

# Saras Chung, PhD, MSW

[saras@skipdesigned.com](mailto:saras@skipdesigned.com)

## PURPOSE:

Internationally recognized executive leader in system dynamics, committed to co-designing creative system solutions that foster just social policies and inspiring educational environments for children and youth who are most marginalized by the effects of poverty.

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## EDUCATION

- 2012-2016     Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – Social Work  
Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work  
Dissertation: Suicide Attempts from Adolescence into Young Adulthood: A System Dynamics Perspective for Prevention and Intervention  
Committee: Amanda Moore McBride, PhD (Chair), Peter Hovmand, PhD; Sean Joe, PhD; Trish Kohl, PhD; Patrick Fowler, PhD; and Joshua Jackson, PhD
- 2006            Masters of Science (MSW) – Social Work  
Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work  
Concentration: Children, Youth and Families  
Specialization: Nonprofit Management
- 2003            Bachelors of Science (BS) – Psychology  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- System dynamics and design for school program and policy development
- School interventions to enhance academic achievement and positive youth development
- Child and adolescent emotion regulation and social and emotional learning

## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017-Pres.     Executive Director  
*SKIP DesignEd*  
Develop partnerships and convene communities, schools, and funders to design long-term research-based system interventions that foster educational equity in St. Louis and nationally. Provide advising for over \$20M of investments to foster high quality educational environments for students.
- 2017-Pres.     System Dynamics Consultant  
*Google*
- 2016-2017     Computational Social Scientist  
*Social System Design Lab, Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work*  
Projects: Housing Interventions in the Child Welfare System  
Funding Mechanism: NICHD and ACF Children's Bureau Grant  
R01 HD067540-01A1 Fowler (PI) 4/1/2011-12/31/2017 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.  
Housing services for child welfare families: Impact on stability and well-being

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90CA1815-01-00 Fowler (PI) 9/30/2014-9/29/2017 Administration for Children and Families – Children’s Bureau Housing Services in Child Welfare: Economic Evaluation of Systems Coordination

- 2010-Present Masters of Social Work Practicum Instructor  
Washington University in St. Louis – Brown School of Social Work
- 2013-2016 Doctoral Research Associate  
*Social System Design Lab, Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work*  
Primary Investigator: Peter Hovmand, PhD and Patrick Fowler, PhD  
Projects: Emotion regulation in adolescence;  
Developmental view of Systems Thinking and System Dynamics in Organizations;  
Youth in Need Head Start Workshop  
Gateway Greening System Dynamics Workshop
- 2015-2016 Doctoral Research Assistant  
*University of Texas - Austin*  
Project: Meta-analysis of school-based mental health interventions for children and youth  
Investigators: Cynthia Franklin, PhD, Johnny S. Kim, PhD, Katherine Montgomery, PhD, Saras Chung, MSW, & Aaron Thompson, PhD
- 2014-2016 Primary Investigator  
*Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work*  
Project: Suicide attempts from adolescence into adulthood using the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent and Adult Health  
Co-PI: Peter Hovmand, PhD
- Project: Korean American Girls, Self-Harm, and Suicide  
Co PI: Carolyn Lesorogol, PhD
- 2012-2016 Doctoral Research Assistant  
*Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work, School of Psychology*
- Project: Universal school-based programs to improve academic achievement and school behaviors through youth development and social and emotional learning.  
Primary Investigator: Amanda Moore McBride, PhD
- Project: Longitudinal social, emotional and behavioral effects of Head Start from childhood to adolescence (National Longitudinal Survey of Youth – Children and Youth)  
Primary Investigator: Joshua Jackson, PhD
- Project: Intra-ethnic differences in violent behaviors for sub-ethnic groups of Latino adolescents based on neighborhood structural characteristics (National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health)  
Primary Investigator: Lorena Estrada-Martinez, PhD, MPH
- 2009-2012 Research and Operations Manager  
*Wyman Center, St. Louis, MO*  
Managed program replication contracting, distribution and quality improvement for an evidence-based SAMSHA/NREPP listed positive youth development and service learning

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program funded by the HHS Office of Adolescent Health. Executive & Board of Trustees Support and Coordination..

