

Aram Hur

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Academic positions

University of Missouri

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019—present
Assistant Professor, Truman School of Public Affairs, 2019—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 identity politics, democratic stability and survival, migration and integration, mixed-method causal inference, East Asia and Korea

Book project

Duty to Nation: How Nationalism Works for Democracy in Asia (Under review)

For many reasons, democracy was set up to fail in East Asia. What explains democracy's perseverance against the odds? When performance and institutions falter, the last bastion against democratic breakdown often falls on the tenacity of ordinary citizens: their sense of moral obligation to do what it takes for the survival of their democracy, even at a cost. The book asks what drives this kind of citizen duty in democracies—why some individuals feel it while others do not, and why some democracies have more of it than others. I show that the answer lies not in some endowed aspect of culture or character, but in the national identity politics within a given democracy.

Publications

Articles

2020. "Refugee Perceptions toward Democratic Citizenship: A Narrative Analysis of North Koreans." *Comparative Politics*. [Forthcoming](#).

2020. "Citizen Duty and the Ethical Power of Communities: Mixed-method Evidence from East Asia." *British Journal of Political Science*. [Forthcoming](#).

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

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

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 Refugees Define Successful Integration and Why It Matters: Evidence from Korea” (working paper)

“Nationalist Surges and the Policy Agenda,” with Anthony Bertelli (working paper)

“Threats to Nation and Nativist Support for Democracy”

“Democratic Ceilings in Asia: An Institutional Culture Approach,” with Andrew Yeo

Fellowships, grants, awards

- 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)

Invited talks & conferences

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 panel

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, “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), Taiwan’s Election and Democratization Study Conference (National Chengchi University, Taiwan), International Conference on Asia-Pacific Studies (National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan)

Participant at most annual meetings of APSA, MPSA, AAS, ISA

Teaching

University of Missouri

- *Nationalism and Democracy*, Department of Political Science, undergraduate
- *The Public and Policy Change*, Truman School of Public Affairs, graduate

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

- Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, 2019—2020
- International Committee, Truman School of Public Affairs, 2019—2020

To the Discipline

- Panel Organizer
 - “Inequalities in East Asian Democracies,” with Sara Newland, AAS 2020
 - “After Defection: Identity Politics of Integrating North Korean Refugees,” AAS 2018
 - “Drivers of Democratic Change,” with Joan Cho, MPSA 2016
- Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Public Policy*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *International Migration Review*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Korea Journal*
- 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: December 2019