

Saras Chung, PhD, MSW

Associate Director of Research
Brown School of Social Work
Washington University in St. Louis
4240 Duncan Ave., Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63110
saras@skipdesigned.com

PURPOSE

Accomplished practitioner and systems researcher with expertise leading cross-disciplinary initiatives to enhance service systems and educational outcomes for marginalized youth. Committed to producing actionable research and advancing social equity through a systems-thinking and community-engaged approach.

EDUCATION

- 2012-2016 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – Social Work**
Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work
Dissertation: Suicide Attempts from Adolescence into Young Adulthood: A System Dynamics Perspective for Prevention and Intervention
Committee: Amanda Moore McBride, PhD (Chair), Peter Hovmand, PhD; Sean Joe, PhD; Trish Kohl, PhD; Patrick Fowler, PhD; and Joshua Jackson, PhD
- 2006 Masters of Science (MSW) – Social Work**
Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work
Concentration: Children, Youth and Families
Specialization: Nonprofit Management
- 2003 Bachelors of Science (BS) – Psychology**
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- System interventions to enhance socioemotional supports and academic achievement for youth in marginalized communities
- Applying artificial intelligence and machine learning with large language models to support efficiency in service delivery and system dynamics practice.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017-Pres. Executive Director**
SKIP DesignEd, LLC
Founding Team for the *St. Louis School Research Practice Collaborative (SRPC) & St. Louis Schools Collaborative (SLSC)*
- Conducted community based research with system dynamics to address early childhood education seats, K-12 district-charter collaboration in St. Louis, and the development of a research-practice partnership. Advised over \$30M of investments to foster high quality educational environments for students locally and nationally. Launched and supervised SKIP's efforts to create AI tools for system dynamics modeling.
- 2023-2028 St. Louis Translational Fellows for Educational Equity**

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*Co-Principal Investigator with Andrew Butler (WUSTL), Rachel Rugirello, Gary Ritter
James S. McDonnell Foundation*

Helped procure a \$3.5M grant for postdoctoral training grants to support the St. Louis School Research Practice Collaborative. Support recruitment, training and mentorship for postdoctoral trainees supporting educational research-practice partnerships in district and charter schools.

- 2020-2024 **St. Louis Schools Research-Practice Collaborative (SRPC)**
Founding Member and Interim Research Director
Managed the development, design, and implementation of an educational research-practice in St. Louis. Worked with deans from local universities and superintendents of public schools to design and develop a local multi-district and charter research-practice partnership (RPP). Established membership with the National Network for Educational Research Practice Partnerships. Oversaw the research activities and translate findings for practitioners from a longitudinal study on student mobility.
- 2021-2022 **Research Fellow**
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Completed a one year fellowship to address the system dynamics of PreK and Early Care and Education scale-up using System Dynamics. Worked with other Federal Reserve experts to produce reports and host events for engagement with research.
- 2017-2020 **System Dynamics Consultant**
Google and X, the Moonshot Company
Fostering system solutions to reverse technological harm in marginalized communities.
- 2016-2017 **Computational Social Scientist**
Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work
Projects: Housing Interventions in the Child Welfare System
Funding Mechanism: NICHD and ACF Children's Bureau Grant
R01 HD067540-01A1 Fowler (PI) 4/1/2011-12/31/2017 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

90CA1815-01-00 Fowler (PI) 9/30/2014-9/29/2017 Administration for Children and Families – Children's Bureau Housing Services in Child Welfare: Economic Evaluation of Systems Coordination
- 2015-2016 **Doctoral Research Assistant**
University of Texas - Austin
Project: Meta-analysis of school-based mental health interventions by teachers
Investigators: Cynthia Franklin, PhD, Johnny S. Kim, PhD, Katherine Montgomery, PhD, Saras Chung, MSW, & Aaron Thompson, PhD
- 2014-2016 **Primary Investigator**
Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work

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Project: Suicide attempts from adolescence into adulthood using Add Health
Co-PI: Peter Hovmand, PhD

