

Tom Wong

Associate Professor of Political Science at UC San Diego

La Jolla, CA, US

Tom K. Wong's research focuses on the politics of immigration and how it links to race, ethnicity and identity.

Biography

Wong is founding director of the U.S. Immigration Policy Center at UC San Diego and is an associate professor of political science at the university. He recently served as an advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) under the Obama administration and currently serves on the State of California's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee (CCC). He is also director of the International Migration Studies Program Minor. His research focuses on the politics of immigration, citizenship, and migrant "illegality." As these issues have far-reaching implications, his work also explores the links between immigration, race and ethnicity, and the politics of identity. His first book, "Rights, Deportation, and Detention in the Age of Immigration Control", analyzes the immigration control policies of twenty-five Western immigrant-receiving democracies (Stanford University Press, 2015). In analyzing over 30,000 roll call votes on immigration-related legislation in Congress since 2005, his second book, "The Politics of Immigration: Partisanship, Demographic Change, and American National Identity" (Oxford University Press, 2016), represents the most comprehensive analysis to date on the contemporary politics of immigration in the United States. Wong's research has been used by policymakers both in the U.S. and in Mexico, as well as by organizations that serve immigrant communities. Wong and his work has been covered by The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, NPR and major media outlets across the country. He is also on the leadership committee of the California Immigrant Policy Center and the board of New American Leaders. Wong also consults on campaigns and elections, specializing in mobilizing low-propensity voters of color and immigrant communities.

Areas of Expertise

Immigrant Civic Engagement, Interior Immigration Enforcement, DACA, Immigration Policy, Sanctuary Policies, Border Wall

Education

UC, Riverside

Ph.D. Political Science

UC, Riverside

B.A. Political Science

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