

SUNGIK YANG

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School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History and East Asian Languages, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations,
Harvard University, May 2023
- Dissertation Title: “Korea’s Fascist Moment: Liberation, War, and the Ideology of South
Korean Authoritarianism, 1945–1979”

A.M., Regional Studies-East Asia, Harvard University, May 2017
Thesis: “An Old Right in New Bottles: The Politics and Historiography of the South Korean
New Right”

B.A., *magna cum laude*, History with Highest Honors, Political Science, Williams College, June 2013

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023–Present *Assistant Professor of History*, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious
Studies (SHPRS), Arizona State University
2023–2024 *Non-Resident Scholar*, George Washington University Institute for Korean Studies
(GWIKS), George Washington University
2020–2021 *Junior Fellow*, Kyujanggak International Center for Korean Studies, Seoul National
University
2020 *Research Fellow*, Academy of Korean Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“The South Korean Military Ideological Complex: Transcendent Nationalism in Military Moral
Education,” *The Journal of Korean Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (March 2024): 61–88.
<https://doi.org/10.1215/07311613-10948678>

“Kim Chae-gyu Syndrome: South Korean Politics and Divergent Filmic Portrayals of the
Assassination of Park Chung Hee,” *International Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 1
(January 2024): 30–45.
doi: 10.1017/S1479591422000511

“An Old Right in New Bottles: State Without Nation in South Korean New Right Historiography,”
The Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. 80, No. 4 (November 2021): 889–909.
doi: 10.1017/S0021911821001443

Chapters in Edited Volumes

“From the Third Way to Third Worldism: Anti-Western and Antiliberal Internationalism in Postcolonial Korea,” in *Beyond Left and Right? Antiliberal Internationalism in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Brolsma, De Bruin, Couperus, Johnston-White and Lok (Routledge, forthcoming 2024).

WEB PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 [“President Yoon Is Lauded in West for Embracing Japan – in South Korea It Fits a Conservative Agenda That Is Proving Less Popular,”](#) *The Conversation*, March 6, 2024.
- 2023 [“Biography of Younghill Kang,”](#) Korea Institute Alumni Biographies Project
 [“Biography of Myo Mook Lee,”](#) Korea Institute Alumni Biographies Project
- 2022 [“Biography of Yong-jeung Kim,”](#) Korea Institute Alumni Biographies Project
- 2021 [“Biography of No-Yong Park,”](#) Korea Institute Alumni Biographies Project
 [“Biography of Hyung Lin Kim,”](#) Korea Institute Alumni Biographies Project

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations and Workshops

- 2024 “South Korean Authoritarianism and ‘Korean-Style’ Democracy.”
 Panel: Ideological and Institutional Underpinnings of Contemporary Korean Democracy,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (Seattle, March 14–17). (Also panel organizer)
- 2023 “Contested Interpretations of Democracy in Postliberation Korea.” Korean Political Studies Colloquium. (December 14, Virtual)
- 2023 “Anti-Capitalist Anticommunism in Cold War South Korea.”
 Panel: “Reexamining Divisions in the Korean Peninsula: Capitalism, Communism, and Beyond,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (Boston, March 19). (Also panel organizer)
- 2023 “Skepticism of Western Liberalism in South Korea, 1945–1960.” Antiliberal Internationalism (20th c): Beyond Left and Right? (University of Groningen & University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, January 11).
- 2022 “Skepticism of Western Liberalism in South Korea, 1945–1960.” 11th World Congress of Korean Studies (The Academy of Korean Studies, Oct 20).
- 2022 “Portraying the Death of a Dictator: South Korean Politics and Divergent Filmic Depictions of the Assassination of Park Chung Hee.” 9th Annual Korea University Graduate Conference: Narratives and Counter-narratives in Korean History (Seoul, South Korea, May 27).
- 2022 “Blood, Soil, and Spirit in Postliberation Political Ideologies and the Origins of Korean Ethnic Nationalism.” Blood in Modern Korea and Its Diasporas (Colby College, April 15).
- 2021 “Illiberal Understandings of Democracy and Freedom in South Korea, 1945–1960.” The 14th Kyujanggak International Symposium on Korean Studies (November 5–6).
- 2021 “Military Moral Education and the Changing Role of Nationalism in South Korean Right-wing Political Ideology.”
 Panel: “Forged in the Crucible of Militarism: Technology, Ideology, and Race in the Making of Modern South Korea,” Association for Asian Studies Virtual Annual Conference (Mar 22).

- 2017 “An Old Right in New Bottles: The Historiography of the South Korean New Right.” International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars (NEKST) (University of Michigan, May 12–13).
- 2017 “An Old Right in New Bottles: The Historiography of the South Korean New Right.” Harvard East Asia Society Conference (Feb 24–25).

Invited Talks and Public Lectures

- 2024 “The Question of Postcolonial Fascism in Korea,” SHPRS Works in Progress (Arizona State University, January 19)
- 2023 “Ups and Downs in the ROK-US Alliance and Relationship after 1945.” A Complicated Friendship: New Perspectives on the 70 Years of the Korean-U.S. Alliance (Arizona State University, October 24)
- 2023 “Korean Ideology, Nationalism, and Identity.” Foreign Service Institute (National Foreign Affairs Training Center, October 20, online)
- 2023 “Korea’s Modern History and the Korean Wave.” 2023 Korean History & Culture Seminar, Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (Arizona State University, Sept 16)

TEACHING

Arizona State University

Undergraduate Courses Taught

HST/REL 111: Introduction to Asia (Spring 2024; Fall 2024)

HST 303: Studies in Asian History: Modern Korean History through Film (Spring 2024)

HST 303: Communism and Authoritarianism: North Korea (Fall 2024)

Student Theses and Research Projects Advised

2023–24 Master’s Portfolio Committee Member, Arizona State University

2023–24 Barrett Honors Thesis Committee Member, Arizona State University

2023–24 Undergraduate Research Fellow Faculty Mentor, George Washington University Institute for Korean Studies

Harvard University

Courses Taught as Teaching Fellow or Teaching Assistant

General Education 1100: The Two Koreas in the Modern World (Spring 2022; Spring 2020).

