ARAM HUR

160 Packard Avenue, Medford, MA 02155
aram.hur@tufts.edu | www.aramhur.com

EMPLOYMENT

Tufts University, The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy

- Associate Professor of Political Science, with tenure, 2025—present
- Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2023—2025
- Kim Koo Chair in Korean Studies, 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

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

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Columbia University, Weatherhead East Asian Institute

- Visiting Scholar, 2025-26 (*on sabbatical from Tufts*)
- Adjunct Associate Research Scholar, 2023—2024

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Ph.D. and M.A. 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, democracy, qualitative and mixed-methods, identity politics, Korea and East Asia

RESEARCH

BOOKS

Narratives of Civic Duty: How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia (2022)
Cornell University Press | Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia

- Winner, 2023 Robert A. Dahl Award for "scholarship of highest quality on the subject of democracy," American Political Science Association
- Short List, 2023 Luebbert Book Award for best book in Comparative Politics, American Political Science Association
- Selected for the 2025 Nations and Nationalism Debate hosted by LSE IDEAS

- Reviewed in *Political Science Quarterly*, *Foreign Affairs, Politics Today, Seoul Journal of Korean Studies, Korean Studies, Journal of Asian Studies, APSA Democracy and Autocracy Newsletter, New Global Studies, Pacific Affairs*
- Featured in New Books Network, Korean Kontext Podcast, The Korea Society, LSE IDEAS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Aram Hur, "Domestic Politics 2025: South Korea's Polarized Democracy After Martial Law," *Korea Observer* vol. 57 no. 1 (2026): 1-21.

- Aram Hur, "Democratic Benefits of Nationalism," *Nations & Nationalism* vol. 32 no.1 (2026): 28-33.

- Joan Cho and Aram Hur, "The Perils of South Korean Democracy," *Journal of Democracy* vol. 36 no.2 (2025): 38-46.

- Aram Hur, "South Korea's Democracy at a Crossroads," *Korea Observer* vol. 56 no. 1 (2025): 1-18.

- Aram Hur and Andrew Yeo, "Democratic Ceilings: The Long Shadow of Nationalist Polarization in East Asia," *Comparative Political Studies* vol. 57 no. 4 (2024): 584-612.

- Aram Hur, "Migrant Integration and the Psychology of National Belonging," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* vol. 49 no. 13 (2023), 3245-3266.

- 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 (2011), 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, "Memories of Unbelonging: Ethnic Chinese Identity Politics in Post-Suharto Indonesia. By Charlotte Setijadi. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2023. 296p. Hardback." APSA *Democracy & Autocracy Newsletter* vol. 22 no. 1 (2024), 25-28.

- 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.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Polarized Democracies*, book project
- *Curious Case of the Opposition in East Asia,* with Joan Cho (Wesleyan), short book project
- "Framing the Nation" with Gidong Kim (HUFS)
- "What's Fair?" with Gidong Kim (HUFS)
- "Narrating National Membership," special issue
- "Racism in Asia," Taeku Lee (Harvard) and Jae Yeon Kim (UNC Chapel Hill)

POLICY & OP-ED WRITING

- "How South Korea Wins APEC," *The Korea Herald*, October 23, 2025.
- "What America Should Learn from South Korea's Democratic Crisis," with Andrew Yeo, *The Hill*, January 3, 2025.
- "Young South Koreans Don't Trust a State That Betrays Them," *Foreign Policy*, November 17, 2022.
- "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.
- "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.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Fine Faculty Fellowship Award, The Fletcher School, Tufts University, 2024-25
- Winner, Robert A. Dahl Award for "scholarship of highest quality on the subject of democracy," American Political Science Association, 2023
- Short List, Luebbert Book Award for best book in Comparative Politics, American Political Science Association, 2023
- Gold Chalk Award for Teaching, Social Science Division, University of Missouri, 2023
- Korea Foundation, Next Generation Research Program Grant, $35,000, 2022-23
- Winner, Sherman Emerging Scholar Award, The Korea Society, 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, 2011-13
- Princeton Institute of International and Regional Studies, Research Grant, 2012
- Princeton East Asian Studies Department, Research Grant, 2012
- Harvard Kennedy School, Shorenstein Center Scholarship, 2007-09 (full graduate tuition)
- Kwanjeong Foundation National Scholarship, South Korea, 2003-07 (full undergraduate tuition)

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCES

AY 2025-26 (On sabbatical)

- Columbia University, Center for Korean Research, Seungsook Moon's book talk for *Civic Activism in South Korea*, Moderator/discussant, March 9, 2026.
- Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center, Global Challenges to Democracy Seminar, November 19, 2025.

