

JIEUN BAEK

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CURRENT POSITION & AFFILIATIONS

University of Oxford

- Course co-convenor for Policy Challenges II: North Korea Crisis Simulation for Blavatnik School of Government's Masters in Public Policy Program (2023 - present)

Atlantic Council

- Non-resident Senior Fellow for Indo-Pacific Security Initiative, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security (2023-present)

Affiliations

- Council on Foreign Relations (Term Member; 2021-2026)
- Council of Korean Americans (2020 – present)
- Non-Resident Fellow, European Centre for North Korean Studies (2023 - present)

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Harvard Kennedy School of Government

- Research Project Manager for "Technology and Human Rights in North Korea" at the HKS Carr Center for Human Rights Policy (2022 - 2023)

EDUCATION

University of Oxford (St. Cross College)

- PhD (Dphil) in Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government (Date of conferral: July 9, 2020)
- Research Affiliate at Oxford University's Center for Technology and Global Affairs (2018-2020)
- Dissertation: "A Micro-level study of first movers of high-risk dissent in Burma 1988-2011."
Advisor: Maya Tudor

Harvard University

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

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

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

2025 *Hidden Discontent: Unraveling North Korean Elites' Grievances and their Potential for Regime Instability* (Yale University Press, forthcoming)

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)

ARTICLES

- 2023 "Qualitative Methods for Research on a Hard-to-Reach and Vulnerable Population in Burma" (under review)
- "Walking the Terrains of Burma: Researcher Positionality in Immersive Fieldwork" (accepted)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Hidden Power: Power Struggles Among North Korean Provinces and Decentralized Centers of Influence* (Yale University Press) Book proposal under review
- *The Making of First Movers: A Study of First Movers of Dissent in Burma*. (Columbia University Press) Book manuscript under review
- *Unveiling North Korea’s Digital Frontier: Myths, Realities, and the North Korean People’s Struggle for Information Freedom* (Columbia University Press). Proposal under blind peer review
- “North Korea’s Prospects for Democratization”
- "Hidden Codes: Unveiling North Korea's Overseas IT Operatives"
- "Stealth Pedagogy: Unveiling the Impact of Informal Political Education in Authoritarian Countries"

POLICY & OTHER WRITINGS

- 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)
- “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*)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 University of Oxford’s Vice Chancellor’s Innovative Teaching and Assessment Award for North Korea Crisis Simulation for Master of Public Policy program at Oxford’s Blavatnik School of Government

2020-22	Postdoctoral fellowship with Applied History Project and Korea Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
2017	Asia Society's Asia 21 Young Leaders
2014-16	Research Fellowship with Graham Allison at HKS Belfer Center
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

TEACHING

University of Oxford

Policy Challenge II: North Korea's Nuclear Crisis (2023-present). Course co-convener

Harvard Kennedy School

"Human Rights and Technology in North Korea" study group (2022-2023)

Yangon School of Political Science

Introduction to Public Policy (Summer 2017)

Dissenters, Rebels and Radicals (Spring 2018)

*Yangon School of Political Science is an alternative school founded by five Burmese democracy activists who are former political prisoners

University of Yangon

Introduction to Public Policy (March 2018)

RESEARCH-BASED COMMENTARY & COVERAGE

NEWSPAPER AND MEDIA OUTLETS

- Atlantic Council, Council of Foreign Relations, CSIS Beyond Parallel, Der Spiegel, Dong-a Ilbo, Foreign Affairs, Harvard Gazette, Harvard Kennedy School, 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

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Consultant for the U.S. Department of State

- Domestic Influences in DPRK Post-Covid (April 2024)
- Challenges and Opportunities for Technology in DPRK (September 2020)
- Succession Plans in DPRK (July 2020)
- Foreign Influence in Closed Societies (May 2019)

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 the impact of unauthorized information consumption among North Koreans on their society (www.Lumen.Global)

Google, Mountain View (2010-12)

- Google Ideas (now: Jigsaw), North Korea Lead. Researched and managed projects to increase access to information for North Koreans defectors; including publishing high-resolution Google Earth images of Pyongyang
- Online Sales, Account Manager. Won company's Diversity Award 2011 for successful strategy adoption by minority-owned businesses

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Reviewer

- Yale University Press, Problems of Post-Communism, Korean Studies

UNIVERSITY 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 undergraduates (2009-2014)
- Harvard's Women Center's Radcliffe Mentor (2008-2014)

Disciplinary Service

- Assessor, Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government's Master in Public Policy Admissions Committee (2021 – 2023)

- Thesis Advisor for Harvard undergraduate seniors in the Government Department (2022-present)
- Member, George W. Bush Presidential Center's North Korean Freedom Scholarship Selection Committee (2021 – present)

RESEARCH SKILLS & TRAINING

- **Languages:** English (Native); Korean (Proficient); German, Spanish (basic)
- **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)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Ran a dozen workshops in Burma on democratic citizenship 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) (2009-14)
- Created mentorship program for North Korean defectors & Ivy League students (2016-18)

REFERENCES

Graham Allison

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