History 1026: Rise and Fall of Postwar Japan (Fall 2021).

History E-1026: Rise and Fall of Postwar Japan (Harvard Division of Continuing Education) (Fall 2021).

Senior Thesis Graduate Advisor

Undergraduate student (Joint Government/East Asian Studies), AY 2021–2022.

Undergraduate student (Joint Government/East Asian Studies), AY 2019–2020.

Courses Taught in Other Capacities

Guest Instructor for EASTD 270: Historiography of Modern Japan and Korea (Carter J. Eckert, Andrew Gordon), Harvard University, Fall 2022. (Graduate-level course)

Head Instructor for Fascism and Its Relevance Today: Breaking Understandings of Fascism Out of a Eurocentric Frame, Harvard University, Winter Session, January 2022.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024	<i>A. T. Steele Faculty Grant</i> , The Asia Center, Arizona State University
2023	<i>Stanford East Asia Library Travel Grant</i> , Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University
2022–2023	<i>Korea Foundation Scholarship for Graduate Studies in North America</i> , Korea Foundation
2022	<i>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Spring 2022</i> , Office of Undergraduate Education, Harvard University
2022	<i>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2021</i> , Office of Undergraduate Education, Harvard University
2021	<i>Remote Summer Research Grant</i> , Korea Institute, Harvard University
2020–2021	<i>Junior Fellow</i> , International Center for Korean Studies, Kyujanggak Institute, Seoul National University
2020	<i>Academy of Korean Studies Fellowship Program for Korean Studies</i> , Academy of Korean Studies
2017–2020	<i>YB Min University Fellowship Fund</i> , Harvard University
2019	<i>Graduate Summer Language Grant</i> , Asia Center, Harvard University
2018	<i>GSAS Summer School Tuition Fellowship</i> , Harvard University
2017	<i>Summer Language Study Grant for Graduate Students</i> , Korea Institute, Harvard University
2017	<i>Joseph Fletcher Memorial Award (RSEA Master’s Thesis Prize)</i> , Harvard University
2016	<i>Graduate Summer Research Grant</i> , Korea Institute, Harvard University
2016	<i>Summer Language Study Grant for Graduate Students</i> , Reischauer Institute, Harvard University

SERVICE

Professional Service

2024–present	Peer Reviewer, <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> (ISSN 0021-9118)
2023–present	Peer Reviewer, <i>Korea Observer</i> (ISSN 0023-3919)
2023–present	Peer Reviewer, <i>Journal of Korean Studies</i> (ISSN 2158-1665)
2023	Panel Organizer, “Ideological and Institutional Underpinnings of Contemporary Korean Democracy,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference 2024
2022	Panel Organizer, “Reexamining Divisions in the Korean Peninsula: Capitalism, Communism, and Beyond,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference 2023

University Service

2024	<i>Discussant</i> , “Modern East Asian History” panel, Genders and Sexualities in East Asian Cultures Conference, Arizona State University (January 12–13)
2023–2024	<i>Advisor for Undergraduate Research Fellows Program</i> , GW Institute for Korean Studies, George Washington University
2022–2023	<i>Affiliate</i> , Association for Global Political Thought, Harvard University
2021–2023	<i>Graduate Student Associate</i> , Korea Institute, Harvard University
2020–2023	<i>Research Assistant</i> for the Korea Institute Alumni Project, Harvard University
2021–2022	<i>Co-organizer</i> , Korean Studies Working Group, Harvard University

- 2018–2020 *Graduate Student Associate*, Korea Institute, Harvard University
 2018–2019 *Co-organizer*, Korean Studies Working Group, Harvard University
 2015 *Organizer of the Korean Language Table*, Dudley House, Harvard University

Community and Public Service

- 2023 *Organizer*, “A Complicated Friendship: New Perspectives on the 70 Years of the Korean-U.S. Alliance” (lecture event in partnership with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea Consulate in Los Angeles), Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona (October 24)
 2023 *Guest Speaker*, “Ups and Downs in the ROK-US Alliance and Relationship after 1945,” part of “A Complicated Friendship: New Perspectives on the 70 Years of the Korean-U.S. Alliance” event, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona (October 24)
 2023 *Guest Speaker*, “Korean Ideology, Nationalism, and Identity,” Foreign Service Institute, National Foreign Affairs Training Center, Arlington, Virginia (October 20, online)
 2023 *Guest Speaker*, “Korea’s Modern History and the Korean Wave,” 2023 Korean History & Culture Seminar, Tempe, Arizona (September 16)
 2020–2021 *Researcher* for PBS television program *Finding Your Roots*
 2018–2019 *Volunteer College Access Coach*, Breakthrough Greater Boston

LANGUAGES

English (native); Korean (fluent); Japanese (professional working proficiency); Mandarin (intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2023–present American Historical Association
 2023–present Association of Korean Political Studies
 2019–present Association for Asian Studies