

## **Korean America and the U.S.–Korea Relations**

### **Participants' Bios**

**Dr. Michael Chwe** is Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Political Science Department at the University of California, Los Angeles. He teaches courses on game theory for graduates and undergraduates, and studies how people coordinate their actions when each person wants to participate only if enough others do. He authored *Jane Austen: Game Theorist* (2014, Princeton University) and *Rational Ritual: Culture, Coordination, and Common Knowledge* (2013, Princeton University). His works have been translated into Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Other areas of interest include jury decision making and television advertising. Prior to UCLA, he has served on the faculty of the University of Chicago and New York University.

**Dr. Ga Young Chung** is Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and is affiliated with the Cultural Studies, the Human Rights Studies, and East Asian Studies at the UC Davis. In her research, Chung explores the im/mobility and precarity of humans and non-humans, particularly with respect to racial capitalism and uneven globalization. She is completing her book manuscript, entitled "Unexpired: Undocumented Youth Time and Futurity," exploring how undocumented Korean immigrant youth engage with competing possible futures through education, military service, and activism.

**Eujean Doo** is PhD student in the Department of Sociology at the University of California Berkeley. Her research interests include development, infrastructure, state capitalism, postcolonial modernity and Korea. She is affiliated with the Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative and the Global Metropolitan Studies Initiative. She received her BA in Sociology and East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Southern California.

**Zavi Kang Engles** is a poet, writer, and second-year PhD student in the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. She holds an MA in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago and an MFA in Creative Writing from Naropa University where she was the 2021-2023 Anne Waldman Fellow. She is broadly interested in Asian American literature, decolonial art and spiritual practices, sensation, and embodiment. Her current research explores the remaking of shamanism in contemporary Korean American poetry and practice.

**Dr. Christine Hong** is Professor of Literature and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies and the University of California Santa Cruz. Her research interests include Asian American literature, cultural criticism, African American literature and black freedom studies, Korean diasporic cultural production, and Pacific Rim studies. She authored *A Violent Peace: Race, US Militarism, and Cultures of Democratization in Cold War Asia and the Pacific* (2020, Stanford University Press). She received her Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley.

**Dr. Jane Junn** is the USC Associates Chair in Social Sciences and a Professor of Political Science and Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Southern California. Her research focuses on public opinion, political behavior, and survey methodology, with a particular emphasis on gender and Asian American political participation. She is the author of several award-winning books, including *Education and Democratic Citizenship in America* (with Norman H. Nie and Kenneth Stehlik-Barry, 1996), *Civic Education: What Makes Students Learn* (with Richard G. Niemi, 2005), *Asian American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and Their Political Identities* (with Janelle S. Wong, S. Karthick Ramakrishnan, and Taeku Lee, 2011), and *The Politics of Belonging: Race, Public Opinion, and Immigration* (with Natalie Masuoka, 2013). Her most recent book is *Women Voters: Race, Gender, and Dynamism in American Elections* (with Natalie Masuoka, 2024). Junn has held leadership roles in several professional organizations. She was the 2018–2019 President of the Western Political Science Association and the 2009-2010 Vice President of the American Political Science Association. She was also a director at the Association of American Universities for four years. Between 2018 and 2020, she and Marisa Abrajano led *the Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* as co-editors.

**Katelyn Kim** (she/her) is a junior at UCLA majoring in English. She is interested in the study of performance and sound as they relate to the formation of race and creation of the Abject. She is curious about how our embodied selves can advance the struggle towards liberation.

**Matty Kim** is a founding member of Koreans 4 Decolonization, an identity-based political organization created by diasporic Koreans. The organization and its members practice decolonization and anti-imperialism in their neighborhoods, campuses, and homeland through community building, solidarity, and political education about Korean and Korean-American history. K4D aims to create a sustainable political home for new organizers, youth, and students. Matty co-founded K4D in 2022 as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley and they are currently a member of K4D Los Angeles.

