

Aram Hur

University of Missouri
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Academic positions

University of Missouri

Assistant Professor, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, 2019—present

- Co-Director of the MU Institute for Korean Studies, 2020—present

New York University

Visiting Scholar, Wagner School of Public Service, 2018—2019
Provost Postdoctoral Fellow, Wagner School of Public Service, 2015—2018

Education

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

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

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

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

Research & teaching interests

Comparative and international politics, nationalism and democracy, migration and citizenship, mixed-method casual inference, Korean and East Asian politics

Book project

Narratives of Civic Duty: How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia

(Forthcoming in November 2022, Cornell University Press)

Democracies rely a great deal on widespread civic duty in both ordinary and extraordinary times. What explains this moral obligation to be a good citizen? Why do some people feel it, but not others? I show that the answer lies not in democratic culture or character, as often assumed, but in the national identity politics within a given democracy. National stories, and the relational linkages they draw between a national people and the state in which they live, powerfully shape the boundaries of civic duty.

Publications

Journal articles

2020. “Citizen Duty and the Ethical Power of Communities: Mixed-method Evidence from East Asia.” *British Journal of Political Science* 50(3): 1047-1065.

2020. “Refugee Perceptions toward Democratic Citizenship: A Narrative Analysis of North Koreans.” *Comparative Politics* 52(3): 473-493.

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.

- Media coverage in [New York Times](#), [Pew Research Center](#)

2011. “Civic Duty and Turnout in Japan and South Korea.” With Christopher Achen. *Korean Election Studies* 1(2): 45-68.

Book chapters

2022. “Uses and Misuses of Nationalism in the Democratic Politics of Korea,” in *South Korea’s Democracy in Crisis*, Gi-Wook Shin and Ho-Ki Kim Eds., Stanford Shorenstein APARC series. Forthcoming in English and Korean in April, 2022.

2019. “North Korea’s Sharp Power and the Divide Over Korean Identities.” *Joint U.S.-Korea Academic Studies*, Vol. 30. Korea Economic Institute.

Review articles

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

Other writings

2021. [“South Korea’s Demographic Crisis is Challenging Its National Story.”](#) Compendium on Demographics and the Future of South Korea, *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, June 29, 2021.

2020. [“Episode 3: The Upside of Nationalism.”](#) *Scope Conditions* Podcast.

2020. [“Why Taiwan’s Humanitarian Assistance to Hong Kong Matters.”](#) with Sheena Greitens. *Foreign Policy*. July 2, 2020.

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

Works in progress

- “Migrant Integration and the Psychology of National Belonging”
- “Democratic Ceilings in East Asia: The Long Shadow of Nationalist Polarization, with Andrew Yeo
- “How National Narratives Change: Testing Theories of Inclusivity in South Korea,” with Gidong Kim
- “Democratic Exclusion: Explaining Nativist Response to Newcomers,” with Jae Yeon Kim

Fellowships, grants, awards

- *The Korea Society*, Sherman Emerging Scholar Awardee, 2021
- U.S.-Korea NextGen Scholar, CSIS Korea Chair and USC Korean Studies, 2018—2019
Selected in national competition as “the next generation of Korea specialists in the United States”
- NYU, Wagner School of Public Service, Student Research Collaborative Grant (with Anthony Bertelli), 2016
- Harvard University, The Korea Institute, Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2015—2016 (declined)
- Vanderbilt University, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2015—2016 (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)
- Shorenstein Center Scholar, Harvard Kennedy School, 2007—2009 (full graduate tuition)
- Kwanjeong Foundation National Scholar, South Korea, 2003—2007 (full undergraduate tuition)

Selected talks and conferences

Regular participant at annual meetings of APSA, ISA, AAS

2021

- University of Michigan, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, Roundtable Discussion on “Democratic Ceilings.”
- Association for the Study of Nationalities, Roundtable discussant for “Nationalism: What We Know and What We Still Need to Know,” Harris Mylonas and Maya Tudor, *Annual Review of Political Science*
- Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), ETHNIC GOODS Workshop on Consequences of Nationalism
- University of Pennsylvania, Penn Development Research Initiative (PDRI), Barriers and Bridges to Immigrants’ Integration Conference, “National Belonging and Limits to Civic Integration”
- The Korea Society, Sherman Family Emerging Scholar Lecture, [“Korea’s Changing National Story and Democratic Future”](#)
- University of Pennsylvania, Center for East Asian Studies, “Democratic Ceilings in East Asia: The Long Shadow of Nationalist Polarization”
- Stanford University, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, “Are South Korean Liberals Truly Liberal?”

