



PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES IN ASIA
In cooperation with
GW INSTITUTE FOR KOREAN STUDIES and
THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH KOREA

Program thanks to generous funding from the Henry Luce Foundation

March 28, 2018, Lindner Commons, Room 602, Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E ST, NW

8:00-9:00 - Doors Open & Registration Coffee and light refreshments served

9:00-9:20 - Welcome and Introduction

Linda J. Yarr, PISA, "Why look beyond the nuclear issue to understand NK?"
James Person, NCNK, "The National Committee on North Korea: Its Goals and Principles"

9:20-10:40 - Exploring North Korean History and Literature, Maggie Nelsen, PISA, Moderator

Meredith Shaw, University of Southern California, "Springtime, Youth, Modernity and Family: Evolving Propaganda Narratives in New DPRK State Fiction"
André Schmid, University of Toronto, "The North Korean State - Our Shared Myths"
Immanuel Kim, University of Binghamton, "Interruptive Laughter in Comedy Film 'My Family's Problem'"
James Person, Johns Hopkins University, "De-constructing Myths in North Korea's Political, Diplomatic, and Ideological History"

10:40-11:00 - Coffee Break

11:00-12:20 - The Arts, Sports, and Media in North Korea, Daniel Wertz, NCNK, Moderator

B.G. Muhn, Georgetown University, "The Contemporaneity in North Korean Art, Chosonhwa"
George Vitale, International Taekwondo Federation, "Taekwon-Do - Opening Doors In & Out Of NK Since 1980"
Darcie Draudt, Johns Hopkins University, "Media Representations of Women in the DPRK"

12:20-1:40 - Lunch and Keynote Address:

Jon Brause, World Food Programme;
Gregg Brazinsky, GWIKS, Moderator

1:40-3:20 - Humanitarian Engagement with the DPRK, Esther Im, NCNK, Moderator

Randall Spadoni, World Vision, "The Humanitarian Imperative and North Korea"
Andrew Yeo, Catholic University, "The Limits and Possibilities of People-to-People Engagement"
Daniel Jasper, American Friends Service Committee, "Engaging North Korea: Breaking the Conflict Cycle"
Jessica Lee, Council of Korean Americans, "Korean American Community's Perspective on US-North Korea relations"

3:20-3:40 - Break

3:40-5:00 - Academic & Science Engagement with the DPRK, Linda J. Yarr, PISA, Moderator

Frederick Carrière, Syracuse University, "Syracuse University's Academic Exchanges with the DPRK: Premature or Preempted?"
Kyung-Ae Park, University of British Columbia, "Soft Power and Academic Engagement with North Korea"
Norma Nichols, Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, "PUST as an Agent of Peace"

5:00-5:30 - Wrap Up and Next Steps: Daniel Wertz, NCNK

Speaker Biographies:



Linda J. Yarr is Research Professor of Practice of International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs and Director of Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA). She began her work for PISA in 1995, when PISA was located within the American Council for Learned Societies. PISA promotes international affairs education training and research in cooperation with leading agencies and universities in Asia. Ms. Yarr has secured foundation grants and private donations to underwrite all of PISA's activities and designed its collaborative and path-breaking programs in Asia. Ms. Yarr taught at American University, Friends World College, the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the University of Denver. She has held visiting scholar appointments at the University of Helsinki, the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, the Institute for Malaysian and International Studies of the National University of Malaysia, the School of International Service of American University, and the Rocky Mountain Women's Institute. She serves on the board of directors of *Critical Asian Studies* and is a member of the National Committee on North Korea. She received her M.A. in Government and Southeast Asia Studies from Cornell University and the Diplôme in international relations from the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).



James F. Person is a Lecturer of Korea Studies and Research Director at the US-Korea Institute (USKI) at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Prior to joining USKI, he was the founding Director of the Hyundai Motor-Korea Foundation Center for Korean History and Public Policy at the Wilson Center. Between 2007 and early 2017, he served as the founding Coordinator of the North Korea International Documentation Project, and was Deputy Director of the History and Public Policy Program at the Wilson Center from 2013 to 2017. He teaches courses on modern Korean history at Johns Hopkins SAIS and has taught at the George Washington University. He has appeared on CBS, CSPAN, National Public Radio, Vice News, KBS, and his interviews have appeared in Newsweek, CNN, USA Today, the LA Times, the Donga Daily, and other news outlets. He has worked as a consultant on historical documentaries. Dr. Person holds a Ph.D. in modern Korean history from the George Washington University, M.Phil. from Lomonosov Moscow State University, and B.A. from the George Washington University.



