



# **GENDER AND POLITICS IN EAST ASIA**

**SEPT 15-16, 2025**  
**USC Scriptorium**

**USC CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, YONSEI UNIVERSITY,  
USC KOREAN STUDIES INSTITUTE, ACADEMY OF KOREAN STUDIES**

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**THE ACADEMY OF  
KOREAN STUDIES**

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This conference, co-organized by Christian Dyogi Phillips, University of Southern California and Jeong Hyun Kim, Yonsei University, brings together scholars conducting innovative research on comparative gender politics in East Asia. Papers will use a range of methodologies to examine the complex relationships between the politics of gender, migration, labor and demographic change in this region, and how they shape our understanding of democratic politics more broadly. Presenters from institutions in the United States, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, will join for two days of rigorous scholarship and generative discussions.

This conference is supported by the USC Center for International Studies, Yonsei University, the USC Korean Studies Institute, and the Academy of Korean Studies.

# SEPT. 15 AGENDA

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**9:00 AM – 9:15 AM**

**OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME**

Christian Dyogi Phillips, University of Southern California

Jeong Hyun Kim, Yonsei University

Saori Katada, director of the Center for International Studies

Sunyoung Park, director of the Korean Studies Institute

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**9:15 AM – 11:15 AM**

**PANEL 1: THE POLITICS OF SHIFTING GENDER AND POPULATION DYNAMICS**

Chair: Minnie Go, Ewha Womans University

**"Demographic Transitions, Care Work, and Immigration Attitudes in East Asia"**

(co-authored by Yesola Kweon of Sunkyunkwan University,  
Amy H. Liu of University of Texas at Austin,  
and Meiying Xu of University of Texas at Austin)

Presenter: Jeong Hyun Kim, Yonsei University

**"Demographic Anxieties and Gendered Blame: Experimental Evidence from South Korea"**

Presenter: Yesola Kweon, Sungkyunkwan University

**"Womanhood without Motherhood: New Gender and Family Norms in Contemporary Korea"**

Presenter: Eunsil Oh, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Discussant: Tiffany Barnes, University of Texas at Austin

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# SEPT. 15 AGENDA

(CONTINUED)

12:15 PM – 2:30 PM

## PANEL 2: GENDERING REPRESENTATION, VOICE AND DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY

Chair: Christian Dyogi Phillips, University of Southern California

### **“Legislating with Women: How Gender Composition Affects Issue Advocacy”**

(co-authored by Leonardo R. Arriola of University of California Merced,  
Junwoo Suh of University of California Berkeley,  
and Soosun You of University of Pennsylvania)

Presenter: Donghyun Danny Choi, Brown University

### **“The Impact of Women’s Protest Participation on Political Agency and Perceptions of Legitimacy and Democracy”**

Presenter: Soosun You, University of Pennsylvania

(co-authored by Nicholas Kuipers of Princeton University)

Discussant: Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra, University of Southern California

Discussant: Jean Hong, University of Michigan

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

## REFRESHMENT BREAK

(CONTINUED)

# SEPT. 15 AGENDA

(CONTINUED)

**3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

## **PANEL 3: GENDERING THE POLITICS OF MIGRATION IN EAST ASIA**

Chair: Jeong Hyun Kim, Yonsei University

### **"Migrant Workers or Future Citizens? Taiwan's Foreign Mid-Skilled Workers Program"**

Presenter: Yi-Chun Chien, National Chengchi University

### **"Who Welcomes Immigrants? Unveiling Gendered Attitudes in East Asian Democracies"**

Presenter: Minnie Go, Ewha Womans University

### **"The Shifting Gender Politics of Work, Marriage and Migration in Korea"**

Presenter: Christian Dyogi Phillips, University of Southern California  
(co-authored by Jeong Hyun Kim of Yonsei University)

Discussant: Margarita Estévez-Abe, Syracuse University

Discussant: Jean Hong, University of Michigan

**5:00 PM – 5:30 PM**

## **CLOSING COMMENTS FROM CHRISTIAN DYOGI PHILLIPS**

Group Photo

# SEPT. 16 AGENDA

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## 9:00 AM – 10:10 AM      **JUNIOR SCHOLARS OF KOREAN GENDER POLITICS**