AY 2024-25

- LSE IDEAS, 2025 Nations and Nationalism Debate for *Narratives of Civic Duty*, June 4, 2025.
- Georgetown University, CP-IR Mortara Research Seminar, April 7, 2025.
- MIT, CIS Global Research & Policy Seminar, "How Nationalist Polarization Threatens Democracy: Lessons from South Korea," March 13, 2025.
- Tufts University, Tisch College, Democracy on the Brink Symposium, invited panelist on "Modern Threats to Democracy," February 27, 2025.
- Tufts University, Inclusive Education Series, invited panelist on "Tools and Strategies for Addressing Political Polarization," February 13, 2025.
- Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center, "Martial Law in South Korea: What Happened and What's Next," December 16, 2024.
- Harvard University, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, "New Party Politics of East Asia," December 2, 2024.
- University of Michigan, Nam Center for Korean Studies, Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference, November 8-9, 2024.
- Boston University, Center for the Study of Asia, October 24, 2024.
- University of Toronto, Comparative Politics Seminar, October 4, 2024.

AY 2023-24

- KFAS-Stanford Sustainable Democracy Roundtable II, Seoul, South Korea, June 19-21, 2024.
- Oxford University, Blavatnik School, Workshop on Changing National Narratives, May 20-21, 2024.
- Arizona State University, Special Lecture for the School of International Cultures and Lectures, April 4, 2024 (virtual).
- Boston University, Comparative Politics Workshop, March 27, 2024.
- University of Pennsylvania, Christopher Browne Center for International Politics, Discourse as Power Conference, March 7-8, 2024.
- The Korea Society, Book talk on *Narratives of Civic Duty*, October 13, 2023.
- KFAS-Stanford Sustainable Democracy Roundtable I, Stanford, CA, August 28-30, 2023.
- UT-Austin, Asia Policy Program, Book talk on *Narratives of Civic Duty*, August 24, 2023 (virtual).

AY 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.
- UT-Austin, Center for Taiwan Studies, Innovations in the Study of Taiwan Politics, "Democratic Ceilings in East Asia"

AY 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?"

AY 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"

AY 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"

AY 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"

AY 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"

AY 2015-16

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

AY 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

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

PUBLIC LECTURES/PANELS

- Riverdale Country School, King Lecture speaker, "Benefits of Nationalism," December 2, 2025.
- Expert panelist, "Unpacking South Korea's Snap Presidential Election," *The Korea Society*, June 4, 2025.
- Expert panelist, "South Korean Presidential Election," CSIS Capital Cable, May 22, 2025.
- Expert panelist, "Martial Law Implications for South Korea and the U.S.-Korea Relationship," *The Korea Society*, December 11, 2024.
- Expert panelist, "Charting the Future: U.S.-Taiwan Relations After the 2024 Election," *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, December 11, 2024.
- Expert panelist, "The Present and Future of Feminism and Gender Inequality in South Korea," *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, August 2024.
- Expert panelist, "Next Decade for South Korea" *Council on Foreign Relations*, May 3, 2024.
- Consultant, U.S. Department of State, ROK's Demographic Crisis, October 2023.
- Invited U.S.-based expert, Sustainable Democracy Roundtable Series, Stanford University-Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies, August 2023 (Part I) and June 2024 (Part II)
- "Democracy and Duty in Korea," Korean Kontext Podcast, *Korea Economic Institute*, April 2023.
- "Narratives of Civic Duty: How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia," *New Books Network* Podcast, March 3, 2023.
- Expert panelist, "South Korea's Demographic Challenge," *The Korea Society*, January 12, 2023.
- "Korea's Changing National Story and Democratic Future," *The Korea Society*, The Sherman Family Emerging Scholar Public Lecture, May 6, 2021.
- "Episode 3: The Upside of Nationalism," *Scope Conditions* Podcast, 2020.

SELECTED PRESS/MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- "Martial law's animosity has outlived decree—and now defines political identity," *The Korea Herald*, front page, December 4, 2025.
- "How two duelling history influencers explain South Korea's polarized politics," *The Economist*, October 3, 2025.
- "How Charlie Kirk's death galvanized South Korea's MAGA conservatives," *The Washington Post*, October 3, 2025.
- "Breaking Through Political Polarization," Feature article, *Tufts Now*, February 11, 2025.
- "Ruthless Politics of South Korea is rooted in Cold War history," *The Wall Street Journal*, December 15, 2024.
- "South Korean opposition moves to impeach president after remarkable misstep," *The Washington Post*, front page, December 4, 2024.