Maggie Nelsen is the Program Assistant for Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA). Maggie works closely with PISA's director in strategic planning, donor engagement, and grant proposal writing. Maggie served as a Fulbright Grantee in Malaysia for two years before joining PISA. Prior to living in Malaysia, Maggie conducted international development research at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She interned for Senator Mark R. Warner, and in the Asian Division of The Library of Congress. A native Washingtonian, Maggie earned a BA in Government/International Relations, with a Minor in Japanese History from Connecticut College. Maggie begins her MA in International Education at GW University this summer.



Meredith Shaw is a PhD Candidate in Politics and International Relations at the University of Southern California and soon-to-be managing editor of *Social Science Japan Journal*. She holds BA degrees in Computer Science and East Asian Studies from Brown University and an MA in International Relations from Ritsumeikan University. Her dissertation examines state-driven cultural policies and their impact on regime longevity in Japan, Mongolia, South Korea and North Korea. She also maintains the "North Korean Literature in English" blog (<http://dprklit.blogspot.com/>).



Andre Schmid is Chair and Associate Professor of the Dept. of East Asian Studies, University of Toronto, where he has taught since 1997. His book, *Korea Between Empires, 1895-1919* was the winner of the John Whitney Hall prize of the Association of Asian Studies. His state of the field article on North Korean history is forthcoming in the April issue of the *American Historical Review*, entitled "Historicizing North Korea." His current work includes researching a gendered cultural and socio-economic history of North Korean reconstruction after the war, covering the 1950s and 1960s.



Immanuel Kim is an assistant professor in the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies at Binghamton University. He received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of California, Riverside, specializing in North Korean literature. His book *Rewriting Revolution: Women, Sexuality, and Memory in North Korean Fiction* is coming out next month through the University of Hawaii Press. He is currently working on his new research project in North Korean comedy films and their relation to nation-building, political ideology, and the film industry.



Daniel Wertz is Program Manager at the National Committee on North Korea (NCNK), where his research has focused on topics including sanctions, the North Korean economy, and international NGO activities in North Korea. Previously, he worked as a Research Assistant at the U.S.-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Wertz received master's degrees in International History in a joint program from Columbia University and the London School of Economics, and a bachelor's degree in History from Wesleyan University.



Professor **BG Muhn** is a visual artist and teaches painting in the Department of Art and Art History at Georgetown University. He has also achieved substantial and noteworthy professional recognition through solo exhibitions in venues such as Stux Gallery in Chelsea in New York City, Ilmin Museum of Art in Seoul and the American University Museum in Washington, DC. Through his professional endeavors, Professor Muhn has received numerous awards for his artistic merits including the Maryland State Arts Council's Individual Artist Award and the 1st place award in the Bethesda Painting Awards Competition. His artwork has been collected in numerous museums and galleries including the National Museum of Modern Art in Korea. He also has received acclaim in reviews and interviews in *The New York Times*, *Art in America* and *CNN*. In addition to actively

showing his artworks Professor Muhn has also taken an interest in and studied relatively unknown North Korean art. He has made numerous research trips to Pyongyang, North Korea during the past six years and conducted interviews of artists, art historians and museum staff by visiting the Choson National Art Museum and other national art exhibitions as well as Mansudae Art Studio. He has been giving lectures on North Korean art at numerous academic venues including Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Columbia and Harvard universities. His research on North Korean art will culminate in a book, *Pyongyang Art: The Uncovering the Complex Layers of Chosonhwa* which will be published in the spring of 2018. Professor Muhn was recently chosen as curator of the exhibition of North Korean art at Gwangju Biennale of Korea in 2018. In addition, he was appointed as a Maryland Arts Counsel by the Governor in October, 2017.