Chair: Soosun You, University of Pennsylvania

### **"A Quiet Revolution: The Effect of Gender Inequality on Birth Rate Decline in South Korea"**

Presenter: Daphne Yang, University of Southern California

### **"Does Khaki Shadow Pink? Military Service and Attitudes toward Gendered Issues"**

Presenter: Yeon Soo Park, University of Texas at Dallas

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## 10:10 AM – 10:20 AM      **BREAK**

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## 10:20 AM – 11:30 AM      **(CONTINUED)**

### **"Gender Matters in the Judiciary: Adjudicating Sexual Assault in Korea"**

Presenter: Holly Seonyeong Jo, Moravian University

### **"Gendered Emotional Costs of Political Ideological Differences in Couples: Evidence from South Korea in the Era of Polarization"**

Presenter: Hyojin Lee, Yonsei University (graduate student)

Discussant: Young-Im Lee, California State University, Sacramento

Discussant: Jennifer Chun, University of California, Los Angeles



# ORGANIZERS

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PRESENTER

## CHRISTIAN DYOGI PHILLIPS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Christian Dyogi Phillips is an assistant professor in the department of political science and international relations at the University of Southern California. Her studies are focused on the intersection of race, gender, and immigration in American politics. Her current research includes an analysis of substantive representation by elected officials from immigrant communities, and a study of the ways in which immigration policies and processes inform women and men's policy preferences, within and across racial groups. Before becoming an academic, Christian was a lead organizer and political director for the Service Employees International Union, and served as the executive vice president of the Houston Organization of Public Employees. Phillips earned her MPA from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, and her PhD and MA in political science from UC Berkeley.

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PRESENTER

## JEONG HYUN KIM

YONSEI UNIVERSITY

Jeong Kim is an associate professor of political science and international studies at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. She works in the field of comparative politics with a focus on democratic representation, gender and politics, and public opinion on policy. Kim has previously served as the Representation and Electoral Systems Division Chair for the American Political Science Association. Prior to joining the faculty at Yonsei University, Kim worked as an assistant professor at Louisiana State University. There, she also served as a faculty mentor for the Discover Undergraduate Research Program. Kim received her MA in comparative politics from Korea University and her PhD in political science from Washington University in St. Louis.

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# PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS

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DISCUSSANT

## TIFFANY BARNES

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Tiffany Barnes is a professor in the department of government at the University of Texas at Austin. She is co-founder and director of The Empirical Study of Gender Research Network, as well as an editor for the *Elements in Gender & Politics* series for Cambridge University Press and the *British Journal of Political Science*. Barnes' research is in the field of comparative politics with an emphasis on leadership, gender and politics, comparative political institutions, and political behavior. Barnes was formerly associate editor at *Research and Politics* and she has worked as a research fellow at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame. She served as the Greenleaf Scholar-In-Residence in the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University. Barnes earned her PhD in political science from Rice University.

# PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS

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PRESENTER

## YI-CHUN CHIEN

NATIONAL CHENGCHI UNIVERSITY

Yi-Chun Chien is an assistant professor of political science and director of the English-Taught Program in the College of Social Sciences at National Chengchi University (NCCU), Taiwan. Chien's research and teaching explore the politics of international migration and social welfare. Other areas of her research interests include care migration, social policy in East Asia, and gender politics. Her work has been published in journals such as the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Critical Sociology*, and the *Asian Journal of Social Science*. Before joining NCCU, Chien was a postdoctoral fellow at the School of Political Studies and the research chair in Taiwan Studies at the University of Ottawa. Chien holds a PhD in political science from the University of Toronto.



PRESENTER

## DONGHYUN DANNY CHOI

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Donghyun Danny Choi is the Stephen Robert Assistant Professor of Political Science at Brown University. He serves as a faculty affiliate at the Yale Identity and Conflict Lab. He studies the challenges associated with governance and representation in diverse societies, with an emphasis on identity politics and political parties. This academic year, he will be on leave as visiting faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Georgetown University. Prior to joining Brown, Choi was an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh and a postdoctoral fellow at the Identify and Conflict Lab at University of Pennsylvania. He received his PhD in political science from UC Berkeley and a BA in economics from Korea University.



