

Phillip Cha

Curriculum Vitae

(Updated May 2026)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Migration; Race and Ethnicity; Nationalism; Korean Diaspora; Qualitative Methods

EDUCATION

- Mar 2025–present **Ph.D. Student, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea (on leave since 2026)**
- Feb 2025 **M.A., Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- *Thesis Title*: A Study on the Return Migration and Identity Negotiation of Zainichi Koreans: Focusing on a Comparison between Zainichi Kankokujin and Zainichi Chosenjin
 - *Thesis Committee*: Prof. Chul-Sung Lee (Chair), Prof. Denis Kim, S.J. (Advisor), Prof. Inseo Son
 - GPA: 4.0/4.3
- Aug 2022 **B.A., Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- GPA: 4.06/4.3; summa cum laude; ranked 1st in the department

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Hwang, J., Han, N., **Cha, P.**, Zhao, H., & Lee, C.-S. (2025). Brokerage of the Illicit Migrant Labor and Trust: Private Labor Brokers in the Day-Labor Market. *Korean Journal of Sociology*, 59(4), 1–45.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Zhao, H., Hwang, J., & **Cha, P.** Class mobility and the reproduction of inequality among migrant workers: A comparative analysis of Chinese Korean (Joseonjok) and Han Chinese migrants. Manuscript in preparation. (**Corresponding author**)
- **Cha, P.** From Korean Wave (Hallyu) to Colonial Memory: The Transgenerational Reconnection of Zainichi Korean Youth. Manuscript in preparation. Earlier version accepted for oral presentation at the ISA Forum of Sociology, Rabat.

Conference Proceedings

- **Cha, P.** (2023). Imagined Homeland: The Identity Transformation Process of Zainichi Koreans Visiting South Korea [想像された祖国: 韓国訪問在日のナショナル・アイデンティティ変化過程を中心に]. In Proceedings of the 3rd Research Conference of the Japan Association of Koreanology (pp. 50–60). Japan Association of Koreanology. (in Japanese)

Book Chapters & Edited Volumes

- **Cha, P.** (Forthcoming, 2026). Return Migration to South Korea and Identity Negotiation among Zainichi Koreans: A Comparative Study of Zainichi Kankokujin and Zainichi Chosenjin. In Seoul National University School of Law (Ed.), *Hakbong Award Selected Papers 2 (2021–2025)* [학봉상 수상논문집 2 (2021–2025)]. (in Korean)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Jun 25, 2026 “Brokerage of the Illicit Migrant Labor and Trust: Private Labor Brokers in the Day-Labor Market.” Korea International Migration Studies Association (KIMSA), 2026 Spring Conference, Seoul, South Korea. Scheduled oral presentation
- Aug 27, 2023 “Imagined Homeland: The Identity Transformation Process of Zainichi Koreans Visiting South Korea” [想像された祖国: 韓国訪問在日のナショナル・アイデンティティ変化過程を中心に]. Japan Association of Koreanology, 3rd Research Conference, Tokyo, Japan. **Invited** oral presentation (Japanese; travel and accommodation funded)
- Jun 28, 2023 “Betrayal of Motherland: The Effect of Interaction with Koreans on Korean Japanese Identity Construction.” XX ISA World Congress of Sociology (RC31 Sociology of Migration), Melbourne, Australia. Oral presentation

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022–2025 **Independent Research Project, Zainichi Korean Return Migration and Identity Negotiation**, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea / Japan
- Examined how homeland visits shape return migration experiences and identity negotiation among fourth-generation Zainichi Koreans (ethnic Koreans in Japan)
 - Conducted 30+ Korean- and Japanese-language interviews in South Korea and Japan; coded interview data in MAXQDA and analyzed it using a grounded theory approach
 - Developed the project into an M.A. thesis, conference presentations, and an award-winning research paper
- Jan 2024–Dec 2025 **Research Collaborator, Illicit Migrant Labor Brokerage Project**, Prof. Chul-Sung Lee, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea
- Conducted nationwide qualitative fieldwork and in-depth interviews on illicit migrant day-labor markets; coded and analyzed qualitative interview data; contributed to manuscript writing and revision
 - Co-authored a peer-reviewed article published in Korean Journal of Sociology
- May–Aug 2025 **Research Assistant, AI Cultural Understanding and Evaluation Dataset Project**, Prof. Ji Hye Kim, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea
- Contributed to data collection and item development for evaluating AI models' understanding of Korean cultural contexts and high-context social cues
- Feb 2022–Nov 2025 **Graduate Research Assistant, Comparative Rice Culture and Development Project**, Prof. Chul-Sung Lee, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea
- Conducted background research on the Japan case, collecting Japanese-language literature and data on wet-rice agriculture, village organization, communal labor, and corporate labor culture
 - Prepared research summaries and memos supporting comparative analysis of rice-based social organization and East Asian economic development