- 2006-2009 Associate Director  
*Nest, St. Louis, MO*  
Start-up organization now internationally recognized by the UN and other notable organizations as leading the gold standard in ethical handcraft in fashion. Worked to create and manage operations and marketing for a micro-bartering organization working with vulnerable women in developing countries through \$20K seed funding awarded by Washington University's Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition.
- 2003-2004 Mental Health Technician  
*Pavilion Behavioral Health Hospital, Champaign, IL*  
Facilitated groups and provided emotional and physical support to children, adolescents, and adults experiencing severe mental, emotional, and behavioral difficulties.
- 2003 Applied Research and Victim Outreach Fellow  
*Polaris Project, Washington, D.C.*  
Conducted research and case-management services to identify and assist international victims of sex-trafficking.
- 2002-2003 Research Assistant  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – Culture and Emotion Psychology Lab*  
Primary Investigator: Sumie Okazaki, PhD & Chu Kim-Prieto, PhD  
Project: Depression in Korean immigrant mothers and their adolescent children

## INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

**Chung, S.** Chalise, N., Matsumoto, R., Butler, H., Liem, W., O'Neill, E. (2020). *Challenges and opportunities of intervening in an early childhood education system*. Invited plenary at the annual conference of the International System Dynamics Society, Bergen, Norway.

**Chung, S.** (2019). *Thinking differently about PreK-12 and system dynamics: A call to action*. Invited plenary at the annual conference of the International System Dynamics Society, Albuquerque, NM.

**Chung, S.** (2018). *Community Engagement for Innovation*. Invited speaker for the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement Community Engagement Summit, St. Louis, MO.

**Chung, S.** (2018). *Radical listening, courageous thinking in system dynamics*. Invited keynote at the annual System Dynamics Colloquium hosted at the International System Dynamics Society, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Stuntz, L., Benson, T., **Chung, S.**, Fisher, D., LaVigne, A., Orphen, G. (2018). *What's Happening in Pre-College Education in the United States?* Invited panelist presented at the annual conference of the International System Dynamics Society, Cambridge, MA.

## SELECTED TEACHING AND CONSULTING

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- 2018-2020 Google  
*System Dynamics Contractor*
- 2017-present Washington University in St. Louis – Brown School of Social Work  
*Professor*  
Masters Level Courses for Social Work, Public Health and Engineering  
Course Titles:  
Designing Sustainable Social Policies and Practices: A System Dynamics Approach  
Community Based System Dynamics  
Policies and Services for Children & Youth
- March 2017 Dartington Social Research Unit (London/Dartington, United Kingdom)  
Lead Consultant/Instructor of Skills Labs with WashU Social System Design Lab  
Topic: Mental Health and Children’s Services in the UK
- 2016-present Washington University in St. Louis Social System Design Lab Changing Systems  
*Director and Facilitation Consultant*  
Changing Systems – Student Summit on gun violence, youth homelessness, educational equity, school-based mental health, racism in schools
- 2014 The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
Gates Foundation Retreat Workshop Facilitator
- 2013 Washington University in St. Louis  
Lab Instructor/Teaching Assistant  
Course Title: Foundations of Data Analysis – Doctoral Level Course  
Statistics Bootcamp for First Year Doctoral Students  
Policies and Programs for Children & Youth - Masters Social Work

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Fowler, P. J., Marcal, K. E., **Chung, S.**, Brown, D. S., Jonson-Reid, M., & Hovmand, P. S. (2019). Scaling Up Housing Services Within the Child Welfare System: Policy Insights From Simulation Modeling. *Child Maltreatment*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519846431>
- Fowler, P.J., Schoeny, M., Brown, D. **Chung, S.** (2018). Homelessness in the child welfare system: A randomized control trial to assess the impact of permanent housing on foster care placements and costs. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 83, 52-61
- Fowler, P. J., Farrell, A. F., Marcal, K. E., **Chung, S.** and Hovmand, P. S. (2017), Housing and Child Welfare: Emerging Evidence and Implications for Scaling up Services. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 60, 1-2, 134-144. doi:10.1002/ajcp.12155
- Franklin, C., Kim, J., Beretvas, T., Zhang, A., Guz, S., Montgomery, C., **Chung, S.**, Maynard, B. (2017). The effectiveness of psychosocial interventions delivered by teachers in schools: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*.
- Chung, S.** & Lesorogol, C. (2016). Suicide and self-harm: A qualitative study of Korean American women’s experiences during adolescence. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*.

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McBride, A.M., Robertson, A., **Chung, S.** (2016). Preventing academic disengagement through a middle school-based social and emotional learning program. *Journal of Experiential Education*.