DISCUSSANT

## JENNIFER J. CHUN

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Jennifer Chun is a professor of Asian American studies and labor studies and serves as chair of International Development Studies in the International Institute at UCLA. She is associate director of the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, where she leads the Transnational Gender and Labor Working Group. Chun's research and teaching focuses on the interconnected worlds of labor, gender, race, migration, and social movements under global capitalism. She examines how workers employed on the bottom rungs of the labor market have sought to make sense of and collectively transform the unequal power dynamics that have shaped their everyday lives. Chun was previously a sociology professor and the director of the Centre for the Study of Korea at the University of Toronto. Chun received her PhD in sociology at UC Berkeley.



# PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS

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DISCUSSANT

## MARGARITA ESTÉVEZ-ABE

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Margarita Estévez-Abe is an associate professor of political economy and the co-director of the Center for European Studies at Syracuse University. She teaches comparative politics of advanced industrial countries at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. She also serves on the editorial advisory board for *Social Politics*. Estévez-Abe's research focuses on gender issues, welfare states, and varieties of capitalism. She has previously worked as an assistant professor at both Harvard University and the University of Minnesota, served as a research associate at Keio University in Japan, and worked for a senior Japanese policy advisor. Estevez-Abe received her MA from the department of political science at Keio University and earned her PhD from the department of government at Harvard University.

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PRESENTER

## MINNIE GO

EWHA WOMANS UNIVERSITY

Minnie Go is a professor in the department of political science and international relations at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea. Her research interests broadly concern key issues in diversity and sustainability, including identity politics, sustainable development, and inequality. Her book projects investigate how civic capacity may compromise, rather than facilitate, the process of building resilience after a crisis. Go has previously served as a Taiwan Fellowship recipient and visiting scholar at the National Taiwan University, as well as a visiting fellow on the Faculty of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. Prior to joining Ewha, she taught as assistant professor at Brooklyn College, the City University of New York. Go earned her PhD from the University of Chicago.

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DISCUSSANT

## JEAN HONG

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Jean Hong is an associate professor of political science and the Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the political economy of authoritarianism, with particular attention to East Asia. She has various ongoing research projects related to the legacy of the authoritarian past, the long-term impact of political violence, and the determinants of elite behavior and government policies under authoritarianism. She has previously worked as an assistant professor and associate professor in the Division of Social Science at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). She earned her MS in international relations from Seoul National University and her PhD in political science from New York University.

# PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS

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*PRESENTER*

## HOLLY SEONYEONG JO

MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

Holly Seonyeong Jo is an assistant professor of political science at Moravian University. She is currently working on her first book project that examines how judges make decisions, focusing on gender and hierarchy within South Korea's legal system. Jo is interested in how a judge's gender and rank might influence deliberations and outcomes in rape cases, considering the impact of South Korea's deeply rooted hierarchical culture and the dynamics of seniority among judges. She aims to uncover how gender and institutional position shape judicial voices and decisions within this male-dominated field. Jo has previously served as both a doctoral dissertation fellow and as a Leadership in Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (LEID) Fellow at the University of Minnesota. She holds a PhD in political science from the University of Minnesota and an MA in political science and international relations from Korea University.

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*DISCUSSANT*

## VARUN KAREKURVE-RAMACHANDRA

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra is an assistant professor in the department of political science and international relations at the University of Southern California. His research centers on the political economy of development, employing an institutional perspective and diverse methodologies to examine bias, discrimination, and potential reforms. His work explores the judiciary, women in politics, political representation, political parties, and bureaucracies, with a primary focus on South Asia. Previously, he was the inaugural Gerhard Casper Postdoctoral Fellow in Rule of Law at Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law. Karekurve-Ramachandra received his PhD in political science from the University of Rochester.

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*PRESENTER*

## YESOLA KWEON

SUNGKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY

Yeso Kweon is an associate professor of political science at Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU). Her research in comparative politics and political economy examines the political causes and consequences of social and economic inequality in post-industrial democracies, with a particular emphasis on East Asia. Kweon explores how the transformations associated with post-industrialization generate new social conflicts and divides, and how these emerging dynamics influence political behavior and reshape public policy. She has previously worked as an assistant professor of political science at Utah State University. While at SKKU, she has also served as the department chair for the department of political science and diplomacy. Kweon earned her PhD from Indiana University in comparative politics and political methodology.

# PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS

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PRESENTER

## HYOJIN LEE

YONSEI UNIVERSITY

Hyojin Lee is a master's student in the department of political science at Yonsei University in South Korea. Her research focuses on gender and politics, political behavior, and political psychology.

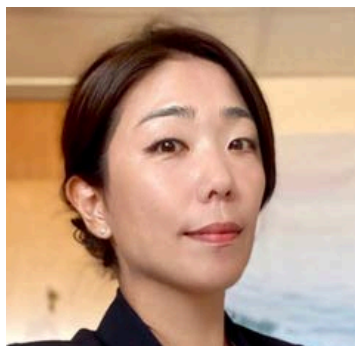


DISCUSSANT

## YOUNG-IM LEE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

Young-Im Lee is an associate professor of political science at California State University, Sacramento. She is also currently an editor for *Social Politics*. Her research interests include East Asian politics, gender issues, South Korea, Taiwan, Korea, and LGBTQ studies. Prior to joining the faculty at California State University, Sacramento, Lee served as a lecturer for the University of Missouri in St. Louis as well as a visiting assistant professor at St. Norbert College. Lee has also been a Korean studies fellow for the Academy of Korean Studies. She earned both her MA and PhD from the University of Missouri in St. Louis.



PRESENTER

## EUNSIL OH

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Eunsil Oh is an assistant professor of sociology and Asian languages and cultures at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also a member of the steering committee for her university's Center for East Asian Studies. Oh conducts research on gender, work, and family in the context of East Asia. Using qualitative methods, she investigates cultural and structural foundations of work and family decision-making processes. Her current projects include research that investigates the relationship between social change and gender norms in East Asia and the low fertility patterns in South Korea. Prior to her current position, she served as a postdoctoral scholar at Harvard University. Oh earned her MA and her PhD in sociology from Harvard University.



# PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS

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PRESENTER

## YEON SOO PARK

### UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Yeon Soo Park is a visiting assistant professor in political science at the University of Texas at Dallas. Her research interests include comparative politics, gender politics, political behavior and institutions, and representation. Her dissertation explored factors that may limit substantive representation of marginalized groups once they obtain descriptive representation in the legislature. She analyzed the military effect on male legislators' attitudes toward women's issues, committee assignments of women legislators elected via proportional representation with a gender quota versus single member districts, and the influence of mass public attitudes about sexual minorities on LGBTQ groups' substantive representation in the legislature. Park has previously worked as a research assistant for various projects under faculty members of Texas A&M University and Korea University. She earned her MA and her PhD in political science from Texas A&M University.

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PRESENTER

## DAPHNE YANG

### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Daphne Yang is a PhD candidate studying international relations and methods at the University of Southern California. She is interested in East Asian security, demography, and international political economy. Particularly, her dissertation addresses how gender dynamics affect different political outcomes in East Asia, such as voting behavior and government plans. Prior to joining the world of academia, she worked as a middle school social studies teacher in East Palo Alto and currently holds an MEd from National University as well as a California Preliminary Teaching Credential. Yang graduated cum laude from Pomona College with a BA in international relations.

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PRESENTER

## SOOSUN YOU

### UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Soosun You is an assistant professor of political science at University of Pennsylvania. She specializes in comparative politics and political behavior, with regional expertise in South Korea. Her work focuses on addressing various challenges to achieving gender equality. She is currently working on a book project that examines how changes in demographic and marital market dynamics have shaped the trajectory of women's rights in South Korea. Drawing on qualitative and quantitative methods, the book investigates the emergence of various anti-natalist and pro-natalist government policies, and how they have evolved, as South Korea transitioned from an autocracy to a democracy in the last few decades. Prior to joining the faculty at University of Pennsylvania, she worked as a research associate with the Center on the Politics of Development at UC Berkeley. She received her PhD in political science from UC Berkeley.

## USC CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

**Instagram:** @usccis

213-740-0800

**lascis@usc.edu**

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University of Southern California  
3454 Trousdale Parkway  
College Academic Services Building (CAS) 101  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0155

