

Aram Hur

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Academic Positions

University of Missouri, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, in 2019 fall

New York University, Postdoctoral scholar, Wagner School of Public Service, 2015—present

- Visiting Scholar, 2018—present
- Provost Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2015-18

Education

Princeton University, Ph.D. and M.A. in Politics, 2015

Committee: Christopher Achen (chair), Mark Beissinger, Evan Lieberman, Robert Wuthnow

Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, M.P.P., 2009

Stanford University, B.A. in Communication (with honors) and English, 2007

Research & Teaching Interests

Comparative and international politics, identity politics, nationalism and democracy, migration and refugees, political integration, mixed-methods, East Asia and the Korean peninsula

Book Project

Democratic Grit: The National Roots of Democratic Resilience in East Asia

The East Asian democracies—particularly the younger South Korea and Taiwan—were part of what Samuel Huntington called the third wave of democratization through the developing world. Yet as many of those democracies backslide, and even advanced democracies like the United States and Britain are shaken by populist upheavals, it appears that the fourth wave will be marked less by the birth of new democracies and more by the survival of existing ones. So the question of what drives citizens to stand by and support their democracies through adversity—the source of what can be described as democratic “grit”—has gained an alarming sense of urgency. Nowhere is that question more relevant than in East Asia, as China and North Korea’s undaunted rise continue to pull the gravitational center of world politics eastward. What, then, motivates democratic grit in ordinary citizens? I find that a powerful source lies in something that has typically been seen as a democratic weakness in East Asia: strong nationalism. I focus specifically on the moral capacity of nationalism to instill intrinsic obligations to collective welfare, even in the absence of formal rules or expectation of payoffs. I show that this moral capital can either help or hinder democracies based on perceptions of representational linkage between “my” nation and the state. Through a main comparison of South Korea and Taiwan, where different nationalist strategies yielded contrasting linkage, I uncover the moral logic by which nationalism—typically seen as a blind and irrational threat to democracies—actually works *for* democratic resilience by fostering a widespread sense of democratic grit.

Publications

Articles

2019. "Refugee Perceptions toward Democratic Citizenship: A Narrative Analysis of North Koreans." *Comparative Politics*. [Forthcoming](#).
2018. "Citizen Duty and the Ethical Power of Communities: Mixed-method Evidence from East Asia." *British Journal of Political Science*. [First View](#).
2018. "[Adapting to Democracy: National Identity and the Political Development of North Korean Defectors](#)." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 18(1): 97-115.
2017. "[Is there an Intrinsic Duty to Vote? Comparative Evidence from East and West Germans](#)." *Electoral Studies* 45: 55-62.
2013. "[Coding Voter Turnout Responses in the Current Population Survey](#)." With Christopher Achen. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 77(4): 985-993.
2011. "[Civic Duty and Turnout in Japan and South Korea](#)." With Christopher Achen. *Korean Election Studies* 1(2): 45-68.

Book Reviews

2018. *Change and Continuity in North Korean Politics*. Edited by Adam Cathcart, Robert Winstanley-Chesters, and Christopher Green. *Pacific Affairs* 91(4): 821-823.

Media

2018. "[The next 'Korea problem' may be about the growing identity divide on the peninsula](#)." February 21, 2018. *Washington Post, Monkey Cage*.

Works in Progress

- "How Nationalist Surges Shape the Policy Agenda," with Tony Bertelli (NYU) (Under review)
- "North Korea's Sharp Power and the Divide over Korean Identities"
- Invited for publication in the Korea Economic Institute's *Joint U.S.-Korea Academic Studies*
- "National Identity and Reasons for Reunification on the Korean Peninsula"
- "From Content to Context: Rethinking Nationalism and Democratic Support"

Fellowships, Grants, Awards

- U.S.-Korea NextGen Scholar, CSIS Korea Chair and USC Korean Studies, 2018-19
One of eleven junior/mid-career scholars selected nationwide as "the next generation of Korea specialists in the United States"
- Japan-America Women Political Scientists Symposium, selected participant, APSA, 2018
- NYU, Wagner School of Public Service, Student Research Collaborative Grant (with Tony Bertelli), 2016
- Harvard University, The Korea Institute, Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2015-16 (declined)
- Vanderbilt University, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2015-16 (declined)
- Princeton Institute of International and Regional Studies, Dissertation Fellowship, 2014-2015 (\$26,727)
- Mamdouha Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, research grants, 2011, 2012, 2013 (\$12,100)
- Princeton Institute of International and Regional Studies, research grant, 2012 (\$1,500)
- Princeton East Asian Studies Department, research grant, 2012 (\$2,000)

- Princeton University Graduate Fellowship, 2009-2014
- Shorenstein Center Scholar, Harvard Kennedy School, 2007-2009 (full graduate tuition)
- Kwanjeong Foundation National Scholar, South Korea, 2003-2007 (full undergraduate tuition)

Invited Talks & Conferences

Invited Talks

- 2018, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Sociology, “Rethinking East Asia and the World: Politics, Education, and Society”
- 2018, University of Missouri, Department of Political Science and Truman School of Public Affairs
- 2018, NYU, Liberal Studies, “North Korea: What Happens Next”
- 2018, Temple University, Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, “The Next Korea Problem: Identity Politics and the Peninsula”
- 2017, UCLA, Department of Political Science and Center for Korean Studies
- 2015, Brown University, Watson Institute for International Studies
- 2015, West Virginia University, Department of Political Science

Selected Conferences

- 2019, ISA, invited panelist on Korea Economic Institute’s “Sharp Power and Value Diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific”
- 2018, AAS, panel organizer for “After Defection: Identity Politics of Integrating North Korean Refugees”
- 2018, George Washington University, Institute for Korean Studies Signature Conference, “The Evolution of Rights in Korea”
- 2017, UCSD, North Korea Workshop
- 2017, Wesleyan University, The Catalyst Workshop on Policymaking in East Asia
- 2013, International Conference on Asia-Pacific Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan
- 2013, Asian Election Studies International Conference, National Chengchi University, Taiwan
- 2012, Taiwan’s Election and Democratization Study Conference, National Chengchi University, Taiwan
- 2012, Asian Election Studies International Conference, Daejeon, South Korea
- 2012, McGill-Princeton Voter Turnout Workshop
- 2010, Comparative Political Behavior and Taiwan Politics Conference, Princeton University
- Regular attendee of annual meetings of APSA, MPSA, AAS

Teaching

NYU, Wagner School of Public Service

- *Policy Formation and Policy Analysis* (2017 spring)
- *Political Participation and Policy* (2016 J-term, 2018 spring)
- *Capstone: Advanced Research Projects in Applied Research* (2015-16, 2017-18)

Service & Other

Reviewer: *Journal of Politics, World Politics, Comparative Politics, Electoral Studies, Journal of Public Policy, Pacific Affairs, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, International Migration Review*

Member: APSA, MPSA, Conference Group on Taiwan Studies, Association for Asian Studies

Fieldwork: Taiwan (visiting scholar, Election Study Center at National Chengchi University)
South Korea (visiting scholar, North Korean Studies Department, Korea University; collaborator, National Election Commission)

Citizenship: U.S. (March 16, 2018)

Languages: Korean (native)