

Anna Ko

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Social Welfare**, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2026 (Expected)
- Dissertation: Buffering Against Economic Shocks – The Role of Unemployment Benefit (UI) in Promoting Equity in Parental Investments and Child Development
 - Committee: Lawrence M. Berger (Co-chair), Jessica Pac (Co-chair), Alejandra Ros Pilarz
- Master of Public Policy**, Graduate School of Public Administration, Seoul National University 2016.02
- graduated *cum laude*
- Bachelor of Economics**, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies 2012.02
- minor in Spanish
 - graduated *magna cum laude*

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTEREST

Poverty and inequality; social policy; program evaluation and policy analysis; child and family policy, child maltreatment prevention and intervention, international development, immigrants and refugees

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Accepted

1. **Ko, A.**, Berger, L. M., Brown, D. S., Pac, J., Tang, R. Unemployment Insurance Generosity and Child Protective Services Involvement. *Child Abuse & Neglect. Volume 167*, 2025, 10758, ISSN 0145-2134, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2025.107583>.

Under Review

2. Berger, L. M., Cancian, M., Kim, H., **Ko, A.**, Pac, J. The Impact of Cost-Recovery Child Support Orders on Foster Care Trajectories. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*
3. **Ko, A.** The Effect of Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) on Parental Time Use. *Review of Economics of the Household*.

Submitted

4. Pac, J., Sattler, S., **Ko, A.** Paid Family Leave (PFL) and Child Maltreatment. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (JPAM)*

Book chapters

5. Slack, K.S., Grinnell-Davis, C., Sintim, D. & **Ko, A.** (2023). Preventing child neglect with the U.S. social welfare safety net. In K. Briar-Lawson, P. Day, & L. Azzi-Lessing, *Child Neglect, Inequity, & Poverty* (pp. 43-92). Washington, D.C.: Child Welfare League of America

Policy briefs and reports

6. Berger, L. M., Cancian, M., Kim, H., **Ko, A.**, Pac, J. (2025). "Child Support and Child Welfare System Interactions." 2024–2026 Child Support Policy Research Agreement: Task 5. Submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Child and Families (DCF).
7. **Ko, A.**, Berger, L. M., and Pac, J. (2025). "Program participation prior to CPS-involvement and out-of-home

- placement.” Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison. July 15, 2025. Submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Child and Families (DCF).
8. Berger, L. M., Cancian, M., Kim, H., **Ko, A.**, Pac, J. (2024). “Child Support and Child Welfare System Interactions.” 2022–2024 Child Support Policy Research Agreement: Task 2. Submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Child and Families (DCF). <https://www.irlp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CSRA-2022-2024-T2-07242024.pdf>
 9. **Ko, A.**, Berger, L. M., and Pac, J. (2023). “Literature Review of Wisconsin Shares.” Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison. June 23, 2023. Submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Child and Families (DCF).
 10. Pac, J., **Ko, A.**, Craig, K., Berger, L. M., Slack, K. (2021). “Literature Review of Cost of Care State Surveys” Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison. June 23, 2023. Submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Child and Families (DCF).
 11. Lee, S., Park, J., Moon, S., Chung, Y., Heo, S., Jo, M., Kim, Y., **Ko, A.**, Cho, E. (2015). *Evaluation of South Korea’s ODA in Myanmar* (TRKO201600015772). Seoul: Center for International Development Evaluation, Seoul National University.
 12. Lee, S., Song, J., Kim, I., Jeon, H., Lee, H., **Ko, A.** (2012). “Integrated Transportation Network Models for South Korea’s Expansion in the ASEAN Region,” Seoul: Korea Maritime Institute.

