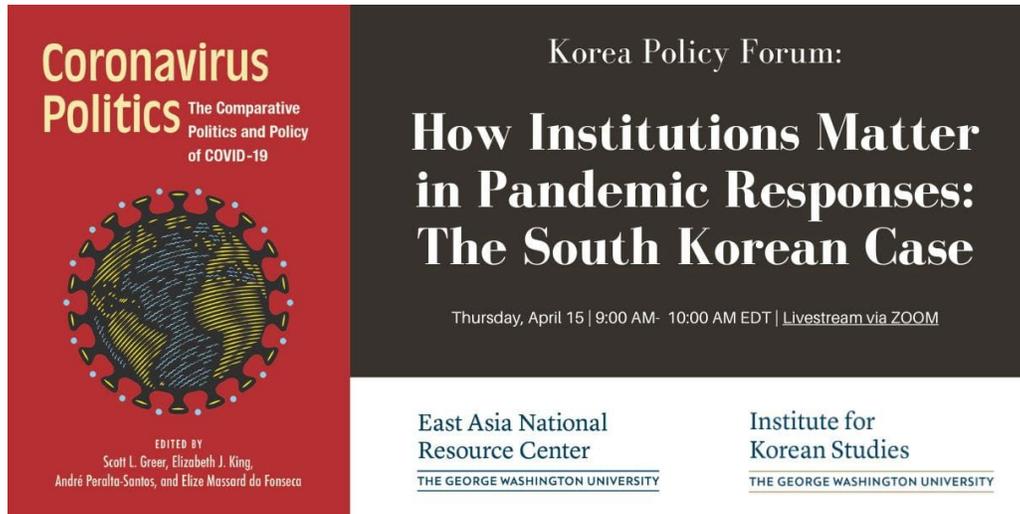


Korea Policy Forum

How Institutions Matter in Pandemic Responses: The South Korean Case



Speaker

June Park

East Asia Voices Initiative (EAVI) Fellow, East Asia National Resource Center
George Washington University

Discussant

Celeste Arrington

Korea Foundation Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
George Washington University

Moderator

Yonho Kim

Associate Director, GW Institute for Korean Studies
George Washington University

Thursday, April 15, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. EDT

Virtual Event via Zoom

◇ Event Description

A forthcoming book, *Coronavirus Politics* (Greer et al. 2021, Michigan University Press) identifies key threads in the global comparative discussion that continue to shed light on COVID-19 and shape debates about what it means for scholarship in health and comparative politics. Contributing a chapter to the book on the South Korean pandemic governance on COVID-19 encompassing South Korea's public health (3Ts: Testing, Tracing, Treatment) and social policies, Dr. June Park argues that functioning institutions matter in pandemic governance and determines the level of their effectiveness by scrutinizing the case of South Korea under COVID-19. She focuses on public health bureaucracy and policy coordination supported by public participation, which are vital to effective policy response. Dr. Park highlights the technocracy at the core in public health and the significant role it has come to play as the "control tower." The book brings together over 30 authors versed in politics and the health issues in order to understand the health policy decisions, the public health interventions, the social policy decisions, their interactions, and their reasons – analyses which will serve as a record of country responses to COVID-19 and as a case reference for future pandemics.system, after fostering a strong sense of elitism in them, withdrew its ideological endorsement and material support. As a result, they turned to Decadent rebellion to reclaim their spiritual superiority yet in vain because of its internal and external paradoxes.

◇ Speaker



June Park is an East Asia Voices Initiative (EAVI) Fellow of the East Asia National Resource Center at the Elliot School of International Affairs at the George Washington University. She specializes in U.S. foreign economic policymaking on export-oriented countries of Northeast Asia – China, Japan and South Korea. She studies trade, energy, and tech conflicts with a broader range of regional focuses on the U.S., East Asia, Europe and the Middle East and intensive policy-oriented research on the two Koreas. She studies *why* countries fight and *how*, using *what* including why countries have different policy outcomes by analyzing governance structures – domestic institutions, leaderships, and bureaucracies that shape the policy formation process. Recently, Dr. June Park was awarded the Fung Global Fellowship (Early-Career Scholar Track) at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies at Princeton University for the 2021-2022 academic year for my research proposal, ‘Governing a Pandemic with Data on the Contactless Path to AI’.

◇ **Discussant**



Celeste Arrington is Korea Foundation Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at GW. She specializes in comparative politics, with a regional focus on the Koreas and Japan. Her research and teaching focus on law and social movements, the media, lawyers, policy processes, historical justice, North Korean human rights, and qualitative methods. She is also interested in the international relations and security of Northeast Asia and transnational activism. She is the author of *Accidental Activists: Victim Movements and Governmental Accountability in Japan and South Korea* (2016) and has published in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Law & Society Review*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Asian Survey*, and the *Washington Post*, among others. She received a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, an MPhil from the University of Cambridge, and an A.B. from Princeton University. She is currently writing a book that analyzes the role of lawyers and legal activism in Japanese and Korean policies related to persons with disabilities and tobacco control.

◇ **Moderator**



Yonho Kim is Associate Research Professor of Practice and Associate Director of GW Institute for Korean Studies. He specializes in North Korea's mobile telecommunications and U.S. policy towards North Korea. Kim is the author of *North Korean Phone Money: Airtime Transfers as a Precursor to Mobile Payment System* (2020), *North Korea's Mobile Telecommunications and Private Transportation Services in the Kim Jong-un Era* (2019) and *Cell Phones in North Korea: Has North Korea Entered the Telecommunications Revolution?* (2014). His research findings were covered by various media outlets, including *Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *Yonhap News*, and *Libération*. Prior to joining GWIKS, he extensively interacted with the Washington policy circle on the Korean peninsula as Senior Researcher of the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Senior Reporter for Voice of America's Korean Service, and Assistant Director of the Atlantic Council's Program on Korea in Transition. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in International Relations from Seoul National University, and an M.A. in International Relations and International Economics from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

This event is on the record and open to the public.