TEACHING

COURSES

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

- *Nationalism*
- *Identity Politics of East Asia*
- *Qualitative and Mixed-Methods*
- *Challenges to Democracy in East Asia*

University of Missouri

- *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

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

ADVISING

PhD (*indicates Chair or Co-Chair, *italics show first job*)

Completed

- Aryanna Hyde, University of Missouri, *Assistant Professor at Purdue University, Fort Wayne*
- Eun A Jo, Cornell University, *Postdoctoral Fellow at Dartmouth College, incoming Assistant Professor at William & Mary*
- Gidong Kim*, University of Missouri, *Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University, incoming Assistant Professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS)*
- Yu Bin Kim, University of Missouri, *Assistant Professor at Knox College*
- Kouakou Donatien Adou, University of Missouri, *Africa Fellow, The World Bank*

In progress

- Kenneth Hills*, The Fletcher School
- John Cho*, The Fletcher School
- Frank Lo*, The Fletcher School

Fletcher Capstones

- Rosie Soto, 2025, "How to Reverse a Demographic Crisis: What to Learn from South Korea's Low Fertility Rate"
- John Cho, 2026, "Between the ROK and a Hard Place: North Korea's Abandonment of Reunification and Authoritarian Adaptability"
- Soli Byrd, 2026, "Democratic Values as a Strategic Asset: The Future of the U.S.-Indonesia Bilateral Relationship"

SERVICE

TO FLETCHER

- Fletcher Asia Forum, Founding Faculty Director, 2024—present
    - Launched new academic program that aims to bridge gap between scholarship and policy on contemporary Asia
    - Procured external seed funding from the Boston Consulate General of Korea to host speaker series and the inaugural Annual Conference, "Future of Democracy in Asia"
- Admissions Committee, AY 2024-25, AY 2026-27

TO UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

- MU Institute for Korean Studies, Co-Director, AY 2020-23
    - Procured $35k external funding from The Korea Foundation and recurrent internal support from MU Arts & Sciences.
    - Launched the Undergraduate and Graduate Fellows programs and hosted the inaugural Annual Research Symposium, "New Identity Politics of Korea"
    - Initiated an international partnership with the Yun Posun Institute for Democracy in South Korea
- Faculty Annual Review Committee, Truman School, AY 2022-23
- Political Science-Truman School Merger Committee, AY 2020-21
- Undergraduate Committee, Department of Political Science, AY 2019-21
- International Initiatives Committee, Truman School, AY2019-21

TO DISCIPLINE

Journal Service

- *Journal of East Asian Studies,* International Editorial Board, 2026—present
- *Nations and Nationalism*, International Advisory Board, 2025—present
- *Asian Survey*, Editorial Board, 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, Asian Politics and Policy, International Organization*

Committees

- APSA Nationalism and Politics Section, Executive Committee Member, 2025—present
- The Korea Society, Sherman Emerging Scholar Lecture Award, External reviewer, 2025-26

Conferences

- Organizer
  "Future of Democracy in Asia," Fletcher Asia Forum, The Fletcher School, Tufts University, April 25, 2025
  "New Identity Politics of Korea," Institute for Korea Studies, University of Missouri, April 12, 2023
- Panel organizer/chair
  APSA 2023, "New Security in Korea" (chair)
  APSA 2022,"Democratic Ceilings: The Curious Stability of Low-Quality Democracies" (organizer

with Gerry Munck)
APSA 2020, "Nationalist Politics in Asia" (organizer)
AAS 2020, "Inequalities in East Asian Democracies" (organizer with Sara Newland)
AAS 2018, "After Defection: Identity Politics of Integrating North Korean Refugees" (organizer)
MPSA 2016, "Drivers of Democratic Change" (organizer with Joan Cho)

Book/Disciplinary Workshops

AY 2024-25

- Book workshop for *Abandoning Democracy for the Nation* by Filip Milacic, Cambridge Elements Series on Politics of Development, MIT, April 24, 2025
- Book workshop for *The Past That Binds: Authoritarian Nostalgia, Group Sentiment, and Voter Behavior* by Sanghoon Kim-Leffingwell (Asst Professor, University of North Texas), April 2, 2025
- Korea Political Science Colloquium (KPSC), Discussant
- Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes (VWAR), Discussant

AY2023-2024

- NYU Frontiers in Empirical Research on East Asia, Discussant
- APSA Mini-Conference on Asian Political History, Discussant
- Korean Political Studies Colloquium (KPSC), Discussant

OTHER

Memberships: APSA, Association for Asian Studies, Association of Korean Political Studies (life term member)

Citizenship: United States (as of March 16, 2018)

Languages: Korean (native)

Last updated: August 2026