**Chung, S.**, & McBride, A.M. (2015). Social and emotional learning in middle school curricula: A service learning model based on positive youth development. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 53, 192-200. doi:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2015.04.008

Robertson, A. S., McBride, A. M., **Chung, S.**, Williams, A., & May, V. (2015). [Social and emotional learning and social work in middle school: A case study in community partnership](#) (CSD Working Paper No. 15-39). St. Louis, MO: Washington University in St. Louis, Center for Social Development.

Robertson, A. S., McBride, A. M., **Chung, S.**, & Williams, A. (2014). Motivating students through classroom-based service learning: Toward adoption and impact. (CSD Working Paper 14-11). St. Louis, MO: Washington University, Center for Social Development.

McBride, A. M., Robertson, A., & **Chung, S.** (2014). [Assessing the impacts of service learning on middle school students: Wyman's Teen Outreach Program®](#) (CSD Research Report 14-09). St. Louis, MO: Washington University, Center for Social Development.

Boddie, S.C., Hong, P.Y.P, Im, H, and **Chung, S.** (2011). Korean-American churches as partners in community development. *Social Work & Christianity*, 38, 395-416.

## MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

**Chung, S.** (2017, September 11). Segregated schools in St. Louis are no accident. Huffington Post. Retrieved from [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/educational-quality-wont-change-until-we-all-change-in-st-louis\\_us\\_59af9730e4b0b5e53101ea34?section=us\\_contributor](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/educational-quality-wont-change-until-we-all-change-in-st-louis_us_59af9730e4b0b5e53101ea34?section=us_contributor)

**Chung, S.** (2012, Feb. 9). Kellogg Foundation leader says race remains an issue. Nonprofit Quarterly. Retrieved from [http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=19796:kellogg-foundation-leader-says-race-remains-an-issue&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986](http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19796:kellogg-foundation-leader-says-race-remains-an-issue&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986)

**Chung, S.** (2012, Jan 31). U.S. to fund "Pay for Success" prevention programs. Nonprofit Quarterly. Retrieved from [http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=19516:us-to-fund-pay-for-success-prevention-programs&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986](http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19516:us-to-fund-pay-for-success-prevention-programs&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986)

**Chung, S.** (2012, Feb. 6). Red Cross and Wharton to study analytics from 500,000 donors. Nonprofit Quarterly. Retrieved from [http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=19686:red-cross-and-wharton-to-study-analytics-from-500000-donors&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986](http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19686:red-cross-and-wharton-to-study-analytics-from-500000-donors&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986)

**Chung, S.** (2012, Feb. 6). Will Facebook's IPO millionaires share the wealth? Nonprofit Quarterly. Retrieved from [http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=19681:will-facebooks-ipo-millionaires-share-the-wealth&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986](http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19681:will-facebooks-ipo-millionaires-share-the-wealth&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986)

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**Chung, S.** (2012, Jun. 22). Change.org Drops StudentsFirst and Stand for Children. *Nonprofit Quarterly*. Retrieved from <http://nonprofitquarterly.org/policysocial-context/20552-changeorg-drops-studentsfirst-and-stand-for-children.html>

**Chung, S.** (2011). Saras Chung with Nest: Business support for female artisans in developing countries. In M.L. Riberio (Eds.), *Country Living - The Mom's Guide to Running a Business: Strategies for Work Success and Family Balance* (p. 144-149). New York, NY: Hearst Publications.

## PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

Hovmand, P., Kuhlberg, J., Sato, J., & **Chung, S.** (Under Review). Introduction to System Dynamics for Applied Sciences. (Textbook)

**Chung, S.**, Hovmand, P., Joiner, T. (In progress). Preventing suicide attempts from adolescence into adulthood using system dynamics.

**Chung, S.** (In progress). Suicide in for racial and ethnic minority adolescents: Using AddHealth and feedback thinking to understand differences in trajectories into adulthood. Target Journal: Journal of the Society for Social Work Research

## SELECTED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Chalise, N., Matsumoto, R., Butler, H., Liem, W., **Chung, S.** (2020). Challenges and opportunities of intervening in an early childhood education system. Research paper accepted and presented at the International System Dynamics Conference, Bergen, Norway (virtual).

**Chung, S.** & Liem, W. (2020). *Parent perspectives on the dynamics of abuse, neglect, and quality in early childhood education care systems*. Paper presented at the annual conference for the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC.