Working papers

13. Ko, A., Berger, L. M., Pac, J. (2024). “Program Participation prior to CPS-Involvement and Out-of-Home Placement (OHP).” (In progress)
14. **Ko, A.** Investigating the impact of EITC expansion on Father’s time with children: the mediating role of mother’s work hours. (In progress)
15. **Ko, A.** Unemployment Insurance Generosity and Household Spending. (In progress)
16. **Ko, A.** Unemployment Insurance Generosity and Maternal Time. (In progress)
17. Pac, J., **Ko, A.**, Hoffmeister, M. Wages, Turnover, and Wellbeing: A First Look at the Causal Effect of Worker Pay on Turnover in Child Welfare. (In progress)

SELECT FUNDED AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Grand Challenges for Social Work Doctoral Award– Reduce Extreme Economic Inequality	2025
Grand Challenges for Social Work/ New York Community Trust, \$3,000	
Doctoral Student Dissertation Grant (DSDG)	2025
Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University Wisconsin-Madison, \$2,000	
Irving Piliavin Award	2025
Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University Wisconsin-Madison, \$2,000	
Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) Graduate Research Fellowship	2022-2026
University of Wisconsin-Madison	
Korean Alumni Award	2023
Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison, \$2,000	
Merit-based Scholarships	2013-2014
Seoul National University, KRW 1,500,000 (\$2,100)	
Department Chief Scholarship	2010-2011
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, two semesters of tuition	

EMPLOYMENT

Research and project management experience

Research Assistant

Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP), University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin, USA

2021.08~ Present

- Worked with Drs. Lawrence Berger, Kristen Slack, and Jessica Pac on projects related to child and family well-being
 - Cleaned and analyzed Wisconsin Administrative Data Core (WADC), including child support (KIDS) and child welfare (WISACWIS) data as part of the Child Support Research Agreement (CSRA) 2022-2024, and 2024-2026 project with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF)
 - Cleaning and preparing national child welfare datasets (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)) to examine the effects of Paid Family Leave policies and child maltreatment outcomes
 - Cleaning and coding American Community Surveys (ACS) microdata to assess the labor market impacts of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) expansions, focusing on worker wages and turnover
 - Conducting analysis using the NCANDS data and drafting research on the relationship between Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits generosity and child maltreatment outcome
- Conduct descriptive data analysis and literature reviews, and draft memorandum for WI DCF and the Wisconsin Child Abuse Prevention Board (PB) on topics related to child maltreatment prevention and child well-being
 - Cost of Care Survey
 - WI shares (Childcare Subsidy)
 - Child Protective Services (CPS) involvement and program participation

Senior Research Associate

Division of Development Research, Center for International Development (CID),
Korea Development Institute (KDI)
Sejong, South Korea

2017.04 2021.06

- Led coordination and analysis of the Korean government's COVID-19 crisis management strategies, with a particular focus on intergovernmental coordination and cross-sectoral policy responses
 - Contributed to the drafting of education and social welfare policy recommendations with implications for international development
 - Designed and produced a video report to disseminate key research findings to a global audience
- Coordinated a multi-stakeholder project to establish the Myanmar Development Institute (MDI), a new government-based policy think-tank to promote economic and social development
 - Oversaw overall project implementation, including work planning, stakeholder engagement, and performance monitoring to ensure alignment with strategic goals
 - Collaborated with Korean and Myanmar researchers to strengthen evidence-based policy-making practices
 - Led capacity-building training workshops for MDI researchers and Myanmar government officials on research methods and evidence-based policy practices
 - Monitored program implementation for the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)/MDI scholarship program
- Designed and coordinated the Case Studies on Public Policy in Korea for Knowledge Sharing project aimed at transferring Korean policy insights to international policy makers
 - Supported innovative project design and contributed to the publication of volume 1 of the case study series
 - Produced dissemination material, including press release and video clips of cases
- Served as Project Officer for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) with Peru and Nigeria (Promotion of Technology Guarantee and Appraisal System for Peruvian MSMEs with Innovative and Technological Potential; Establishment and Operation of Derivatives Market in Nigeria)
 - Conducted feasibility study to further develop Peruvian and Nigerian government-submitted project proposal
 - Recruited domain specific researchers and local consultants to ensure contextual and technological relevance
 - Implemented multi-phase programming, including collaborative seminars, hands on training sessions and technical

policy consultations

- Coordinated high-level meetings and policy dialogues to build capacity and disseminate recommendations among government stakeholders

Inclusive Growth Analyst

Poverty and Inequality Reduction Unit, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
Bogotá, Colombia

