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