

SUNGIK YANG

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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”

- Committee: Carter J. Eckert (Modern Korea), Andrew Gordon (Modern Japan), Sun Joo
Kim (Premodern Korea), David Armitage (Intellectual and International History)

- Advisor: Carter J. Eckert (1945–2024)

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

2024 Summer *Visiting Scholar*, Research Institute of Korean Studies, Korea 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

Books

Nation Transcendent: Postcolonial Fascism in Cold War Korea (manuscript under review)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2025 “The Highest Stage of Nationalism: Postcolonial Fascism in Korea and Breaking
Fascism Out of a Eurocentric Frame,” *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 130, No. 4
(December 2025): 1512–1534.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhaf476>

- 2024 “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>
- 2024 “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.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1479591422000511>
- 2021 “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.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021911821001443>

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- 2025 “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 (London: Routledge, 2025), 187–207.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781032707204-15>

Book Reviews

- 2024 Review of *Cornerstone of the Nation: The Defense Industry and the Building of Modern Korea under Park Chung Hee*, by Peter Banseok Kwon. *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (December 2024): 402–405.
<https://doi.org/10.1353/sej.2024.a949677>

WEB PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 “[South Korea shook a presidential power grab – failure to impeach now risks damaging democracy](#),” *The Conversation*, December 12, 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

- 2026 (sched.) “The Ideologies of Park Chung Hee: Manchukuo and Fascistic State Ideology in South Korea”

- Panel: "Carter Eckert and the Making of Modern Korea: Colonialism, Militarism and Economic Development," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference* (Vancouver, March 12–15).
- 2026 (sched.) "Of, By, and For the Nation: Korean Democratic Discourses in Historical Perspective."
Workshop: *Looking Back on Forty Years of South Korea's Democracy: Discontents and Challenges* (University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Feb. 12–13).
- 2026 (sched.) "National Spirit and the Conservative Politics of Korean Historiography."
Panel: "Historicizing Historiography: Reassessing the Politics of History in Korea," *American Historical Association Annual Meeting* (Chicago, Jan. 8–11) (also co-organizer)
- 2025 "Reconsidering the Liberalism of Syngman Rhee."
Panel: "Debates on Syngman Rhee," *Searching for New Perspectives on Contemporary History of Korea: Rethinking Decolonization, Military Occupations, and the Ideas for a Democratic Korea* (Seoul, Aug. 4)
- 2025 "The Korean 'National Spirit': The Origins and Legacies of Nationalist History Education in South Korea."
Panel: "Legacies of the Past: Long Term and Transnational Angles on Democratic South Korea's Historical Memory," *The Asian Studies Conference Japan 2025* (Tokyo, July 5).
- 2024 "Liberty Is Not License': Discourses on Restricted Freedom in Cold War Korea." *Diversity and Liberty in East Asia: Historical Development and Contemporary Significance* (Waseda University, Japan, Sept. 26, virtual).
- 2024 "Perpetual Crisis in Postliberation Korea and the Rise of Korean Fascism." *Korean History Workshop* (George Washington University, Sept. 21).
- 2024 "From the Third Way to Third Worldism: Anti-Western and Antiliberal Internationalism in Postcolonial Korea." *Korean History Symposium: Toward a Postnationalist History of Korea* (Harvard University, Sept. 13). (Also conference co-organizer)
- 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, Seongnam, 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, Guest Lectures, and Public Lectures

- 2025 “The Economic Partnership between South Korea and the United States.” *South Korea-U.S. Cooperation & the Future of Semiconductor Supply Chains* (Arizona State University, December 5).
- 2025 “Korean Fascism and Mass Dictatorship.” Guest lecture for “GBST 373: A Global History of Mass Dictatorship” (Williams College, October 15).
- 2025 “The Question of Postcolonial Fascism in Cold War Korea.” *Center for Korean Research* (Columbia University, October 9).
- 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).

Roundtables

- 2026 (sched.) “Negotiating Histories of Fascism in the Contemporary Classroom.” *American Historical Association Annual Meeting* (Chicago, January 8–11)
- 2025 “Towards an Archival and Post-Nationalist History of Korea: A Roundtable on the Scholarly Impact of Carter Eckert.” (virtual, February 21)

TEACHING

Arizona State University

Undergraduate Courses

- HST/REL 111: Introduction to Asia (Spring 2024; Fall 2024; Fall 2025)
- HST 302: Studies in History: Global History of Fascism (Spring 2025)

HST 303: Studies in Asian History: Modern Korean History through Film (Spring 2024; Spring 2025)

HST 303: Studies in Asian History: Communism and Authoritarianism: North Korea (Fall 2024)

HST 303: Studies in Asian History: Film and Politics in Asia (online) (Fall 2025)

Graduate Courses

HST 598: Comparative Fascisms (Spring 2026)

WWS 564: The Global War (online) (Spring 2026)

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
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

SERVICE

Professional Service

2026 (sched.)	Panel Co-Organizer, “Historicizing Historiography: Reassessing the Politics of History in Korea,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting
2025	Co-Organizer, “Towards an Archival and Post-Nationalist History of Korea: A Roundtable on the Scholarly Impact of Carter Eckert,” Virtual, Feb. 21.
2024	Reviewer, Harvard-Yenching Institute Fellowship
2024	Co-Organizer, “Korean History Symposium: Toward a Postnationalist History of Korea,” Harvard University, Sept. 13.
2024–present	Peer Reviewer, <i>International Journal of Korean History</i> (ISSN 1598-2041)
2024–present	Peer Reviewer, <i>History & Memory</i> (ISSN 0935-560X)
2024–present	Peer Reviewer, <i>History of Political Thought</i> (ISSN 0143-781X)
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

2025–2026	World War II Studies Committee, ASU
2025–2026	University Senate Standing Committee (Student-Faculty Policy Committee), ASU
2024–2026	SHPRS College Senate and University Senate Representative, ASU

- 2024 *Organizer*, “Diaspora and the Korean Wave,” SHPRS Humanities Week, Fall 2024 (in partnership with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles), ASU (October 24)
- 2023–2024 *Advisor for Undergraduate Research Fellows Program*, GW Institute for Korean Studies, George Washington University

Community and Public Service

- 2024 *Organizer*, “Exploring Korean Society: Civic Activism in South Korea” (in partnership with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles), ASU (October 25)
- 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 in Los Angeles), ASU (October 24)

LANGUAGES

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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