

Aram Hur

Postdoctoral Scholar, New York University
2018-19 CSIS U.S.-Korea NextGen Scholar

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Academic Positions

New York University, Postdoctoral Scholar, Wagner School of Public Service, 2015—present
Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, 2015

Education

Princeton University, Ph.D. and M.A. in Politics, 2015
Committee: Christopher Achen, 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, nationalism and democracy, political integration of refugees and minorities, political participation and public policy, survey and experimental methods, East Asia and Korea

Book Project

Dutiful Democracy: How Nations Hold Democracies Together (Submitted to university press)

If being a good democratic citizen is costly, then why do individuals willingly comply with democratic norms? Prior works suggest that they do out of contractual trust, but say little about when that trust is broken. What holds democracies together through hard times, when payoffs largely fail? What pushes citizens to hold steadfast to democratic norms in the face of crisis or democratic backsliding? I show that nationalism—typically seen as a violent, destabilizing force—serves as that “moral glue” for many citizens in practice. Political theorists have long recognized the moral coerciveness of the nation, but why it holds some democracies together and tears others apart is not well understood. I show that national obligation interacts with beliefs about the status of “my” nation in the eyes of the state to produce a tractable logic. When “my” nation is seen as represented by the state—when nation-state linkage is strong—national obligation frames compliance in moral rather than payoff terms, fostering a sense of democratic duty. When that linkage is fractured, the same moral ties push individuals to abandon democratic norms. I test the conditional theory across voting, paying taxes, and military service—basic needs shared by all democracies—in a controlled comparison of South Korea versus Taiwan. Despite nearly identical pathways to democracy, different nationalist strategies resulted in strong linkage in South Korea versus weak linkage in Taiwan. The theory predicts contrasting national effects, which I test through statistical modeling, paired experiments, and personal narrative interviews with volunteer soldiers. I then externally validate the theory in Germany, where a regional gap in democratic participation has persisted since reunification, before turning to a large-N cross-national test. The book shows that good citizenship and strong democratic norms have less to do with the culture or character of a people, and more to do with the national identity politics of a given state.

Publications

Articles

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

Change and Continuity in North Korean Politics (2017). Edited by Adam Cathcart, Robert Winstanley-Chesters, and Christopher Green. Forthcoming in *Pacific Affairs*.

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

"Refugees and Perceptions of Democratic Citizenship: The Integration of North Koreans"
(Revise and resubmit at *Comparative Politics*)

"How Nationalism Affects Policy Responsiveness," with Tony Bertelli (NYU) (Under review)

"Women's Suffrage in Context: Gendered Pathways to Turnout in the U.S. and Japan"

- Selected for the Japan-American Women Political Scientists Symposium (JAWS), APSA 2018

"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*

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, APSA, selected participant, 2018
- NYU, Wagner, Student Research Collaborative Grant (with Tony Bertelli), 2016-17
- 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 Stafford Fund for Scholarly Travel, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015
- Princeton University Graduate Fellowship, 2009-2014

- Shorenstein Center Scholar, Harvard University, 2007-2009 (full graduate tuition)
- Stanford in Government Fellow, Stanford University, 2005
- Kwanjeong Foundation National Scholar, South Korea, 2003-2007 (full undergraduate tuition)

Invited Talks & Conferences

Invited Talks

- 2018, NYU Liberal Studies, “North Korea: What Happens Next”
- 2018, Temple University, Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, NY-Korea-Japan series
- 2017, UCLA, Department of Political Science
- 2015, Brown University, Watson Institute for International Studies
- 2015, West Virginia University, Department of Political Science

Conferences

- 2018, Association for Asian Studies, “Identity Politics of Integrating North Korean Refugees,” organizer
- 2018, George Washington University, Institute for Korean Studies, “The Evolution of Rights in Korea”
- 2018, Annual Meetings: MPSA, APSA (selected participant of JAWS)
- 2017, UCSD, North Korea Workshop
- 2017, Wesleyan University, The Catalyst Workshop on Policymaking in East Asia
- 2017, Annual Meetings: MPSA, APSA
- 2016, Annual Meetings: MPSA, “Drivers of Democratic Change,” co-panel organizer, APSA
- 2015, Annual Meetings: MPSA, APSA
- 2014, Annual Meetings: MPSA, APSA
- 2013, International Conference on Asia-Pacific Studies, Taiwan
- 2013, Asian Election Studies International Conference, Taiwan
- 2013, Annual Meetings: APSA
- 2012, Taiwan’s Election and Democratization Study Conference, Taiwan
- 2012, Asian Election Studies International Conference, South Korea
- 2012, McGill-Princeton University Voter Turnout Workshop
- 2010, Comparative Political Behavior and Taiwan Politics Conference, Princeton University

Teaching

NYU, Wagner School of Public Service, Faculty Fellow

- Graduate (MPA core course): *Capstone: Applied Research*, 2015-16 and 2017-18
- Graduate (MPA core course): *Policy Formation and Policy Analysis*, Spring 2017
- Graduate: *Political Participation and Policy*, January 2016, Spring 2018

Princeton University, Department of Politics, Teaching Assistant

- Undergraduate: *Democracy*, Professors Carles Boix and Nolan McCarty, Fall 2011
- Undergraduate: *Mass Media and American Politics*, Professor Martin Gilens, Spring 2012

Service & Other

Service

- NYU: Faculty mentor, Global Engagement Symposium, 2015
- Referee: *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Public Policy*, *Pacific Affairs*
- Member: APSA, MPSA, Conference Group on Taiwan Studies, Association for Asian Studies

Other

- Citizenship: U.S. (March 16, 2018)
- Languages: Korean (native)

Fieldwork

- Taiwan: 2012, 2013 (visitor, National Chengchi University, Election Study Center)
- South Korea: 2012, 2013 (Korea University, North Korean Studies Department), 2015, 2018

References

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Evan Lieberman
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Last updated: 10/9/2018