SANDRA H. PARK

Department of East Asian Studies
University of Arizona
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EMPLOYMENT

2023–present Assistant Professor, Department of East Asian Studies
University of Arizona
Affiliated Faculty: Department of History, Department of Religious Studies

2022–2023 Postdoctoral Fellow, GW Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS)
George Washington University

2022 Professorial Lecturer (part-time), History and International Affairs (Aug–Dec)
George Washington University

2021 Adjunct Lecturer (part-time), Asian Studies Program (Jan–May)
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

EDUCATION

2022 Ph.D. in History (East Asia), Department of History, University of Chicago
Dissertation: "Anointed Citizenship: Christian Border Crossing and the Making of 'Free' South Korea in the Korean War"
Committee: Bruce Cumings (chair/advisor), Mark Philip Bradley, Kyeong-Hee Choi, Angie Heo

2016 M.A. in History, Department of History, University of Chicago

2013 B.A. in History with honors, University of Chicago
Awards: 2008 QuestBridge National College Match (full four-year scholarship)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Modern Korean/East Asian history; religion and global Cold War; US empire in East Asia; nation-building in South Korea and North Korea; war, migration, and political subjectivity; history of global Christianity; microhistory and material religion; marginal Christian movements in Korea

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2025 "Salvific Violence: The Hungnam Evacuation and Anticommunist Rescue in US-Occupied North Korea," *Korea Journal* 65, no. 2 (2025): 11–47.

2020 "A Reverend on Trial: Debating the Proper Place of Christianity in the North Korean Revolution," *Journal of Korean Studies* 25, no. 2 (2020): 379–405.

Book Reviews & Review Essays

2023 Review of *Spirit Power: Politics and Religion in Korea's American Century*, by Heonik Kwon and Jun Hwan Park. *Journal of Korean Studies* 28, no. 2 (2023): 365–69.

2023 Review of *Balancing Communities: Nation, State, and Protestant Christianity in Korea, 1884–1942*, by Paul S. Cha. *Korea Journal* 63, no. 3 (2023): 234–38.

2022 Review of *Prisoners of the Empire: Inside Japanese POW Camps*, by Sarah Kovner. *Journal of Asian Studies* 81, no. 2 (2022): 448–49.

2021 Review essay of *The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War: The Untold History*, by Monica Kim and *The Hijacked War: The Story of Chinese POWs in the Korean War*, by David Cheng Chang. *Journal of Korean Studies* 26, no. 1 (2021): 156–62.

Web Essays

2021 "Bound by Freedom: Oh Chong Song's Escape and the Mirage of 'Free' Korea." *Not From Here*—Immigration and Ethnic History Society Blog, June 10, 2021.

2021 "Christianity, Citizenship, and American Empire in the Korean War." In *American Religion, Inside Out*, online supplement to journal *American Religion*, February 17, 2021.

2020 "Finding the Taejon Massacre in Independence, Missouri." #*AsiaNow*—Association for Asian Studies, March 24, 2020.

Works in Progress

Book Manuscript, *Anointed Crossings: Christianity, Cold War, and the Violent Making of US Empire in the Korean War* (in progress)

Journal Article, "Conversion and Making the Anticommunist Body of Christ during the Korean War" (submitted to editor)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Fellowships

2021–22 Social Sciences Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Chicago
2018–19 Korea Foundation Fellowship for Graduate Studies
2017–18 Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic Year Fellowship in Russian
2015–19 Social Sciences Division Fellowship, University of Chicago

Grants

2024 Faculty Travel Grant, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Arizona
2022 AHA Council Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Historical Association

2018 Harry S. Truman Library Institute Research Grant

2017 Sinkler Archival Travel Grant, Department of History, University of Chicago

Awards

2021 Wayne C. Booth Graduate Student Prize for Excellent Teaching, University of Chicago, The College

2021 Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Graduate Lectureship

INVITED TALKS/LECTURES

2023 "The Politics of Christian Rescue in the Hŭngnam Evacuation of December 1950," Asian Studies Lecture Series, Yonsei University Underwood International College, November 4, 2023 (virtual).

