

# Aram Hur

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## Academic Positions

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### 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

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### 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

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Comparative and international politics, nationalism and identity politics, democratic stability and survival, migration and integration, mixed-method inference, East Asia and the Korean peninsula

## Book Project

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### **Democratic Grit: The National Roots of Democratic Resilience in East Asia** (Under review)

What pulls democracies through hard times? When performance and political institutions fail, the last bastion against democratic breakdown falls to the democratic tenacity in ordinary citizens—their sense of moral obligation to do what it takes for the survival of their democracy, even in the face of costs. This book asks what drives this kind of “democratic grit.” I argue that the answer to why some citizens have democratic grit while others do not, and why some democracies have more of it than others, lies not in some endowed aspect of culture or character, but in the national identity politics within a given democracy. How individuals see “my” nation to be represented by, excluded from, or oppressed by the democratic state in which they live significantly shapes how the intrinsic obligation they feel to contribute to the national community is politicized, either in support of or against democratic grit. The book tests this argument through a controlled comparison of democratic grit in South Korea versus Taiwan, a hard test from a region long seen to be democratically disadvantaged by its strong ethnic nationalisms and collectivist cultural legacies.

## Publications

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### Articles

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

2019. “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 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

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“How Refugees Define Successful Integration and Why It Matters: Evidence from Korea”

“Rethinking Nationalism and Support for Democracy”

“How Nationalist Surges Shape the Policy Agenda,” with Tony Bertelli (NYU)

## Fellowships, Grants, Awards

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- 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”
- 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)
- 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

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### Invited Talks

- 2019, University of Southern California, Center for International Studies (scheduled)
- 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, University of Pennsylvania, Identity & Conflict Lab, “Conference on Immigration: Research Frontiers and Policy Challenges” (scheduled)
- 2019, ISA, invited panelist on Korea Economic Institute’s “Sharp Power and Value Diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific”
- 2018, APSA, Japan-America Women Political Scientists Symposium, selected participant
- 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

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

## Teaching

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University of Missouri

Department of Political Science

- *Nationalism and Democracy*, undergraduate

Truman School of Public Affairs

- *The Public and Policy Change*, graduate

NYU

Wagner School of Public Service

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

## Service & Other

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Reviewer: *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*

Member: APSA, MPSA, 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)

*Last updated: August 2019*