2012-2016 **Doctoral Research Assistant**

Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work, School of Psychology

Projects: Emotion regulation in adolescence;
Developmental view of systems thinking and system dynamics in organizations
Primary Investigator: Peter Hovmand, PhD

Project: Universal school-based programs to improve academic achievement and school behaviors through youth development and social and emotional learning.
Primary Investigator: Amanda Moore McBride, PhD

Project: Longitudinal social, emotional and behavioral effects of Head Start from childhood to adolescence (National Longitudinal Survey of Youth – Children and Youth)
Primary Investigator: Joshua Jackson, PhD

Project: Intra-ethnic differences in violent behaviors for sub-ethnic groups of Latino adolescents based on neighborhood structural characteristics (Add Health)
Primary Investigator: Lorena Estrada-Martinez, PhD, MPH

2009-2012 **Research and Operations Manager**

Wyman Center, St. Louis, MO

Managed program replication contracting, distribution and quality improvement for an evidence-based SAMHSA/NREPP listed positive youth development and service learning programs in schools funded by the HHS Office of Adolescent Health. Executive & Board of Trustees Support and Coordination.

2006-2009 **Associate Director**

Nest, St. Louis, MO

Internationally recognized organization by the UN and other notable corporations as leading the gold standard in ethical handcraft in fashion. Managed operations and marketing to support women in developing countries through \$20K seed funding awarded by Washington University's Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition (IdeaBounce).

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

2017-Present **Washington University in St. Louis – Brown School of Social Work** *Adjunct Professor*

- Developed and taught graduate-level courses on System Dynamics and Policy for Children and Youth. Mentored over 50 students in research and professional development.
- Adopted innovative flipped teaching methods to foster student success

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Course Titles:

- Designing Sustainable Social Policies and Practices: A System Dynamics Approach
Community Based System Dynamics
- Policies and Services for Children & Youth

Guest Speaker

- Department of Education, Politics of Education Class

Lab Instructor/Teaching Assistant

Course Titles:

- Foundations of Data Analysis – Doctoral Level Course
- Statistics Bootcamp for First Year Doctoral Students
- Policies and Programs for Children & Youth - Masters Social Work

Olin School of Business - Philanthropy Forward Initiative

Guest Speaker (2024, 2025)

- Provide interactive systems thinking training for a select group of philanthropist fellows

2010-Present	Masters of Social Work Practicum Instructor, Washington University in St. Louis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided practicum supervision for MSW students interested in system dynamics and child/youth development• Mentored Gephardt Service Students
March 2017	Dartington Social Research Unit (London/Dartington, United Kingdom) <i>Lead Consultant/Instructor of Skills Labs with WashU Social System Design Lab</i> Topic: Mental Health and Children's Services in the UK
2016-Present	Washington University in St. Louis Social System Design Lab Changing Systems <i>Director and Facilitation Consultant</i> Changing Systems – Student Summit on gun violence, youth homelessness, educational equity, school-based mental health, racism in schools
2014	The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation <i>Gates Foundation Retreat Workshop Facilitator</i>

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Chung, S. & O'Neill, E. (*under review*). Our clients navigate complexity and our methods can too. *Research on Social Work Practice*.

Schoenberg, W., Girard, D. **Chung, S.**, O'Neill, E., Velasquez, J., Metcalf, S. (*under review*). How well can AI build SD models? *System Dynamics Review*.