2023 "Between Savior and Sinner: Hyun Bong-hak and the (Un-?)Making of a Cold War Moses between Cold War Korea and US Empire," Religion and Korean Diaspora Symposium, Harvard University, co-sponsored by Korea Institute and Committee on the Study of Religion (Cambridge, MA), October 26, 2023.

2022 "Christianity, Border Crossing, and US Empire in the Korean War," Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), October 20, 2022.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

2023 Co-organizer, Panel: "Christianity and Wartime Political Movements in the Twentieth-Century Postcolonial World," American Historical Association Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA), January 8, 2023.

2021 Organizer, Panel: "Governing Bloods: Science, Religion, and Race in Making Cold War South Korea," Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 22, 2021.

Papers Presented

2024 "Condolences of Empire: ~~Murder~~ Death, Religion and Militarized Violence in Wartime South Korea," Workshop for Korea Historians in North America, George Washington University (Washington, D.C.), September 20, 2024.

2024 "'Narrativizing a 'Miracle': The Hŭngnam Emergency in Anticommunist South Korea," *Korea Journal* Special Issue Workshop: Anti-Communism, National Security Law, and Thought Control in South Korea (Seoul, South Korea), June 14, 2024.

2023 "'Weapons of the Spirit': Conversion and Religious Freedom in the Korean War POW Camps," AAS-in-Asia Conference, June 26, 2023 (virtual).

2023 *Anointed Citizens: Christianity, Border Crossing and US Empire in the Korean War*, Dissertation-to-Book-Manuscript Workshop, sponsored by GWIKS, May 31, 2023.

2023 "'Revolutionary Spirit of Jesus [예수의 혁명정신]': Christianity, Nation-building, and Decolonization in Post-liberation Korea, 1945–50," Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (Boston, MA), March 17, 2023.

2023 "Exodus from Jerusalem: The Hŭngnam Refugees and the Making of 'Free' South Korea during the Korean War," American Historical Association Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA), January 8, 2023.

2022 "From 'Murder' to 'Death': American Missionaries, Race, and US Military Violence Against Civilians in the Korean War," Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA), June 18, 2022.

2021 "Suffering Flesh, Blood of Christ(ians): The Religious-Political Conversion of North Korean POWs in the Korean War," Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 22, 2021.

2020 "Holy Hymns, Fanatical Chants: Performing Citizenship through Christian Liturgy in the Korean War POW Camps," Cold War Voices: Stories, Speech and Sound, 1945–1991, University of Bristol (United Kingdom), January 22, 2020.

2019 "Christian Life and Bare Life: The Politics of Belonging in the Korean War," Korean Studies Dissertation Workshop, Social Sciences Research Council (Rye Brook, NY), August 12–15, 2019.

2018 "A Reverend on Trial: The North Korean Revolution and the Counter-Revolutionary Subject," *Journal of Korean Studies* Special Issue Workshop: Between the Sacred and Secular, Columbia University (New York, NY), November 6, 2018.

2018 "The Spiritual-Politics of Cold War South Korea and US-Korean Relations," Korea Foundation Workshop for Doctoral Students, (Seoul, South Korea), July 23, 2018.

Roundtables

2024 Discussant, Book Talk and Roundtable for *North Korea's Mundane Revolution* by Andre Schmid (University of California Press, 2024), University of Arizona, November 8, 2024.

2023 Respondent, "Author-Meets-Critics Roundtable: Justin B. Stein, *Alternative Currents: Reiki's Circulation in the Twentieth-Century North Pacific* (University of Hawai'i Press 2023)," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX), November 19, 2023.

2022 Roundtable panelist, "Ideologies & Cultures of Dissent: Left & Right," Parallax Visions: War, Politics, Systems (in celebration of Bruce Cumings and his critical scholarship), University of Chicago (Chicago, IL), September 8, 2023.

2022 Respondent, Roundtable Response to Alfred Andrea and Andrew Holt's *Sanctified Violence: Holy War in World History* (Hackett Publishing, 2021), American Historical Association Annual Meeting, February 21, 2022.