2016.01 ~ 2017.01

- Designed and implemented a youth employment initiative to promote inclusive growth in Colombia, with a focus on underserved regions
 - Analyzed global best practices and national policy dialogues on youth employment creation to inform project design and implementation
 - Drafted proposal for Smart Media Lab, a pilot project to create employment and entrepreneurship and job creation among young adults in marginalized areas (e.g., Quibdo, Buenaventura)
- Conducted research on Colombia's agro-industry and value chain development, emphasizing rural economic inclusion and innovation-driven growth for regional development projects
- Provided technical support for UNDP Inclusive Economic Development projects
- Liaison to develop a stronger partnership between the Korean government (Korean Embassy in Colombia, KOICA Colombia Office), UNDP Colombia, and the Colombian government

Researcher

Center for International Development Evaluation, Seoul National University
Seoul, South Korea

2015.02 ~ 2015.12

- Co-authored evaluation report on South Korea's ODA in Myanmar for the Prime Minister's Office
 - Led data cleaning, coding, and analysis for country program and assistance strategy evaluations
 - Assessed and drafted a section on political and socio-economic risks in Myanmar
- Examined international country evaluation trends by assessing various methods used in international organizations
- Assisted with drafting the Knowledge Sharing Program Evaluation System Report (funded by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance)
- Responsible for hosting Evaluation Forums and Special Invitation Seminars, and for administrative issues

Researcher

Maritime Industry & Logistics Division, Korea Maritime Institute
Seoul, South Korea.

2012.08 ~ 2013.09

- Researched, collected data and assisted with the drafting of *Establishing an ASEAN Integrated Transportation Network: In Perspective of Korean Companies* (report funded by Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs)
- Assisted to draft *Establishing an Inner Transportation Model in the People's Republic of China* (report funded by Korea International Trade Association)
- Hosted capacity-building workshops on entering the global market for small/medium companies in the transportation sector
- Prepared articles on global transportation issues and trends for weekly brief, distributed internally and to the public

Intern

Education Policy & Reform Unit, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau
Bangkok, Thailand

2012.03 ~ 2012.08

- Drafted education profiles on Sri Lanka, South Korea, and China for the Education System Profile project
- Collected data on education performance indicators for Education System Assessment for Performance, a follow-up project to System Assessment and Benchmarking for Education Results
- Supported coordination of administrative and logistical aspects of the Post-2015 EFA Conference (Towards EFA 2015 and Beyond – Shaping a New Vision of Education)

Teaching experience**Adjunct Instructor**

Department of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
 Whitewater, Wisconsin, USA
 Social Work 404 Social Work Research

2025.01 – 2025.05

Teaching Assistant

Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Madison, Wisconsin, USA
 - Social Work 206 Introduction to Social Policy

2024.09 – 2024.12

INVITED AND PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Ko, A., Berger, L. M., Pac, J., Tang, R. Unemployment Insurance Generosity and Child Protective Services Involvement. 2025.04
 Poster presentation at the Populations Association of America (PAA) Washington DC

Ko, A. Investigating the impact of EITC expansion on Father's time with children: the mediating role of mother's work hours. 2025.01
 Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR), Seattle, WA

Ko, A. The Effect of the Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) on Parental Time Use 2024.06
 Paper presentation at the Work-Family Research Network (WFRN) Bi-annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, Canada

Ko, A. The Effect of the Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) on Parental Time Use 2024.01
 Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Washington DC.

Ko, A. The Effect of the Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) on Parental Time Use 2023.11
 Poster presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Atlanta, GA

"Literature Review on Wisconsin Shares" 2023.08
 Invited presentation for the WI Department of Children and Families Division of Early Care and Education (DECE)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

"Poverty and Public Policy in International Perspective" 2025
 Invited as discussant at the Populations Association of America (PAA), Washington DC

"Challenges in Child Welfare and Child Support Policy: Qualitative Evidence on Financial Sanctions, Support Requirements, and Coparenting Dynamics" 2024
 Invited as discussant at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), National Harbor, MD

Admissions Committee for Master of Social Work (MSW) 2024
 Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Populations Association of America
Society for Social Work and Research
Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management
Work-Family Research Networks