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- Keith, D., Yadama, A., O'Neill, E., & **Chung, S.** (2024). Anticipating the side effects of education systems reform using System Dynamics modeling. *Review of Research in Education*, 48, 1, 1-27.
- Chung, S.**, Matsumoto, R., Liem, W., & Chalise, N. (2024). Expanding early childhood education: The side-effects of well-meaning policies and interventions. *International Journal of Complexity in Education*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.26262/ijce.v5i1.10140>
- Chung, S.**, Hovmand, P., McBride, A. M., & Joiner, T. (2022). Suicide attempts during adolescence: Testing the system dynamics of the interpersonal theory of suicide. *Journal of Adolescence*, 1– 14. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jad.12051>
- Hovmand, P. Calzada, E. Gulbas, L., Kim, Su Yeon, **Chung, S.**, Kuhlberg, J. et al. (2022). System dynamics of cognitive vulnerabilities and family support among Latina children and adolescents. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 1-19.
- Fowler, P. J., Marcal, K. E., **Chung, S.**, Brown, D. S., Jonson-Reid, M., & Hovmand, P. S. (2019). Scaling up housing services within the child welfare system: Policy insights from simulation modeling. *Child Maltreatment*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519846431>
- Fowler, P.J., Schoeny, M., Brown, D. **Chung, S.** (2018). Homelessness in the child welfare system: A randomized control trial to assess the impact of permanent housing on foster care placements and costs. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 83, 52-61
- Robertson, A. S., McBride, A. M., **Chung, S.**, Williams, A. (2017). Sharing the classroom: A professional development opportunity for teachers and social workers. *Power and Education*, 9, 3, 161-176.
- Fowler, P. J., Farrell, A. F., Marcal, K. E., **Chung, S.** and Hovmand, P. S. (2017), Housing and child welfare: emerging evidence and implications for scaling up services. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 60, 1-2, 134-144. doi:10.1002/ajcp.12155
- Franklin, C., Kim, J., Beretvas, T., Zhang, A., Guz, S., Montgomery, C., **Chung, S.**, Maynard, B. (2017). The effectiveness of psychosocial interventions delivered by teachers in schools: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*.
- Chung, S.** & Lesorogol, C. (2016). Suicide and self-harm: A qualitative study of Korean American women's experiences during adolescence. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*.
- Moore McBride, A., **Chung, S.**, & Robertson, A. (2016). Preventing Academic Disengagement Through a Middle School-Based Social and Emotional Learning Program. *Journal of Experiential Education*, 39(4), 370-385. <https://doi-org.libproxy.wustl.edu/10.1177/1053825916668901>
- Chung, S.**, & McBride, A.M. (2015). Social and emotional learning in middle school curricula: A service learning model based on positive youth development. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 53, 192-200. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2015.04.008

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Boddie, S.C., Hong, P.Y.P., Im, H., and **Chung, S.** (2011). Korean-American churches as partners in community development. *Social Work & Christianity*, 38, 395-416.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Mulkern, P. Lindsey, B., **Chung, S.**, Wentz, A. (*in press*). Public school districts as policy battlegrounds. In T. Cox, A. Clayton, S. Caliboso-Soto, and L. Wobbe-Veit (Eds.), *Emerging trends in school social work: Responding to rapid change in educational ecosystems*. Oxford University Press.

King, A., Ansah, J., **Chung, S.** (2023). Call for submissions to the 2023 ISDC. *System Dynamics Review*, 39, 95-98.

Chung, S., Evans, S., Hernandez Kent, A., Coria, J. (2022). Expanding access to high-quality early care and education through a racial equity lens. *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis*. Available from <https://www.stlouisfed.org/community-development/publications/expanding-access-to-high-quality-early-care-education-through-racial-equity-lens>

Chung, S., Chalise, N., Matsumoto, R., O'Neill, E. (2021, June 1). Key ways to grow early childhood education offerings in St. Louis. *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis*. Available from <https://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/bridges/volume-2-2021/grow-early-childhood-education-stlouis>

Chung, S. (2017, September 11). Segregated schools in St. Louis are no accident. Huffington Post. Retrieved from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/educational-quality-wont-change-until-we-all-change-in-st-louis_us_59af9730e4b0b5e53101ea34?section=us_contributor

Robertson, A. S., McBride, A. M., **Chung, S.**, Williams, A., & May, V. (2015). [Social and emotional learning and social work in middle school: A case study in community partnership](#) (CSD Working Paper No. 15-39). St. Louis, MO: Washington University in St. Louis, Center for Social Development.

