

# JIEUN BAEK

Harvard Kennedy School of Government  
79 JFK Street. (Rubenstein 224) Cambridge, MA 02138  
[www.JieunBaek.com](http://www.JieunBaek.com)

---

## CURRENT POSITION & AFFILIATIONS

### Harvard Kennedy School, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy (Fall 2022 – present)

- Research Project Manager for “Technology and Human Rights in North Korea.” Conduct research and manage research projects among graduate students on policy-relevant and academic questions at the nexus of human rights, technology, and geopolitics centered on North Korea

### Affiliations

- Council of Foreign Relations (Term Member; 2021-2026)
- Council of Korean Americans (2020 – present)
- Research Affiliate at Oxford University’s Center for Technology and Global Affairs (2018-2020)

## PREVIOUS POSITIONS

### Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

- Postdoctoral fellowship with the Applied History Project and Korea Project. Researched various aspects of US policy on North Korea at the intersection of security, information access, and human rights. Developed second monograph based on doctoral dissertation. (Fall 2020 – Spring 2022)
- Research fellowship with Graham Allison. (2014-2016)

## EDUCATION

### Oxford University (St. Cross College)

- PhD (Dphil) in Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, 2020
- Dissertation: “A Micro-level study of first movers of high-risk dissent in Burma 1988-2011.” Advisor: Maya Tudor

### Harvard University

- Masters in Public Policy, 2014
- B.A. in Government, 2010

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOK

2016 *North Korea’s Hidden Revolution: How the Information Underground is Transforming a Closed Society.* (Yale University Press)

*Critically reviewed in Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries, Kirkus Reviews, Korean Studies, The Journal of Asian Studies, The New Yorker, Pacific Affairs.*

### BOOK CHAPTER

2018 “Breaking Through: North Korea’s Information Underground and Transnational Advocacy Networks,” in Danielle Chubb and Andrew Yeo (eds.) *Transnational Activism and International Discourses on North Korea Human Rights.* (Cambridge University Press)

### POLICY & OTHER WRITING

2021 “A Policy of Public Diplomacy with North Korea: A Principled and Pragmatic Approach to Promote Human Rights and Pursue Denuclearization.” (*Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School*)

2020 “Don’t Leave North Koreans in the Dark: South Korea’s Misguided Ban on Sending Information Across the Border.” *ForeignAffairs.com*, December 21

2019 “Report of the International Study Group on North Korea Policy.” One of 20 North Korea watchers selected from 6 countries to write report for US Congress. Funded by MacArthur Foundation; Convened by Federation of American Scientists and Center for New Security

2018 “Bringing Real News to North Koreans: What the Truth Could Do to Pyongyang.” *ForeignAffairs.com*, June 11

2017 “The Opening of the North Korean Mind.” *ForeignAffairs.com*. January/February 2017 issue, (Selected one of 20 best articles of 2017)

2016 “Empowering North Koreans as Part of Trump’s North Korea Policy.” *CSIS Beyond Parallel*, February 13

2016 “Can Smuggled TV Shows Change North Korea?” *New York Times*. December 13

“Let’s Use What North Korea is Most Afraid of: Ideological Warfare,” *Huffington Post*, January 7

- 2015 “Hack and Frack North Korea: How Information Campaigns Can Liberate the Hermit Kingdom.” (*Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School*)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- *Elites of North Korea*. (Yale University Press) Under contract
- *The Making of First Movers: A Study of First Movers of Dissent in Burma*. Book manuscript under review (Columbia University Press)
- “North Korea’s Prospects for Democratization.” Article manuscript in preparation.

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 Asia Society’s Asia 21 Young Leaders  
 2012-14 Belfer Center, International and Global Affairs Student Fellowship  
 2014 Award for Best Human Rights Policy Analysis Exercise from Harvard Carr Center for Human Rights. “A Study of how UNHCR could Engage Civil Society in the Syrian Refugee Response in Lebanon.”  
 2013 Harvard Middle East Institute, Summer Fellowship to Turkey  
 2006-08 Harvard Institute of Politics, Director’s Scholarship

## RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2022 UniKorea Foundation Research Grant  
 2019 Oxford’s St. Cross College Travel and Research Fund  
 2017-18 Oxford-Burma Visiting Fund Scholarship  
 Blavatnik School of Government’s Research Grant, Oxford University  
 2013 Harvard Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Winter Research Grant to Lebanon

## PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Two-Track Approach to Human Rights in North Korea: Engagement and Accountability

- UN General Assembly Side Event, European Union and Republic of Korea’s Mission to the United Nations (2022)

North Korea’s Nuclear Threat and Human Rights

- Republic of Korea’s Consulate and Harvard Faculty Club (2022)
- Georgetown University (2021)
- Wesleyan University (2021)
- Asia Society (2017, 2021)

Civil Society, Markets, and North Korea

- Discussant, United States Institute of Peace (2021)

North Korea, Information, Technology, and Human Rights

- Korea Society (2022, 2021)
- International Parliamentarians’ Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights (2022)
- Unification Media Group (2022)
- Sejong Society (2021)
- EU Parliament (2017)
- London School of Economics, Korea Conference (2017)

“North Korea’s Hidden Revolution: How the Information Underground is Transforming a Closed Society.”