2020

- Stanford University, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, “Is Korean Democracy in Crisis?”
- UCSD, School of Global Policy and Strategy, Korea-Pacific Program, “National Belonging and Civic Integration: Evidence from North Korean Refugees”
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “The U.S.-South Korea Alliance and East Asia”
- National Committee on North Korea (NCNK), Emerging Scholars Series, “North Korean Refugees as Democratic Citizens in South Korea”

2019

- University of Southern California, Center for International Studies, Working Paper Series
- University of Pennsylvania, Identity & Conflict Lab, “Conference on Immigration: Research Frontiers and Policy Challenges”

- Korea Economic Institute, “Sharp Power and Value Diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific,” ISA invited panelist

2018

- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Sociology, “Rethinking East Asia and the World: Politics, Education, and Society”
- University of Missouri, Department of Political Science & Truman School of Public Affairs
- Japan-American Women Political Scientists Symposium, APSA
- George Washington University, Institute for Korean Studies, Signature Conference on “The Evolution of Rights in Korea”
- NYU, Liberal Studies, “North Korea: What Happens Next”
- Temple University, Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, “The Next Korea Problem: Identity Politics and the Peninsula”

2017

- Wesleyan University, The Catalyst Workshop on Policymaking in East Asia
- UCSD, School of Global Policy and Strategy, North Korea Workshop
- UCLA, Department of Political Science & Center for Korean Studies

2015

- Brown University, Watson Institute for International Studies
- West Virginia University, Department of Political Science

2012-2013

- McGill-Princeton University Voter Turnout Workshop
- Asian Election Studies International Conference (Daejeon, South Korea)
- International Conference on Asia-Pacific Studies (National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan)

Teaching

University of Missouri

Department of Political Science

- *Nationalism and Democracy*, undergraduate
- *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, graduate
- *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*, graduate
- *Research Design and Qualitative Methods*, graduate

Truman School of Public Affairs

- *The Public and Policy Change*, MPA
- *Public Service and Democracy*, MPA/online

NYU, Wagner School of Public Service

- *Policy Formation and Policy Analysis*, MPA core
- *Capstone: Advanced Research Projects in Applied Research*, MPA core
- *Political Participation and Policy*

Service

To the University of Missouri

- MU Institute for Korean Studies (IKS), Co-Director, 2020—present
 - Launched inaugural IKS Undergraduate & Graduate Fellows Programs
 - Launched inaugural IKS Symposium for Korea-related research across university
 - Organized and hosted active external speaker series
- TSPA-PS Merger Planning Committee, 2020
- Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of Political Science, 2019—present
- International Initiatives Committee, Truman School of Public Affairs, 2019—present

To the Discipline

- Panel Organizer
 - “Democratic Ceilings: The Curious Stability of Low-Quality Democracies,” APSA 2022
 - “Nationalist Politics in Asia,” Democracy and Autocracy section, APSA 2020
 - “Inequalities in East Asian Democracies,” with Sara Newland, AAS 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19)
 - “After Defection: Identity Politics of Integrating North Korean Refugees,” AAS 2018
 - “Drivers of Democratic Change,” with Joan Cho, MPSA 2016
- Editorial Board Member, *Asian Survey*, October 2021—present
- Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Asian Survey*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Public Policy*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *International Migration Review*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Korea Journal*, *Party Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Korean Studies*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Korea Observer*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*
- Professional Memberships: APSA (2009—present), MPSA (2012—present), Association for Asian Studies (2017—present), Conference Group on Taiwan Studies (2013—2015)

Other

Fieldwork affiliations/collaborations

- Taiwan: Visiting Scholar, Election Study Center, National Chengchi University (2013)
- South Korea: Visiting Scholar, North Korean Studies Department, Korea University (2013), National Election Commission (2013), Hanawon (2018)

Citizenship: United States (March 16, 2018)

Languages: Korean (native)

Last updated: April 2022