

# NICOLE SAITO

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## Advice

A great place to start with research is asking a professor you're close with if they need research assistance or if they can provide you guidance in picking your topic, choosing your methodology, and setting your goals. I've had two great opportunities come out of taking initiative this way, both in qualitative and quantitative research: I have been able to complete an independent 30+ page article in political science and contribute to an article written by a professor in economics. As for fellowships and scholarships, in my experience, good outcomes follow from good practice. Apply to many scholarships or fellowships and use their application processes to figure out what kind of message you want to send and how you are going to communicate it. And don't be afraid to ask for advice and opportunities within your college and network with professors! I participated in an economics fellowship this summer which I heard about from, and was encouraged to apply by, one of my professors. Forging good relationships with Chapman faculty will only help bring you new opportunities—plus, you will likely need letters of recommendation.

## Current Research

Within a paradigm of interest-based identity politics, I analyze conflicts between different minority groups in the state of Hawaii as they compete for political legitimacy and authority over scarce land and cultural resources. I pay special attention to the way ethnic identities are mobilized through the construction of social memory of tragedy and perceived injustices, such as the incarceration during WWII of Japanese Americans. The conflicts between Japanese Americans and the indigenous Hawaiian peoples, often obscured by the overrepresentation of white residents as the sole colonists in the islands, provides great insight into the nuances of horizontal oppression and racism. I primarily focus on two major events for both communities: the battle for Hawaiian statehood in 1959, and the ongoing controversy over the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea.



## Involvements

- Director of Recruitment, Kappa Alpha Pi pre-law co-ed fraternity
- Membership Chair
- Mortar Board Senior Honors Society
- Co-President Asian Pacific Political Alliance
- Chapman Ambassadors
- Research Assistant -Smith Institute
- Tutor for Tutoring Learning Center

## Awards & Distinctions

- International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics
- Summer Scholars Fellowship Recipient
- Chapman University Presidential Scholar
- Deans List (2018-2020)

## Conferences

- Student Scholar Symposium