



Luke Sanford

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🌐 <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=hzh7H9gAAAAJ&hl=en>

🌐 lcsanford.github.io

Appointments



- July 2021 -  **Yale School of the Environment** Assistant Professor of Environmental Policy and Governance
-  **Yale Political Science** Assistant Professor (Secondary Appointment)

Education




- 2021  **University of California San Diego.** Ph.D. International Affairs
Concentrations: Political Methodology, Political Economy of Natural Resources.
- 2017  **Political Science, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UCSD.** M.A.
Focus Areas: International Economics, China
- 2009  **BA Politics, Whitman College.** B.A.
Thesis: China's Olympic Trial: The Environmental Effects of the Beijing Olympic Games

Research Publications

Journal Articles

-  **Sanford, L.** (2021). Democratization, Elections, and Public Goods: The Evidence from Deforestation. *American Journal of Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12662>
_eprint: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/ajps.12662>
-  **Sanford, L.** & Burney, J. (2015). Cookstoves illustrate the need for a comprehensive carbon market. *Environmental Research Letters*, *10*(8), 084026.
<https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/10/8/084026>
-  Lautze, J., de Silva, S., Giordano, M. & **Sanford, L.** (2011). Putting the cart before the horse: Water governance and IWRM. *Natural Resources Forum*, *35*(1), 1–8.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1477-8947.2010.01339.x>
-  Molden, D., Lautze, J., Shah, T., Bin, D., Giordano, M. & **Sanford, L.** (2010). Governing to Grow Enough Food without Enough Water—Second Best Solutions Show the Way. *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, *26*(2), 249–263.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07900621003655643>

Books and Chapters

-  Lautze, J., de Silva, S., Giordano, M. & **Sanford, L.** (2014). Water Governance (J. Lautze, Ed.). In J. Lautze (Ed.), *Key concepts in water resource management: A review and critical evaluation*. London ; New York, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
-  Boelee, E., Atapattu, S., Amede, T. & **Sanford, L.** (2011). *Ecosystems for water and food security* [OCLC: 771993931]. Nairobi, UNEP. March 16, 2018, 
http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Topics/Ecosystems/PDF/Background_Document-Ecosystems_for_Water_and_Food_Security_2011_UNEP-IWMI.pdf

In Progress

- Forthcoming
- Disparate air pollution reductions during California's COVID-19 economic shutdown and their implications *Nature Sustainability*
- Working Papers
- Augmenting Serialized Bureaucratic Data: The Case of Chinese Courts. With Ben Liebman, Molly Roberts, Rachel Stern, Xiaohan Wu
 - A Sensible and Interpretable Dimension Reduction Method for Capturing Seasonality Information in Remotely Sensed Data. With Suzanne Benz, Jen Burney, Morgan Levy, and Peng Zhu.
 - Using Satellite Data for Causal Inference.
 - Discovering Persuasive Concepts Related to Renewable Energy Using Deep Neural Networks. With Molly Roberts
 - Rainfall Variation and Climate Voting in South Africa. With Nicholas Obradovich and Clark Gibson.
- Projects
- Environmental Public Goods Provision—Exploring Subnational Electoral Cycles
 - Spatial Synthetic Controls for Agricultural Impact Evaluation. With Jen Burney
 - Predicting Amazonian Deforestation with Satellite, Spatial, and Administrative Data. With Kathryn Baragwanath
 - The Political Economy of Reforestation
 - Community Governance of the Commons amid National and International Pressure
 - Indian Legal Responsiveness to Environmental Issues—Data from 5 Million Court Cases. With Teevrat Garg
 - Deforestation in the Paraguayan Chaco: The value of Timely Monitoring. With Austin Beacham, Teevrat Garg, and Gordon McCord.

Grants and Awards

- 2020
- Graduate Division Interdisciplinary Research Award
- 2019
- Best Graduate Student Poster, Political Methodology Annual Conference
 - Institute of Global Conflict and Cooperation Herb York Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
- 2018
- Winner of American Geophysical Union Outstanding Student Presenter Award
 - Sage Foundation grant (\$174,702) research assistant.
- 2018–2020
- Sanford Lakoff dissertation improvement grant
- 2018
- Grad SLAM public speaking semifinalist.
- 2015–2019
- Dean of Social Sciences fellowship recipient.
- 2014–2015
- Boren Fellow. China.
- 2014
- GPS Dean's Fellow
 - Robinson Research Fellow
 - Doming Liu award for for Wisdom, Exuberance, Warmth, and Leadership.
- 2008
- Cross Examination Debate Association National Tournament: 5th place.

