

Biographical information

Amy H. Liu

Associate Professor, Department of Government
University of Texas at Austin

Research Themes

1. Politics of language regime choice and effects of such choice
 - Asia broadly – specifically Chinese in Southeast Asia
2. Role of lingua francas in migrant networks
 - Mandarin versus non-Mandarin Chinese speakers in Central-Eastern Europe
3. Sociological trends in language proficiency among linguistic minorities
 - Ethnic Hungarians in “Greater Hungary”

Findings of Interest

1. In highly diverse states, we are most likely to see power-neutralizing language regimes (recognition of lingua francas – *LF*)
 - *LF* recognition builds social capital and attracts foreign
2. Migrants situated in *LF*-speaking networks are more likely to be politically incorporated – e.g., engaged with state institutions and trust out-groups
3. Declining (increasing) proficiency in state (mother tongue) language
 - Language affects how we see world – e.g., gender attitudes

Potential areas in the intersection of language endangerment/political instability interesting to your research

1. Role of *LF*: Does using *LF* induce political stability? Are negotiations conducted in *LF* seen as being more credible? And are they more durable?
2. Identification with state: If *LF* proficiency goes up, do we see a decline in state language proficiency among minorities? Does this undermine – or actually improve – their identification with state?