**Dr. Richard S. Kim** is Professor in the Department of Asian American Studies at UC Davis. His research and teaching interests include Asian American history, immigration, transnationalism and diaspora, race and ethnicity, and social and political movements. He is the author of numerous publications including *The Quest for Statehood: Korean Immigrant Nationalism and U.S. Sovereignty, 1905-1945* (Oxford University Press, 2011), which examines the consequences and implications of diasporic political activity in a U.S. setting. Most recently, he co-edited *Freedom Without Justice: The Prison Memoirs of Chol Soo Lee* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2017), which chronicles the experiences of Chol Soo Lee, a young Korean immigrant, who was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment and later to Death Row for a murder he did not commit in the early 1970s. Building upon Lee's memoir, Kim is currently working on a book project that focuses on the extraordinary, yet largely forgotten, grassroots pan-Asian social movement that helped secure Lee's historic release from Death Row in 1983.

**Dr. Seon Ho Kim** is a Research Scientist and Associate Director in the Integrated Media Systems Center (IMSC) at USC, and a teaching faculty in Data Science program in the Viterbi School of Engineering. He is also the founder and president of SoDAVi (Social Data Analysis and Visualization) Group, a non-profit organization which aims for providing data collection and analysis service to Korean-American community. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Southern California.

**Dr. Shelley Lee** is the W. Duncan MacMillan II Professor of American Studies, History, and the Humanities at Brown University. Her scholarship and teaching focus on the histories of immigration, race relations, Asian Americans, and U.S. cities during the twentieth century. She is the author of *Koreatown, Los Angeles: Immigration, Race, and the "American Dream"* (2022) and most recently the second edition of *A New History of Asian America* (2026). Beginning in July 2026, she will become the director of the Cogut Institute of the Humanities at Brown University.

**Dr. Jong Hyun Lim** is a historic preservation consultant and Principal of Heritage Smart Consulting Group. He holds a Ph.D. in Architecture from Oxford Brookes University and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. His scholarship and professional practice engage historic preservation at the intersection of regulatory compliance, community planning, and cultural heritage management. He has led a broad range of preservation initiatives in the United States, including Section 106 review, National and State Register documentation, urban revitalization planning, and policy-oriented preservation strategy. Since 2021, he has also collaborated with the Korean government on projects involving independence-era and Korean American historic sites, including the rehabilitation of the Young Korean Academy in Los Angeles, research and advocacy related to the Willows Korean Aviation School in California, and the development of operational guidelines for the Old Korean Legation Museum in Washington, D.C. Through this work, Dr. Lim advances a shared-heritage framework that situates diasporic historic sites within broader questions of migration, sovereignty, and cross-border cultural stewardship, linking regulatory practice with historical interpretation and community engagement.

**Dr. Sunyoung Park** is Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures in the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and the Director of the USC Korean Studies Institute. She is the author of *The Proletarian Wave: Literature and Leftist Culture in Colonial Korea, 1910-1945* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2015) and the editor of *Revisiting Minjung: New Perspectives on the Cultural History of 1980s South Korea* (University of Michigan Press, 2019). In synergy with her research, Park is also active as an editor and translator of Korean fiction into English. Her work includes *On the Eve of the Uprising and Other Stories from Colonial Korea* (Cornell East Asian Series, 2010); *Readymade Bodhisattva: The Kaya Anthology of Science Fiction from South Korea* (Kaya Press, 2019); and *On the Origin of Species and Other Stories* by Bo-Young Kim (Kaya Press, 2021). She is currently writing a monograph on science fiction and the politics of modernization in South Korea.

**Dillon Sung** is a Ph.D. candidate and Provost Fellow in the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity. Through conversations with Asian and American studies, Dillon’s dissertation “The Mad Relations of Korean Statelessness” is a genealogical inquiry into instantiations of twentieth-century Korean stateless subjectivities through an examination of the juridical and historical linkages across the colonial Korean era, the militarization of madness during the Korean War, North Korean defectors in South Korea, and undocumented Koreans in the U.S. Her research also contributes to scholarship on regimes of truth, sovereignty, and Asian racialization by drawing on U.S. Cold War immigration policies and rights-oriented international advocacy that determine the possibilities of movement, rights, and agency for Korean stateless subjects. Most recently, Dillon was awarded the 2025-26 Russell Endowed Dissertation Completion Fellowship from USC’s Graduate School. She is also a multimedia artist, memory worker, and community organizer—stewarding art and community-based projects through funding such as the 2020-21 Eyebeam Rapid Response for a Better Digital Future Fellowshi