Teaching (Yale)

- 2022
- Environmental Policymaking: From Local to Global

Teaching (UCSD)

- 2021 ■ Big Data. Ahlquist.
- 2019, 2020 ■ Poli 270: Mathematical & Statistical Foundations. Instructor.
- 2015–2020 ■ Math Skills for Graduate Students. Instructor.
- 2019 ■ Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis. McCord.
- 2018 ■ Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing. Goldblatt.
- 2016–2017 ■ Quantitative Methods 1: Statistics and Probability. Garg.
Quantitative Methods 2: Regression Analysis. Burney.
Quantitative Methods 3: Panel Data and Causal Inference. McIntosh.
- 2015–2016 ■ Economic and Social Development of China. Naughton.
International Politics and Security. Walter.

Conferences

- 2021 ■ “Using Satellite Data for Causal Inference” APSA (talk, submitted panel), PolMeth (talk), Asian Polmeth (talk)
- 2020 ■ “The effects of land tenure security on agricultural and environmental outcomes in Benin: New evidence from satellite data” APSA (talk, submitted panel)
- 2019 ■ “Discovery of Influential Text in Experiments Using Deep Neural Networks” Polmeth (talk), APSA (talk)
 - “Democratization, Elections, and Public Goods: The Evidence from Deforestation” MPSA (talk), Institutions and Lawmaking Conference (poster), WPSA (talk)
 - “Geospatial synthetic controls for agricultural impact evaluation” Polmeth (poster), Sustainability and Development Conference (talk)
- 2018 ■ “How to property rights affect agricultural productivity?” Paper presented at *American Geophysical Union* Washington DC.
 - “Mining Human Decision Making” with Molly Roberts. Paper presented at *Text as Data* University of Washington.
 - “Democratization, Elections, and Public Goods: The Troubling Evidence from Deforestation” Paper presented at *Working Group on Africal Political Economy Annual Meeting* UCLA.
- 2017 ■ “Democratization, Elections, and Public Goods: The Troubling Evidence from Deforestation” Poster presented at *American Geophysical Union* New Orleans, LA. Media Coverage: <https://blogs.agu.org/geospace/2018/01/09/elections-may-catalyst-deforestation-new-research-suggests/>
 - “Detecting Land-Use Change and On-Farm Investments at the Plot Scale” with Jen Burney and Ran Goldblatt. Poster presented at *American Geophysical Union* New Orleans, LA.
 - “Mass Digitization of Chinese Court Decisions” with Molly Roberts, Rachel Stern, Ben Liebman. Paper presented at *American Political Science Association* San Francisco, CA
 - “Measuring the Impact of Land Titling on Investment via Satellite” with Jen Burney and Ran Goldblatt. Paper presented at *CEGA Research Retreat* Berkeley, CA
- 2010 ■ “Water Governance in the Middle East North Africa Region: Applying a Multifaceted Benchmarking Approach.” Session: Climate Change and Environmental Conflict. *American Association of Geographers*. Seattle, WA
 - “Water Governance Survey Results.” USAID MENA Benchmarking Conference, Amman, Jordan.

Invited Talks

- 2022 📌 “Evaluating the effects of land titling in Benin using satellite imagery” *Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies*
- 2021 📌 “Using Satellite Data for Causal Inference” *UC Santa Barbara, Environmental Politics Workshop*
- 📌 “Using Satellite Data for Causal Inference” *American Geophysical Union* New Orleans, LA.
- 2019 📌 “Geospatial synthetic controls for agricultural impact evaluation” *American Geophysical Union* Washington DC.

Service

- 2019 📌 UCSD Graduate student representative on the admissions committee
- 📌 Faculty Liaison, UCSD Political Science Graduate Council
- 2018 📌 Co-Chair, UCSD Political Science New Student Orientation
- 2017 📌 Co-Chair, UCSD Political Science Social Events
- 📌 Memberships: *American Political Science Association, American Economic Association, American Geophysical Union, Midwest Political Science Association, Western Political Science Association, AAAS*
- Reviewer for 📌 Technometrics, Global Environmental Change

Skills

- Languages 📌 Native: English. Strong reading, writing and speaking competencies in Mandarin Chinese (HSK6). Conversational Spanish.
- Coding 📌 Expert: R, Git/GitHub, ArcGIS . Intermediate: Stata, Python, \LaTeX , JavaScript.

References available upon request.