Phillip Cha

Curriculum Vitae

(Updated Sep 2026)

Seoul, South Korea | muststand@sogang.ac.kr | www.chaphillip.com

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Migration; Race and Ethnicity; Nationalism; Diaspora and Return Migration; Migrant Labor

EDUCATION

Mar 2025–present	**Ph.D. Student, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea (on leave, Jan 2026–present)**
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., N. Han, **P. Cha**, H. Zhao, and C.-S. Lee. 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.

Book Chapters

• **Cha, P.** 2026. "Return Migration to South Korea and Identity Negotiation among Zainichi Koreans: A Comparative Study of Zainichi Kankokujin and Zainichi Chōsenjin." In *Hakbong Award Selected Papers 2 (2021–2025)*, edited by Seoul National University School of Law. (Forthcoming; in Korean)

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]. Pp. 50–60 in *Proceedings of the 3rd Research Conference of the Japan Association of Koreanology.* Japan Association of Koreanology. (In Japanese)

Manuscripts in Preparation

• Zhao, H., J. Hwang, and **P. Cha**. 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 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. 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 presentation**
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 diasporic return to South Korea shapes identity negotiation among later-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

2025 **Albatross Fellowship (Doctoral)**, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea
- Merit-based full tuition and entrance fee waiver
- Sole departmental recipient

2023 **Graduate Service Scholarship**, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea
- Service-based graduate funding for graduate student association leadership

2022 **Albatross Fellowship (Master's)**, Department of Sociology, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea
- Merit-based full tuition and entrance fee waiver
- Sole departmental recipient

2022 **Jung Jae-Kyung Scholarship,** Jung Jae-Kyung Scholarship Foundation — South Korea
- Leadership- and service-based; selected through interview

2022 **Jump Scholarship**, Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea
- Merit-based; BA–MA combined program

2020 **Jang Young-Hee Scholarship,** Sogang University — Seoul, South Korea
- Merit- and service-based; selected through interview

AWARDS & HONORS

Dec 2025 **Hakbong Award (10th)**, Seoul National University School of Law & Hakbong Scholarship Foundation — Seoul, South Korea
- Third Prize, Research Paper Division
- Awarded paper: "Return Migration to South Korea and Identity Negotiation among Zainichi Koreans: A Comparative Study of Zainichi Kankokujin and Zainichi Chōsenjin"

May 2025 **Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award**, Sogang University Graduate School — Seoul, South Korea
- Awarded paper: "Brokerage of the Illicit Migrant Labor and Trust: Private Labor Brokers in the Day-Labor Market"

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, The Korean Association for Cultural Sociology Spring Conference** — Seoul, South Korea

Feb 20, 2026 — **Conference Assistant, 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

Software: MAXQDA (qualitative data analysis software); Stata; R; SPSS
Languages: Korean (native); English (professional working proficiency); Japanese (upper-intermediate proficiency)