**Chung, S.**, Downing, L., Farran, E., Hess, Cl., Hicks, T., Leim, W. (2019). Parent and caregiver perspectives impeding the adoption of early childhood education in urban cities with concentrated poverty. Research paper accepted and presented at the *International System Dynamics Conference*, Albuquerque, NM.

**Chung, S.** & Hovmand, P. (2017). *Preventing suicide attempts in diverse groups of adolescents: A system dynamics approach*. In Mark W. Fraser (Chair), Developmental approaches to understanding, preventing, and intervening in behavioral health disparities among early adolescents. Symposium conducted at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.

Fowler, P. & **Chung, S.** (2017). *Housing instability in the child welfare system: Interventions and Costs*. Administration for Children and Families, Washington, DC.

Fowler, F., Schoeny, M., Brown, D., **Chung, S.** (2017). *Homelessness and child welfare: A longitudinal randomized controlled trial testing the Family Unification Program on formal and informal out-of-home placements*. Symposium presentation conducted at the annual conference of the Society for Community Action Research, Ottawa, Canada.

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- Fowler, P. J., & **Chung, S.** (2016). *Housing services in the child welfare system: Economic evaluation of systems coordination*. Administration for Children and Families Children's Bureau Annual Grantees Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- Chung, S.** & Hovmand, P. (2016). *Reducing suicide attempts from adolescence to adulthood: A system dynamics perspective*. Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Conference. Baltimore, MD.
- Chung, S.** (2015). *A systems perspective to identify areas of leverage to reduce depression and suicidality in minority adolescents*. Asian Pacific-Islander Social Work Education Association CSWE Conference. Denver, CO.
- Chung, S.** & Hovmand, P. (2015). *Unwanted emotions in adolescence: Examining the effectiveness of emotion regulation from a feedback perspective*. International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC) Annual Conference. Cambridge, MA.
- Odenthal, M., Zoellner, N., **Chung, S.** Kuhlberg, J., Hovmand, P. (2015). Transforming race 2015: How system dynamics is helping shape the response to Ferguson, MO. International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC) Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA.
- Chung, S.** & Lesorogol, C. (2015). Suicide and self-harm: A qualitative study of Korean American women's experiences during adolescence. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.
- McBride, A. M., Robertson, A., & **Chung, S.** (2014). Transformative partnerships for schools of social work, middle schools, and community organizations. Council for Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Conference. Tampa, FL.
- Estrada-Martinez, L., **Chung, S.**, Metzger, M., Butler-Barnes, S. (2013). Effects of neighborhood social and structural characteristics on intra-ethnic disparities in youth violence among Latinos. American Public Health Association. Boston, MA.
- Chung, S.**, Im, H., and Boddie, S.C. (2006). From community need to organizational development: the Korean Churches for Community Development story. ARNOVA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Chung, S.** (2003). The effect of maternal depression in Korean American immigrant women to their adolescent children. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Culture and Emotion Psychology Lab., Champaign, IL.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Marcal, K., Fowler, P., **Chung, S.** (2017, July). Homelessness in the child welfare system: Barriers for safety, permanency, and well-being. Poster presented at the International System Dynamics Conference, Cambridge, MA.
- Chung, S.**, Gerghel, S., Pitzer, K., Allen, R., Brown, J., Hovmand, P. ... (2016, November). Gun Violence: Eliciting solutions from youth using community based system dynamics. Poster presented at the Institute for Public Health Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.

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- Chung, S.**, & Hovmand, P. (2016, November). Preventing suicide attempts in diverse groups of adolescents: A system dynamics approach. Poster presented at the Institute for Public Health Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- McBride, A.M., Robertson, A., & **Chung, S.** (2016, January). Preventing School Disciplinary Incidents through Interagency Collaborations in Middle School: A Mixed-Methods Study. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Washington, D.C.
- Chung, S.** (2015, July). Preventing suicide and depression in adolescence and young adulthood: A system dynamics perspective. Poster presented at the International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC) PhD Colloquium, Cambridge, MA.
- Threlfall, J. **Chung, S.** (2015, April). Parent involvement in college access programs: A synthesis of the empirical literature. Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Chicago, IL.
- Chung, S.** (Accepted 2014). Universal, school-based depression prevention programs for adolescents: A systematic review of SEL and CBT programs. American Public Health Association (APHA), New Orleans, LA.
- Chung, S.**, Hoard, J., & Hovmand, P. S. (2014, July). Assessing a team or organization's use of system dynamics: A developmental framework. Poster presented at the International Society for System Dynamics Conference, Delft, Netherlands.
- Chung, S.** and Moore McBride, A. (2014, April). Delivering positive youth development in school curricula: Outcomes from a service learning model. Poster presented at Washington University's Research WithOut Walls (RWoW), St. Louis, MO.
- Chung, S.** (2014, April). Widening the achievement gap: examining the unintended consequences of the Common Core State Standards in education using system dynamics modeling. Poster presented at Washington University's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium, St. Louis, MO.
- Chung, S.** & Moore McBride, A. (2014, March). Integrating social and emotional learning in middle school curriculum: a service learning model. Poster presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> National School Social Work Conference, Chicago, IL.