Dr. George Vitale's fascination with the fighting arts began with Western systems as a youngster with boxing, spurred on by his Father's interest. As a teen he trained in Wrestling, competing locally in both. His introduction to the Eastern Arts began with an exposure to Tang Su Do. Thereafter he enrolled in Taekwon-Do under the tutelage of Master Kim Kwang-Sung (K-7-45) at ITF Main Gym #21 in the early 1970s. Grandmaster Kim born in Gwangju, Korea was originally from the Moo Duk Kwan and was a Taekwon-Do Pioneer in West Germany. Dr. Vitale's extensive involvement in Taekwon-Do saw him traveling nationally since 1984 and internationally since 1987. To date he has been to over 70 countries pursuing his love for Taekwon-Do, as a student, teacher, researcher and producer. His main area of interest is the history of Taekwon-Do. He is currently involved in 3 documentaries and writing a book on the subject. The Graduate School work he has done since 1993 has culminated in his earning an academic Doctorate Degree from North Korea, the first American to ever do so. As a result of the expertise he has developed over the decades he is often invited to share his experiences with various institutions and media outlets. Master Vitale is happy to have the opportunity to now share with followers of this website.



Darcie Draudt is currently a PhD student in the Department of Political Science at the Johns Hopkins University. She is also a non-resident James A. Kelly Korean Studies fellow at Pacific Forum CSIS. Draudt previously was a research associate for Korea Studies and the Program on U.S.-Korea Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, DC. Prior to that, Draudt lived in Seoul, where in addition to studying Korean language and modern history at Yonsei University, she worked as a field researcher for the International Organization for Migration Research and Training Center and as publishing and design manager for the Yonsei University Journal of International Studies. Draudt received her MA in Korean Studies from the Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies in Seoul, South Korea, and her BA in Anthropology from Davidson College in North Carolina.



Jon Brause is Director of the Washington Office of the UN World Food Programme (WFP). In this role, Mr. Brause oversees WFP's relationships with its major partners in the U.S. government and represents WFP in dialogue with U.S.-based organizations interested in reducing hunger and poverty worldwide. Mr. Brause came to WFP after a 22-year career at the US Agency for International Development (USAID), where he most recently served as Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Management. Mr. Brause has also served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance; the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Relief, Stabilization, and Development in the National Security Council; and as the Director of the Office of Program, Policy and Management at USAID. As Senior Policy Advisor to USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios, Mr. Brause monitored humanitarian and development policy with a focus on Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. During his tenure in the Office of Food for Peace, Mr. Brause managed all aspects of U.S. government food aid programming for humanitarian activities worldwide. While at USAID, Mr. Brause was also deeply involved in the development of the U.S. humanitarian assistance policy and programs for North Korea. He worked closely with donor governments, representatives from the North Korean government, United Nations agencies, and the NGO community to ensure that U.S. contributions to North Korea were efficiently programmed and effectively delivered.



Gregg A. Brazinsky works on U.S.-East Asian relations and East Asian international history. He is interested in the flow of commerce, ideas, and culture among Asian countries and across the Pacific. He is proficient in Mandarin Chinese and Korean. He is the author of two books: *Winning the Third World* (2017), which focuses on Sino-American Rivalry in the Third World and *Nation Building in South Korea* (2007), which explores U.S.-South Korean relations during the Cold War. Currently he is working on two other book projects. The first examines American nation building in Asia during the Cold War. The second explores Sino-North Korean relations between 1949 and 1992 and focuses specifically on the development of cultural and economic ties between the two countries. He has received numerous fellowships to support his research including the

Kluge Fellowship from the Library of Congress, the Smith Richardson Foundation junior faculty fellowship, and a fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Center. Professor Brazinsky also currently serves as the director of the George Washington Cold War Group. Professor Brazinsky earned his Ph.D. from Cornell University.



Esther Im is the Program Officer at the National Committee on North Korea. Previously, she was a Junior Fulbright Researcher in South Korea (2015-16) and a Researcher at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, where she covered sanctions, nonproliferation, and disarmament issues during South Korea's second term on the Security Council (2013-15). She has interned at the US-Korea Institute at SAIS, Wilson Center, and Council on Foreign Relations. Esther is a candidate for a Masters degree in Foreign Service at Georgetown University; she received her BA in International Relations-Political Science from Wellesley College.