Robertson, A. S., McBride, A. M., **Chung, S.**, & Williams, A. (2014). Motivating students through classroom-based service learning: Toward adoption and impact. (CSD Working Paper 14-11). St. Louis, MO: Washington University, Center for Social Development.

McBride, A. M., Robertson, A., & **Chung, S.** (2014). [Assessing the impacts of service learning on middle school students: Wyman's Teen Outreach Program®](#) (CSD Research Report 14-09). St. Louis, MO: Washington University, Center for Social Development.

Chung, S. (2012, Feb. 9). Kellogg Foundation leader says race remains an issue. Nonprofit Quarterly. Retrieved from http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19796:kellogg-foundation-leader-says-race-remains-an-issue&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986

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Chung, S. (2012, Jan 31). U.S. to fund “Pay for Success” prevention programs. *Nonprofit Quarterly*. Retrieved from http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19516:us-to-fund-pay-for-success-prevention-programs&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986

Chung, S. (2012, Feb. 6). Red Cross and Wharton to study analytics from 500,000 donors. *Nonprofit Quarterly*. Retrieved from http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19686:red-cross-and-wharton-to-study-analytics-from-500000-donors&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986

Chung, S. (2012, Feb. 6). Will Facebook’s IPO millionaires share the wealth? *Nonprofit Quarterly*. Retrieved from http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19681:will-facebooks-ipo-millionaires-share-the-wealth&catid=155:nonprofit-newswire&Itemid=986

Chung, S. (2012, Jun. 22). Change.org Drops StudentsFirst and Stand for Children. *Nonprofit Quarterly*. Retrieved from <http://nonprofitquarterly.org/policysocial-context/20552-changeorg-drops-studentsfirst-and-stand-for-children.html>

Chung, S. (2011). Saras Chung with Nest: Business support for female artisans in developing countries. In M.L. Riberio (Eds.), *Country Living - The Mom’s Guide to Running a Business: Strategies for Work Success and Family Balance* (p. 144-149). New York, NY: Hearst Publications.

INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Chung, S. (2025, August). *Models that matter*. [Invited Keynote - International System Dynamics Student Conference. Boston, MA].

Chung, S. (2025, May). *Revisiting “Who’s model is it anyway?” Extending thoughts on community-based modeling for social and educational change*. [Invited Speaker - System Dynamics Society - Oceania Chapter SIG]. Virtual.

Chung, S., Chhabra, P. et al. (2025, April). *Crossing boundaries in translational research to address student mobility*. [Invited Speaker - AERA Presidential Session]. American Educational Research Association. Denver, Colorado.

Chung, S. (2025, December). *Harnessing community expertise to create system solutions in K-12*. [Keynote]. Tufts University Learning Collaborative.

Chung, S. (2024, March). *Education reform in complex systems*. Invited presentation at Google/SF Conference on Causation, Complexity, Cognition, Representation and Responsible AI, Virtual.

Chung, S. (2023, January 18). *The side effects of scaling early childhood education* [Presentation]. Institute for Economic Equity at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. St. Louis, MO.

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Chung, S. (2022, July 19). *How to reduce inequality using system dynamics* [Plenary Presentation]. International System Dynamics Conference. Frankfurt, Germany.

Chung, S., Scott, G. (2022, July 28). *How to use systems thinking to address complex problems in teen pregnancy prevention* [Plenary Presentation]. HHS Office of Population Affairs. Virtual.

Chung, S. (2022, May 18). *Mapping complex adaptive problems with a feedback lens using system dynamics* [Presentation]. Centers for Disease Control Policy Academy. Atlanta, Georgia. Virtual.

Chung, S. and Scott, G. (2022, July). *Tackling complex problems in teen pregnancy prevention using systems thinking*. [Plenary] United States Office of Population Affairs Annual Teen Pregnancy Prevention Conference, Virtual.

Chung, S. (2022, May). *Mapping complex adaptive problems with a feedback lens using system dynamics*. [Plenary] United States Centers for Disease Control Policy Academy, Virtual.