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2025 **Graduate Teaching Assistantship (Doctoral), Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Teaching-based graduate funding (approx. US\$7,300)
- 2025 **Albatross Fellowship (Doctoral), Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Full-tuition, merit-based; 100% waiver of entrance fee and tuition (approx. US\$16,000)
 - Sole departmental recipient
- 2023 **Graduate Service Scholarship, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Service-based graduate funding for graduate student association leadership (approx. US\$10,000)
- 2022 **Albatross Fellowship (Master's), Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Full-tuition, merit-based; 100% waiver of entrance fee and tuition (approx. US\$18,000)
 - Sole departmental recipient
- 2022 **Jung Jae-Kyung Scholarship, Jung Jae-Kyung Scholarship Foundation — South Korea**
- Leadership and service; interview-based (approx. US\$1,700)
- 2022 **Jump Scholarship, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Merit-based; BA–MA combined program (approx. US\$1,300)
- 2020 **Jang Young-Hee Scholarship, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Merit and service; interview-based (approx. US\$2,000)

AWARDS & HONORS

- May 2025 **Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Sogang University Graduate School — Seoul, South Korea**
- Research paper award; cash prize approx. US\$800
 - Awarded paper: “Brokerage of the Illicit Migrant Labor and Trust: Private Labor Brokers in the Day-Labor Market”
- 2025 **Hakbong Award (10th), Seoul National University School of Law & Hakbong Scholarship Foundation — Seoul, South Korea**
- Third Prize, Research Paper Division; cash prize approx. US\$8,000
 - Awarded paper: “Return Migration to South Korea and Identity Negotiation among Zainichi Koreans: A Comparative Study of Zainichi Kankokujin and Zainichi Chōsenjin”
- May 2021 **Alpha Sigma Nu (ΑΣΝ), the honor society of Jesuit universities — Member, Sogang University Chapter**
- 43rd cohort; selected from the top 10% by GPA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring–Fall 2025 **Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Fall 2025: Race and Ethnicity; Economic Sociology; Sociological Writing; Sociological Theory
 - Spring 2025: Introduction to Sociology; Sociological Research Methods; Sociology of Health and Illness

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Mar–Dec 2024 **Assistant Program Coordinator, HUSS Center (Humanities Utmost Sharing System), Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Supported curriculum development and course operations by collecting, reviewing, and preparing program-related materials

LEADERSHIP

- Jan 2026–present **Organizer, Migration & Minorities Film Seminar, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Initiated and organized a recurring film seminar on migration, race and ethnicity, and minorities, combining film screenings and group discussions
- Mar 2025–present **President, Sogang Cultural Sociology Association, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Led a Graduate Student Council-affiliated academic society; organized seminars, reading groups, and discussion events on cultural sociology, social theory, research methods, and contemporary social issues
- Mar 2023–Mar 2024 **Vice President, Sociology Graduate Student Association, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Served as a liaison between graduate students, faculty, and department administration; supported academic events and graduate student activities
- Sep–Nov 2023 **Alumni Reunion Organizing Committee Member, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Supported planning, outreach, and on-site coordination for the department-wide alumni reunion
- Apr 2020–Mar 2022 **President, Ranonjena (volunteer performance club), Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Organized charity and community concerts, primarily at senior centers; served as lead guitarist

CONFERENCE SERVICE

- May 15, 2026 **Conference Assistant, Korean Association of Cultural Sociology Spring Conference — Seoul, South Korea**
- Feb 20, 2026 **Conference Assistant, The Korean Association of Socio-Historical Studies Annual Conference — Seoul, South Korea**

SERVICE

- Sep–Dec 2022 **Peer Academic Mentor, Center for Teaching and Learning, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Provided peer mentoring to first- and second-year sociology students, focusing on Introduction to Sociology coursework
- Mar 2021–Mar 2022 **Accessibility Support Volunteer, Center for Students with Disabilities, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea**
- Provided academic support to students with disabilities across courses, including note-taking and preparation of accessible study materials

MILITARY SERVICE

- Jul 2016–Apr 2018 **Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) — Sergeant, honorable discharge**
- Completed mandatory military service; served as a signal operator at Capital Defense Command (Seoul)

SELECTED GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Qualitative Research Methods; Social Statistics; Advanced Social Statistics; Sociological Theory; Race, Ethnicity, and Migration; Migration and Culture; International Migration

TECHNICAL & LANGUAGE SKILLS

Technical: MAXQDA (qualitative data analysis software); Stata; R; SPSS; Microsoft Office; Google Docs; WordPress
Languages: Korean (native); English (professional working proficiency); Japanese (upper-intermediate proficiency)