Soong Kit Wong

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison — Madison, Wisconsin
Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics — Expected May 2027
Advisor: Paul Dower
Master of International Public Affairs — 2017
B.A. in Political Science — 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Behavioral and Experimental Economics; Applied Microeconomics; Identity Economics; Development Economics; Public Policy; Environmental Economics

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

Identity as Information: Perceived Risk-Preference Similarity and Informational Influence in a Laboratory Experiment on Decisions under Risk

Working paper, 2026

Incentivized laboratory experiment with 226 participants that isolates informational influence and tests how it varies with identity match. Participants copy others' choices more when payoff information is hidden, with a larger increase for same-gender sources. Same-gender assignment increases perceived risk-preference similarity, elicited before observing others' choices; these beliefs predict copying under hidden payoffs.

Developed the research question and theoretical framework. Independently designed and programmed the experiment in oTree, managed IRB and consent procedures, recruitment, participant communications, sessions, and payments, and analyzed the data in Stata.

Research in Progress

Identity-Mediated Social Learning in Residential Choice

Four-arm randomized survey experiment with approximately 1,750 UW-Madison students. Varies identity and residential-experience cues to study beliefs and hypothetical neighborhood choices; links survey responses to residential histories and neighborhood characteristics. Analysis in progress.

Originated the research question and theoretical framework and independently handled survey design, programming, IRB and consent procedures, recruitment, participant communications, administration, payments, and analysis.

Identity's Role in the Persistence and Decline of Black Farming Communities in the American Midwest

Uses county-level records from full-count U.S. censuses and agricultural schedules, 1850–1940, with geographic and demographic controls to study the persistence of Black farming communities. Preliminary analysis is descriptive; work linking individuals across censuses is ongoing.

METHODS AND SOFTWARE

Experimental design and randomization; belief elicitation; treatment-effect estimation; repeated-choice data analysis.

Software: Stata; Python; oTree.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Paul Dower	2022
Corbett Grainger	2019, 2021
Dominic Parker	2020
Mark Copelovitch	2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison **2021-2026**

Led discussion sections, graded assignments and examinations, and delivered occasional full-class lectures at the instructor's request.

PA 819: Advanced Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis	2026
PA 880: Microeconomic Policy Analysis	2022, 2024, 2025, 2026
INTL ST/AAE 374: The Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy	2025
AAE 343: Environmental Economics	2022, 2023, 2024
AAE 215: Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics	2023
AAE 244: The Environment and the Global Economy	2021

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Behavioral Research Insights Through Experiments (BRITE) Lab Grant, UW-Madison ($5,000)	2026
Agricultural and Applied Economics Graduate Student Research Fund, UW-Madison	2024
La Follette School of Public Affairs Fellowship, UW-Madison	2015