Chung, S. (2022). *How to reduce inequality using system dynamics*. [Plenary] International System Dynamics Society, Frankfurt, Germany.

Chung, S. Chalise, N., Matsumoto, R., Butler, H., Liem, W., O'Neill, E. (2020). *Challenges and opportunities of intervening in an early childhood education system*. [Plenary] International System Dynamics Society, Bergen, Norway.

Chung, S. (2019). *Thinking differently about PreK-12 and system dynamics: A call to action*. [Plenary]. International System Dynamics Society, Albuquerque, NM.

Chung, S. (2018). *Community engagement for innovation*. [Presentation]. Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement Community Engagement Summit, St. Louis, MO.

Chung, S. (2018, August 5). *Radical listening. Courageous thinking*. [Keynote]. International System Dynamics Conference Student Colloquium. Reykjavik, Iceland.

Stuntz, L., Benson, T., **Chung, S.**, Fisher, D., LaVigne, A., Orphen, G. (2018). *What's happening in pre-college education in the United States?* [Panelist] International System Dynamics Society, Cambridge, MA.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Yadama, A., Keith, D., O'Neill, E., Chung, S. (2024). *Halting the decline of U.S. public education systems* [Presentation]. International System Dynamics Conference, Bergen, Norway.

Yadama, A., Keith, D., O'Neill, E., Chung, S. (2023). *The dynamics of public education decline* [Roundtable]. American Educational Research Conference, Chicago, IL.

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- Chung, S. O'Neill, E., Carter-Oliver, C., Adams, K., Garrett, K. (2023). *Developing a shared action plan for the future of public education in St. Louis City* [Presentation]. Society for Social Work Research, Phoenix, AZ.
- Chung, S., Chalise, N., Matsumoto, R. (2022). *Scaling early childhood: the system dynamics of well-meaning policies and interventions to grow access* [Roundtable]. American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Chalise, N., Matsumoto, R., Butler, H., Liem, W., Chung, S. (2020). *Challenges and opportunities of intervening in an early childhood education system* [Presentation]. International System Dynamics Conference, Bergen, Norway (virtual).
- Chung, S. & Liem, W. (2020). *Parent perspectives on the dynamics of abuse, neglect, and quality in early childhood education care systems* [Presentation]. Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC.
- Chung, S., Downing, L., Farran, E., Hess, Cl., Hicks, T., Leim, W. (2019). Parent and caregiver perspectives impeding the adoption of early childhood education in urban cities with concentrated poverty [Presentation]. *International System Dynamics Conference*, Albuquerque, NM.
- Chung, S. & Hovmand, P. (2017). *Preventing suicide attempts in diverse groups of adolescents: A system dynamics approach*. In Mark W. Fraser (Chair), Developmental approaches to understanding, preventing, and intervening in behavioral health disparities among early adolescents. Symposium conducted at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Fowler, P. & Chung, S. (2017). *Housing instability in the child welfare system: Interventions and Costs*. [Presentation]. Administration for Children and Families, Washington, DC.
- Fowler, F., Schoeny, M., Brown, D., Chung, S. (2017). *Homelessness and child welfare: A longitudinal randomized controlled trial testing the Family Unification Program on formal and informal out-of-home placements*. Symposium presentation conducted at the annual conference of the Society for Community Action Research, Ottawa, Canada.
- Fowler, P. J., & Chung, S. (2016). *Housing services in the child welfare system: Economic evaluation of systems coordination* [Presentation]. Administration for Children and Families Children's Bureau Annual Grantees Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- Chung, S. & Hovmand, P. (2016). *Reducing suicide attempts from adolescence to adulthood: A system dynamics perspective* [Presentation]. Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Conference. Baltimore, MD.
- Chung, S. (2015). *A systems perspective to identify areas of leverage to reduce depression and suicidality in minority adolescents* [Presentation]. Asian Pacific-Islander Social Work Education Association CSWE Conference. Denver, CO.