- Sheffield University (2019)
- Oxford’s Changing Character of War Center (2018)
- Oxford’s Center for Technology and Global Affairs (2018)
- Asia Society (2017)
- Belfer Center, Harvard University (2017)
- Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University (2017)
- St. Cross College, Oxford University (2017)
- The Korea Society (New York, 2016)
- UK Parliament, All-Party Parliamentary Group on North Korea (London, 2016)

“Hack and Frack North Korea: How Information Campaigns can Change North Korea.”

- Conference on Advancing Human Rights in North Korea, Fletcher School of Diplomacy, Tufts University (2015)
- Inside North Korea. Chicago Council for Global Affairs (2015)

- International Conference on North Korea, Ministry of Unification (Seoul, 2015)
  - Young and the Brave: The Next Generation of Korea Scholars, Brookings Institute (2015)
- 2020 “North Korea’s Information and Technology: The Inflow of Foreign Content and the Regime’s Countermeasures.” Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School
- 2018 “10th Annual Koret Workshop, ‘North Korea 2020.’” Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University  
 “Beyond the Headlines: Understanding Korea.” Albright Institute, Wellesley College  
 “Negotiating with North Korea.” Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University
- 2015 “The Changing Media Environment in North Korea and Proper Countermeasures.” International Symposium for Freedom of Information in North Korea, Unification Media Group, Seoul  
 “Indigenous and Cross-Border Activities for Advancing Human Rights in North Korea.” US Policy Towards North Korea, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University  
 “The Role of Governments and Civil Society in Engaging North Korea through Information Campaigns.” World Conference on North Korea, Ministry of Unification, Seoul

## **RESEARCH-BASED COMMENTARY AND COVERAGE**

### **NEWSPAPER AND ONLINE MAGAZINES**

- Council of Foreign Relations, CSIS Beyond Parallel, Der Spiegel, Dong-a Ilbo, Foreign Affairs, Harvard Gazette, Huffington Post, Korea Daily, New York Times, NK News, PBS News Hour, Politico, The Conversation, The National Interest, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post

### **DOCUMENTARY, PODCAST, RADIO AND TELEVISION**

- CNN Fareed Zakaria’s “The Two Faces of Kim Jong Un,” National Geographic’s “Inside North Korea’s Dynasty”
- Asia Society, Council of Foreign Relations, Korea Economic Institute of America, New Books in East Asian Studies, The Korea Now Podcast, Yale University Press Podcast
- Al Jazeera, Arirang, Australia Broadcast Corporation, BBC, National Public Radio, NBC, Radio Free Asia, Voice of America

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Liberty in North Korea** (2022 – present)

- Director of Labs, a team that develops tools and strategies to promote information dissemination among North Koreans

### **Lumen** (2017-present)

- Founder/director of NGO that researches and develops information dissemination methods for North Koreans

### **Google, Mountain View** (2010-12)

- Google Ideas, North Korea Lead. Researched and managed projects related to increasing access to information for North Koreans defectors through technological solutions; including publishing high-resolution Google Earth images of Pyongyang. Organized Cyber Security Conference in Jan 2012 (attended by Google co-founder Sergey Brin). Organized North Korea panel and workshop with 10 North Korean defectors for Google’s Illicit Networks Conference in July 2012 (350 participants, including Google chairman Eric Schmidt and executive leadership team)
- Online Sales, Account Manager. Managed 65 mid-sized clients’ Google AdWords accounts; exceeded annual 2011 target of \$30M; Won company’s Diversity Award 2011 for successful strategy adoption by minority-owned businesses

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Departmental and Campus Service (University of Oxford)**

- Hertford College (2017-2019). Junior dean; helped oversee welfare and discipline of 500 students
- St. Cross College (2017-2020). College junior advisor; advise graduate students on their career and academic progress

### **Departmental and Campus Service (Harvard)**

- Harvard Kennedy School’s Student Body President (2013-2014)
- Government Concentration Advisor for Pforzheimer House (2009-2014)
- Mentor women at Harvard University through Harvard’s Organization of Asian-American Sisters in Service (2010-present)
- Harvard’s Women Center’s Radcliffe Mentor (2008-2014)

### **Disciplinary Service**

- Assessor, Oxford’s Blavatnik School of Government’s Masters in Public Policy Admissions Committee (2021 – present)
- Thesis Advisor for Harvard undergraduate senior in the Government Department (2022-present)
- Member, Bush Institute’s North Korean Freedom Scholarship Selection Committee (2021 – present)

#### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Taught two public policy courses at Yangon School of Political Science to former political prisoners and other disenfranchised populations in Yangon. School founded by five former Burmese political prisoners (2017-2019)
- Ran a dozen workshops in Myanmar on citizenship and youth empowerment for Rohingyas, refugees, children of political prisoners, and internally displaced persons (2017-2019)
- Board member of three NGOs: Lumen; North Korean Human Rights Watch; Woorion
- Divided Families Film - managed 70 volunteers, raised \$40k for documentary about divided families in DPRK and US ([www.dividedfamilies.com](http://www.dividedfamilies.com)) (2009-14)
- Created mentorship program for North Korean defectors and Ivy League students (2017-18)

**Overseas field research and select travel:** Burma/Myanmar (2013, 2017, 2018, 2019), Japan (2007, 2013, 2019), North Korea (2013), Lebanon (2013), South Korea (over 30 times), Norway (2015, 2017, 2018, 2022), Thailand (2013, 2018, 2019), Turkey (2013), United Kingdom (2016-2020)

S