

ARAM HUR

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Academic Positions

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

- Kim Koo Chair in Korean Studies, Incoming August 2023
- Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2023—present

University of Missouri

- Assistant Professor of Political Science, Truman School of Government & Public Affairs, 2019-2023
- Co-Director, Institute for Korean Studies, 2020-2023

New York University

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

Education

Princeton University, Ph.D. in Politics, 2015

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

Stanford University, B.A. *with honors* in Communication 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

[Narratives of Civic Duty: How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia](#) (2022)

Cornell University Press | Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia

In *Narratives of Civic Duty*, I investigate the impulse behind a sense of civic duty in democracies. Why do some citizens feel a responsibility to vote, pay taxes, take up arms, and otherwise sacrifice for their democracies? By comparing civic duty in South Korea, Taiwan, and democratic societies elsewhere, I show that the obligation to be a good citizen is rooted in a force long thought to be detrimental to democracy itself: strong national attachments. Through personal narratives, field and survey experiments, and formal modeling of ethical motivations, I show that national stories—the parable-like folklore of the national people—powerfully shape the civic potential of nationalism by defining the moral relationship between the nation and the state it calls home.

Publications

Journal articles

- Aram Hur and Andrew Yeo, “Democratic Ceilings: The Long Shadow of Nationalist Polarization in East Asia,” *Comparative Political Studies* (2023), forthcoming.
- Aram Hur, “Migrant Integration and the Psychology of National Belonging,” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (2023), forthcoming.
- Aram Hur, “Citizen Duty and the Ethical Power of Communities: Mixed-Method Evidence from East Asia,” *British Journal of Political Science* vol. 50 no. 3 (2020), 1047-1065.
- Aram Hur, “Refugee Perceptions toward Democratic Citizenship: A Narrative Analysis of North Koreans,” *Comparative Politics* vol. 52 no. 3 (2020), 473-493.
- Aram Hur, “Adapting to Democracy: National Identity and the Political Development of North Korean Defectors,” *Journal of East Asian Studies* vol. 18 no. 1 (2018), 97-115.
- Aram Hur, “Is there an Intrinsic Duty to Vote? Comparative Evidence from East and West Germans,” *Electoral Studies* vol. 45 (2017), 55-62.
- Aram Hur and Christopher H. Achen, “Coding Voter Turnout Responses in the Current Population Survey,” *Public Opinion Quarterly* vol. 77 no. 4 (2013), 985-993.
- Aram Hur and Christopher H. Achen, “Civic Duty and Turnout in Japan and South Korea,” *Korean Election Studies* vol. 1 no. 2, 45-68. [Korean Version](#).

Book chapters

- Aram Hur, “Uses and Misuses of Nationalism in the Democratic Politics of Korea,” *South Korea’s Democracy in Crisis: The Threats of Illiberalism, Populism, and Polarization*, Gi-Wook Shin and Ho-Ki Kim eds., (Stanford: Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, 2022), 51-80.
- Aram Hur, “North Korea’s Sharp Power and the Divide Over Korean Identities,” *Joint U.S.-Korea Academic Studies* vol. 30 (2019), 181-198.

Book reviews

- Aram Hur, “Stateness and Democracy in East Asia. Edited by Aurel Croissant and Olli Hellmann. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020. 286pp. 29.99 paper.” *Perspectives on Politics* vol. 21 no. 1 (2023), 391-392.
- Aram Hur, “Pride, Not Prejudice: National Identity as a Pacifying Force in East Asia. By Eunbin Chung. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2022.” *H-Diplo | RJISSF Roundtable Review* 14-14. March 6, 2023, 9-13.
- Aram Hur, “Change and Continuity in North Korean Politics. Edited by Adam Cathcart, Robert Winstanley-Chesters, and Christopher Green. New York: Routledge, 2017. 153 pp. 145.00 cloth.” *Pacific Affairs* vol. 91 no. 4 (2018), 821-824.

Works in Progress

- “Narratives of Inclusion: Evidence from South Korea’s Migration Challenge,” with Gidong Kim (University of Missouri)
- “What’s ‘Liberal’ about East Asia’s Liberal Democracies?” with Joan Cho (Wesleyan University)
- “Democratic Exclusion: Understanding Nativist Backlash in East Asia,” with Jae Yeon Kim (Johns Hopkins/Code for America) and Taeku Lee (Harvard)
- “Generational Class Consciousness and Democratic Support in South Korea,” with Gidong Kim and Baekkwon Park (University of Missouri)
- “Mere Area Studies”
- “Nationalism as a Bundle of Relationships”
- *The Stories We Tell: Nation-Building in the Era of Migration*, book project

Policy/Media

- [“Narratives of Civic Duty: How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia,”](#) *New Books Network* Podcast, March 3, 2023.
- [“South Korea’s Demographic Challenge,”](#) *The Korea Society*, January 12, 2023.
- [“Young South Koreans Don’t Trust a State That Betrays Them,”](#) *Foreign Policy*, November 17, 2022.
- [“Korea’s Changing National Story and Democratic Future,”](#) *The Korea Society*, The Sherman Family Korea Emerging Scholar Lecture, May 6, 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*, 2021.
- [“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.
- [“The next ‘Korea problem’ may be about the growing identity divide on the peninsula,”](#) *The Monkey Cage*, *Washington Post*, February 21, 2018.