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- Chung, S. & Hovmand, P. (2015). *Unwanted emotions in adolescence: Examining the effectiveness of emotion regulation from a feedback perspective* [Presentation]. International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC) Annual Conference. Cambridge, MA.
- Odenthal, M., Zoellner, N., Chung, S. Kuhlberg, J., Hovmand, P. (2015). *Transforming race 2015: How system dynamics is helping shape the response to Ferguson, MO* [Presentation]. International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC) Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA.
- Chung, S. & Lesorogol, C. (2015). *Suicide and self-harm: A qualitative study of Korean American women's experiences during adolescence* [Presentation]. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.
- McBride, A. M., Robertson, A., & Chung, S. (2014). *Transformative partnerships for schools of social work, middle schools, and community organizations* [Presentation]. Council for Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Conference. Tampa, FL.
- Estrada-Martinez, L., Chung, S., Metzger, M., Butler-Barnes, S. (2013). *Effects of neighborhood social and structural characteristics on intra-ethnic disparities in youth violence among Latinos* [Presentation]. American Public Health Association. Boston, MA.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Marcal, K., Fowler, P., **Chung, S.** (2017, July). Homelessness in the child welfare system: Barriers for safety, permanency, and well-being. Poster presented at the International System Dynamics Conference, Cambridge, MA.
- Chung, S.**, Gerghel, S., Pitzer, K., Allen, R., Brown, J., Hovmand, P. ... (2016, November). Gun Violence: Eliciting solutions from youth using community based system dynamics. Poster presented at the Institute for Public Health Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- Chung, S.**, & Hovmand, P. (2016, November). Preventing suicide attempts in diverse groups of adolescents: A system dynamics approach. Poster presented at the Institute for Public Health Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- McBride, A.M., Robertson, A., & **Chung, S.** (2016, January). Preventing School Disciplinary Incidents through Interagency Collaborations in Middle School: A Mixed-Methods Study. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Washington, D.C.
- Chung, S.** (2015, July). Preventing suicide and depression in adolescence and young adulthood: A system dynamics perspective. Poster presented at the International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC) PhD Colloquium, Cambridge, MA.
- Threlfall, J. **Chung, S.** (2015, April). Parent involvement in college access programs: A synthesis of the empirical literature. Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Chicago, IL.

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- Chung, S.** (2014). Universal, school-based depression prevention programs for adolescents: A systematic review of SEL and CBT programs. American Public Health Association (APHA), New Orleans, LA.
- Chung, S.,** Hoard, J., & Hovmand, P. S. (2014, July). Assessing a team or organization's use of system dynamics: A developmental framework. Poster presented at the International Society for System Dynamics Conference, Delft, Netherlands.
- Chung, S.** and Moore McBride, A. (2014, April). Delivering positive youth development in school curricula: Outcomes from a service learning model. Poster presented at Washington University's Research WithOut Walls (RWoW), St. Louis, MO.
- Chung, S.** (2014, April). Widening the achievement gap: examining the unintended consequences of the Common Core State Standards in education using system dynamics modeling. Poster presented at Washington University's 20th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium, St. Louis, MO.
- Chung, S.** & Moore McBride, A. (2014, March). Integrating social and emotional learning in middle school curriculum: a service learning model. Poster presented at the 17th National School Social Work Conference, Chicago, IL.

SELECTED CONSULTING

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 2025 | Kansas City Food System Philanthropic Learning Circles
<i>Facilitator:</i> Understanding food systems and where to support for long-term thriving |
| 2024, 2025 | WashU Philanthropy Forward Training Cohort
Presenter and Consultant: Taking a systems thinking approach to your philanthropy |
| 2022 | St. Louis County Children's Services Fund
<i>Lead Consultant:</i> Needs assessment using Community Based System Dynamics
school mental and emotional health |
| 2018-2020 | Google and X, the Moonshot Company
<i>System Dynamics Expert</i> |

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- **International System Dynamics Society (SDS)** (2014-Present)
 - **Policy Council Nominating Committee Member** (2024-Present)
 - Participate in committee activities to review and nominate leadership positions for the SDS.
 - **Vice President of Professional Practice** (2021-2024)