Conferences Organized

2022 Co-organizer, Blood in Modern Korea and Its Diasporas Workshop, Colby College (sponsor), April 15, 2022.

Campus Talks

2024 "Anointed Citizenship: Converting the 'Red' Enemy in Wartime South Korea," Brown Bag Colloquium Series, Department of History, University of Arizona, January 10, 2024.

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AND ADVISING

Courses Taught

KOR/HIST 275: History of Korea through 1945 (Fall 2025)
KOR/RELI 319: Shamans, Martyrs, and Heretics: Religion and the Korean Peninsula (Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025)
EAS 202: Symbol, Society, and Social Change: Modern and Contemporary East Asia (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
EAS/RELI 384: Religion and Conflict in East Asia (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)
KOR 251: Introduction to Korea through Films (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)

Senior Capstone Theses

Korean Studies, Fall 2025
Modern Korean History, Spring 2025
Modern Korean History, Spring 2025
Modern Korean History, Fall 2024
Modern Korean History, Fall 2024
Modern Korean History, Spring 2024
East Asian History, Spring 2024

Honors Theses

Modern Korean History, Spring 2025–Fall 2025
Korean Studies, Fall 2024–Spring 2025

Teaching/Advising Prior to University of Arizona

Courses Taught as Instructor of Record
George Washington University
HIST 3001W: The Korean War and Its Legacies (Fall 2022, writing intensive)
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
ASIA 300-01: Christ and Marx in Modern Korea (Spring 2021)
University of Chicago
HMRT 23216: Cold War, Religion, and Religious Freedom in East Asia (Spring 2021)

Advising
George Washington University
Advisor, 2022–23 GWIKS Undergraduate Research Fellows Program (12 projects)

Teaching Assistantships
University of Chicago
Introduction to East Asian Civilizations—China (Fall 2020, two sections)
Asian Wars of the Twentieth Century (Spring 2020)
Introduction to East Asian Civilizations—Korea (Spring 2018)
The Politics of Film in 20th-Century American History (Spring 2018)

GRADUATE TEACHING AND ADVISING

Ph.D. Committees

Y. Ahn, Chinese Cultural Anthropology, 2024–present (committee member)

Graduate Teaching

KOR 599: Independent Study (Religion and Modern Korean History)

SERVICE/OUTREACH

University/Public Outreach & Events

Interview, "Martial Law in Twenty-First Century South Korea," Parts I and II, *Tell Me About East Asia* Blog, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Arizona, January 20, February 15, 2025.

Interview, "Tell Me About Becoming a Korea Historian," *Tell Me About East Asia* Podcast Series, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Arizona, October 28, 2024.

Co-organizer & contest judge, "Campus Kimchi Masters" Student Scholarship Competition, Korean Studies program's collaboration with Korea Agro-Fisheries Food & Trade Corporation, University of Arizona, August 27–September 26, 2024.

Moderator, Film Screening: *The Pregnant Tree and the Goblin* (2019) and Q&A Discussion with Directors Dongryung Kim and Kyoungtae Park, Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, December 1, 2023.

University Service

Faculty Advisor, Korean American Student Association (KASA), 2024–present

Departmental Service

Awards Committee, 2023–24, 2024–25
Social Media Committee, 2024–25
Study Abroad Committee (Korea), 2023–24
Curriculum Committee (Korea), 2023–24

To Academic Community

Manuscript reviewer, Edizioni Ca' Foscari Venice University Press, in progress
External Dissertation Reader (S. Y. Lee), Princeton Theological Seminary, June 2025
Manuscript reviewer, Journal of Korean Religions, 2025–present
Manuscript reviewer, Journal of Korean Studies, 2021–present
Manuscript reviewer, Lexington Books, April 2024
Moderator, H-Asia Editorial Team, H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online, 2020–21

LANGUAGES

Korean: fluent reading, writing, speaking
Russian: basic reading
Japanese: basic reading

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
American Historical Association
Association for Asian Studies

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

College Teaching Certificate, Chicago Center for Teaching, University of Chicago, 2021
Basic Manuscript Editing, University of Chicago Graham School, Winter 2020
Protecting Human Research Participants (PHRP) Online Training Certificate, 2019