Grants, Fellowships, Awards

- Gold Chalk Award for Teaching, Recipient for the Social Sciences division, University of Missouri, 2023
- Korea Foundation, Next Generation Research Program Grant, \$35,000, 2022-23
- *The Korea Society*, Sherman Emerging Scholar Award, 2021
- U.S.-Korea NextGen Scholar, CSIS Korea Chair and USC Korean Studies, 2018-19
- 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, 2014-15
- Mamdouha Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Research Grants, \$12,100, 2011-13
- Princeton Institute of International and Regional Studies, Research Grant, \$1,500, 2012
- Princeton East Asian Studies Department, Research Grant, \$2,000, 2012
- Harvard Kennedy School, Shorenstein Center Scholar, 2007-09 (full graduate tuition)
- Kwanjeong Foundation National Scholar, South Korea, 2003-07 (full undergraduate tuition)

Invited Talks & Conferences

2023-24

- The Korea Society, Book talk on *Narratives of Civic Duty*, TBD in fall 2023

2022-23

- NYU, Frontiers in Empirical Research on East Asia (FEREA), May 19-20, 2023
- Columbia University, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Book talk on *Narratives of Civic Duty* moderated by Andrew J. Nathan, April 25, 2023
- University of Michigan, Center for Japanese Studies, Aging in Asia Conference, March 2-3, 2023
- Johns Hopkins University, Center for East Asian Studies, Book talk on *Narratives of Civic Duty*, February 28, 2023
- Stanford University, The Hoover Project on Taiwan in the Indo-Pacific Region, Book talk on *Narratives of Civic Duty*, January 26, 2023
- The Korea Society, “South Korea’s Demographic Challenge,” January 12, 2023
- University of Texas-Austin, Center for Taiwan Studies, Innovations in the Study of Taiwan Politics, “Democratic Ceilings in East Asia”

2021-22

- University of Michigan, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, Roundtable on Democratic Ceilings, “Democratic Ceilings in East Asia”
- The Korea Society, Kim Koo Professional Series, Invited Speaker on “Dynamics of South Korea’s Democracy and Drivers Impacting Governance”
- Association for the Study of Nationalities, Roundtable on “Nationalism: What We Know and What We Still Need to Know”
- Ethnic Goods Workshop on Consequences of Nationalism, Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), “Narratives of Civic Duty: How Nationalism Shapes Democracy”
- 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, The 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”
- Stanford University, Shorenstein APARC, “Are South Korean Liberals Truly Liberal?”

2020-21

- Stanford University, Shorenstein APARC, “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”

2019-20

- University of Southern California, Center for International Studies, Working Paper Series, “How Refugees Define Successful Integration and Why It Matters: Evidence from Korea”
- University of Pennsylvania, Identity & Conflict Lab, Immigration: Research Frontiers and Policy Challenges Conference, “How Refugees Define Successful Integration and Why It Matters: Evidence from Korea”
- Korea Economic Institute, Sharp Power and Value Diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific ISA panel, “North Korea’s Sharp Power and the Divide Over Korean Identities”

2018-19

- George Washington University, Institute for Korean Studies, The Evolution of Rights in Korea Conference, “Refugee Perceptions toward Democratic Citizenship: A Narrative Analysis of North Koreans”
- NYU, Liberal Studies, “North Korea: What Happens Next”
- Temple University, Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, “The Next Korea Problem: Identity Politics and the Peninsula”

2017-18

- Wesleyan University, The Catalyst Workshop on Policymaking in East Asia, “Refugee Perceptions toward Democratic Citizenship: A Narrative Analysis of North Koreans”
- UCSD School of Global Policy and Strategy, North Korea Workshop, “Refugee Perceptions toward Democratic Citizenship: A Narrative Analysis of North Koreans”

2015-16

- Brown University, Watson Institute for International Studies, “A Communal Duty Model of Citizen Compliance”

2012-2013

- McGill-Princeton University Voter Turnout Workshop, “Coding Voter Turnout Responses in the Current Population Survey,” with Christopher Achen
- Asian Election Studies International Conference in Daejeon, South Korea, “Civic Duty and Turnout in Japan and South Korea,” with Christopher Achen
- International Conference on Asia-Pacific Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan

Teaching

Advising (*Indicates Chair or Co-Chair)

- Gidong Kim*, University of Missouri, *Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University*
- Kouakou Donatien Adou, University of Missouri, *Africa Fellow, The World Bank*
- Aryanna Hyde, University of Missouri, *in progress*
- Yu Bin Kim, University of Missouri, *in progress*

- Eun A Jo, Cornell University (external member), *in progress*

University of Missouri, Truman School of Government & Public Affairs

- *Nationalism and Democracy*, Undergraduate
- *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, PhD seminar
- *Research Design and Qualitative Methods*, PhD seminar
- *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*, PhD seminar
- *Public Service and Democracy*, MPA
- *The Public and Policy Change*, MPA

NYU, Wagner School of Public Service

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

Service

To the University of Missouri

- Co-Director, Institute for Korean Studies (IKS), 2020—2023
 - Launched the IKS Undergraduate & Graduate Fellows Programs
 - Launched the IKS Annual Research Symposium
 - Launched international partnership with the Yun Posun Institute for Democracy in Korea
 - Won external funding from The Korea Foundation for 2022-23
 - Organized an active and inclusive external speaker series
- Faculty Annual Review Committee, Truman School, 2022-23
- Political Science-Truman School Merger Committee, 2020-21
- Undergraduate Committee, Department of Political Science, 2019-21
- International Initiatives Committee, Truman School, 2019-21

To the Discipline

- Panel Organizer
 - “Democratic Ceilings: The Curious Stability of Low-Quality Democracies,” APSA 2022
 - “Nationalist Politics in Asia,” 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*, 2021—present
- Reviewer for *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*, *Social Sciences*, *H-diplo*, *Perspectives on Politics*

- Member of APSA, ISA, ISSP, Association for Asian Studies, American Sociological Association

Other

- Citizenship: United States (as of March 16, 2018)
- Languages: Korean (native)

Last updated: May 2023