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- Led initiatives to enhance the practice of system dynamics in academic and professional settings. Organized international conference experiences for professional practitioners.
- **International System Dynamics Conference Chair**
 - Conference Program Chair (Chicago, IL 2023)
 - Thread Chair and Plenary Chair (Bergen, Norway, 2020-2021)
- **Board Membership Roles**
 - WashU Brown School National Council Member (2024-2025)
 - St. Louis Go Marathon, Board of Trustees (2023-Present)
 - Waters Center for Systems Thinking - Board Member (2021-2024)
- **Advisory Roles**
 - St. Louis Research Practice Collaborative (SRPC), Co-Founder (2020-Current)
 - St. Louis Community Foundation Youth Connections Advisory Committee (2025)
 - Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Comprehensive Data System Advisory Group (2024)
 - St. Louis University School of Education, Dean's Advisory Council (2021-Present)
 - St. Louis Community Foundation - Advisory Board Member for the Facebook Black Communities Investment Initiative (2021-2022)
 - Turn the Page STL Advisory (2019- 2022)
 - City Garden Montessori Academic Advisory Committee (2019-2020)
 - Missouri State Needs Assessment Advisory Committee on Early Childhood (2019-2020)
 - EdHubSTL Advisory Board Member (2017-2019)
 - SLU PriME Center, Community Advisory Board (2019)
 - First Steps to Equity - Early Childhood Advisory Council, St. Louis (2017-2020)
 - Wyman Center – Program Committee Research and Learning Committee (2016-2017)
 - Southern Arizona Public Schools Improvement Think Tank with Superintendents and Principals – Waters Foundation (Invited expert, Oct. 20, 2015).
 - Washington University PhD Administrative Committee Student Member (September 2012-Present); Curriculum & Dissertation Subcommittee Workgroup (September 2015-present)

GRANTS

James S. McDonnell Foundation (JSMF), “St. Louis Translational Fellows in Education” (2023-2029)

Postdoctoral Training Grant for School Research Practice-Partnership
\$3,562,246

Andrew Butler (PI), Gary Ritter, and **Saras Chung**, Rachel Ruggirellow

National Network of Educational Research Practice Partnerships (NNERPP) Youth Voice (2025)

Youth Voice in Research-Practice Partnerships
\$7,500

Saras Chung (PI), Andrew Butler, Jay Hartman, Candice Carter-Oliver

Saras Chung, PhD, MSW

Associate Director of Research
Brown School of Social Work
Washington University in St. Louis
4240 Duncan Ave., Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63110
saras@skipdesigned.com

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	Missouri Foundation for Health Spark Award Nominee
2020	LaunchCode MoonShot Nominee / Challenge Category
2017	KINESSES Super Collider Award, Venture Cafe STL
2015	Social System Design Lab, WashU Dissertation Fellowship
2015	Asian American Pacific Islanders in Social Work Education (APISWEA) CSWE Fellowship
2014	International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) Mentoring Fellowship Sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the University of Chicago Chapin Hall
2014	System Dynamics Society – International System Dynamics Conference Scholarship
2012-2016	PhD Scholarship - Full Tuition and Stipend – Washington University in St. Louis
2011	Country Living's Mom's Guide to Running a Business – Featured as a profile of success
2004-2006	The Chancellor's List, Washington University of St. Louis – Brown School of Social Work
2004-2006	Aung San Suu Kyi Scholarship, Washington University of St. Louis

RESEARCH SKILLS

- System Dynamics Modeling
- Community Based System Dynamics
- Quantitative Research
- Qualitative Research

SOFTWARE PACKAGES

- SAS/SPSS/R – high proficiency
- Stella Architect – high proficiency
- Vensim PLE/DSS– high proficiency

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- System Dynamics Society (ISDC), Policy Council
- Society for Social Work Research (SSWR), School Social Work SIG Member
- American Educational Research Association (AERA), Complexity in Education SIG Member

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Korean (conversational)

CITIZENSHIP - United States of America