## GRANTS & FUNDING

- Social System Design Lab Dissertation Fellowship
- Asian & Pacific Islanders Council for Social Work Education Association – Dissertation Fellowship
- International Society of Child Indicators Mentoring Workshop – Mentoring Fellowship
- AmeriCorps organizational application, 2010 - \$65,000
- Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition, Skandalaris Center, 2006 - \$20,000
- Salesforce Foundation, \$20,000
- Dining for Women, \$5000

## SERVICE

# Saras Chung, PhD, MSW

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- St. Louis Community Foundation - Advisory Board Member for the Facebook Black Communities Investment Initiative (2021-present)
- System Dynamics Society - Blog Contributor (2021-Present)
- International System Dynamics Conference (Bergen, Norway) - Thread Chair & Plenary Chair (2020-Present)
- Turn the Page STL Advisory (2019- present)
- City Garden Montessori Academic Advisory Committee (2019-present)
- Missouri State Needs Assessment Advisory Committee on Early Childhood (2019-present)
- EdHubSTL Advisory Board Member (2017-2019)
- Turn the Page STL, Advisory Board (2019-present)
- SLU PriME Center, Community Advisory Board (2019)
- The Opportunity Trust Learning to Improve Executive Committee (2018-2019)
- First Steps to Equity - Early Childhood Advisory Council, St. Louis (2017-present)
- Wyman Center – Program Committee Research and Learning Committee (2016-2017)
- Southern Arizona Public Schools Improvement Think Tank with Superintendents and Principals – Waters Foundation (Invited expert, Oct. 20, 2015).
- Washington University PhD Administrative Committee Student Member (September 2012-Present); Curriculum & Dissertation Subcommittee Workgroup (September 2015-present)
- St. Louis Regional Youth Initiative – University City Mayor’s Best Practices Committee (2011-2012)
- St. Louis Outcome Evaluation Network (SLOEN) – Planning Committee (2011-2013)

## AWARDS AND HONORS

2020	LaunchCode MoonShot Nominee / Challenge Category
2017	KINESSES Super Collider Award, Venture Cafe STL
2015	Social System Design Lab, WashU Dissertation Fellowship
2015	Asian American Pacific Islanders in Social Work Education (APISWEA) CSWE Fellowship
2014	International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) Mentoring Fellowship Sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the University of Chicago Chapin Hall
2014	System Dynamics Society – International System Dynamics Conference Scholarship
2012-2016	PhD Scholarship - Full Tuition and Stipend – Washington University in St. Louis
2011	Country Living’s Mom’s Guide to Running a Business – Featured as a profile of success
2004-2006	The Chancellor’s List, Washington University of St. Louis – Brown School of Social Work
2004-2006	Aung San Suu Kyi Scholarship, Washington University of St. Louis

## RESEARCH SKILLS

- System Dynamics Computer Simulation Modeling
- Community-Based System Dynamics
- Group Modeling Building
- Quantitative Research
  - Basic Statistical Procedures (ANOVA, t-tests, regression)
  - Multivariate Regression
  - Multilevel Longitudinal Modeling
  - Propensity Score Matching
- Qualitative Research
  - Semi-structured interviewing techniques
  - Text analysis

## SOFTWARE PACKAGES

# Saras Chung, PhD, MSW

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- SAS/SPSS/R – high proficiency
- Stella Professional – high proficiency
- Vensim PLE/DSS– high proficiency
- Adobe Creative Suites: InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator

## **AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

- System Dynamics Society (ISDC)
- Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

- Korean (conversational, native-language at home)

**CITIZENSHIP** - United States of America