Randall Spadoni is World Vision's North Korea Program Director and Senior Regional Advisor for East Asia. For World Vision International, he implements projects in clean water, nutrition, and disaster relief in North Korea and has been traveling to the country since 2007. For World Vision's U.S. office, he coordinates \$14 million of annual investments in the East Asia region, including Myanmar, Vietnam, China, Laos, and Mongolia. His responsibilities include strategy formulation and implementation; program design, monitoring, and evaluation; public policy; and partnerships. Spadoni is based in Washington, DC, and works with an international team of North Korea specialists, partnering with four North Korean organizations on projects that have reached all nine provinces. He works closely with U.S.,

European, and UN organizations, coordinating assistance and forming complementary partnerships. He has helped World Vision North Korea to navigate the operational, political, legal challenges of working in North Korea, providing responsible and effective assistance that reaches 50,000 North Korean children each year. Spadoni has a B.A. in Asian Studies and International Business from the University of Puget Sound and an M.A. in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He is married with three children and lives in Wheaton, Maryland.



Andrew Yeo is Associate Professor of Politics and Director of Asian Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington DC. He is the co-editor of the forthcoming book, *North Korean Human Rights: Activists and Networks* (Cambridge University Press 2018). His other books include *Activists, Alliances, and Anti-U.S. Base Protests* (Cambridge University Press 2011) and *Living in an Age of Mistrust* (Routledge Press 2017). His research and teaching interests include international relations theory, East Asian regionalism, narratives and discourse, the formation of beliefs, ideas, and worldviews, civil society, social and transnational movements, overseas basing strategy and U.S. force posture, Korean politics, and North Korea. He is a member of The National Committee on North Korea and a term

member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He received his Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University, and BA in Psychology and International Studies from Northwestern University.



Daniel Jasper is AFSC's Public Education and Advocacy Coordinator for Asia. His role is to bring lessons learned from AFSC's programs throughout Asia back to policymakers in Washington. His current work focuses heavily on the humanitarian, peacebuilding, and people-to-people aspects of U.S.-North Korea relations.

Daniel has ten years of experience working in public policy, advocacy, and international affairs. Prior to joining AFSC, he worked at World Learning, where he administrated the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). He has also worked for the Minnesota House of Representatives, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the United Nations, as well as serving as a Paul D. Coverdell Fellow for Democracy North Carolina and Peace Action – North Carolina. Daniel completed two assignments with the

Peace Corps (Turkmenistan, 2008-10; St Lucia, 2013-14), where he collaborated with foreign ministries to improve local education standards. Daniel holds a master's degree in Public Policy from Duke University and bachelor's degree in Global Studies, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.



Jessica Lee is the Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Council of Korean Americans (CKA). Prior to joining CKA, Jessica was a Resident Fellow at the Pacific Forum CSIS in Honolulu, HI, where she published articles on security and economic relations in East Asia. She brings a decade of public and private sector experience in Washington, including as the director of a nonprofit organization specializing in women's leadership training and development; a senior manager of The Asia Group, LLC, a strategy and capital advisory firm; and as a staff member in the House of Representatives, first as a professional staff member handling the Asia portfolio for the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and as a senior legislative assistant for a member of Congress on the Ways and

Means Committee. Jessica received a B.A. in political science from Wellesley College and a A.M. in East Asian regional studies from Harvard University. Jessica is a Truman Security Fellow, a David Rockefeller Fellow of the Trilateral Commission, and a Google Next Gen Policy Leader. Jessica has advanced proficiency in Korean and lives in northern Virginia with her husband and daughter.



Frederick F. Carrière is research professor of political science and Pacific Century Institute senior fellow of the Korean Peninsula Affairs Center in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. He also has been involved in developing and administering engagement projects with North Korea since the mid-1990s. Previously, he was the executive vice president of The Korea Society (TKS) in New York City (1994-2009) and the executive director of the Fulbright Program in Korea (1983-1993). While residing in South Korea for over two decades (1969-1993), Carrière also managed program activities in Korea for the East West center, the Humphrey Fellowship Program and the Educational Testing Service. For several

years he was employed as an editorial consultant and translator (Korean to English) for the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, and as an adjunct instructor in anthropology and Asian studies for the Far Eastern Division of the University of Maryland. He was a councilor of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (RAS) for ten years and served as its president for two terms (1989-91). He holds a B.A. in medieval philosophy from St. John's University (Collegeville, Minnesota) and an M.A. in anthropology and Asian studies from Cornell University.



Professor **Kyung-Ae Park** holds the Korea Foundation Chair at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs of the University of British Columbia. She serves as the Director of the Canada-DPRK Knowledge Partnership Program (KPP), a program she established in 2010, and also as the Co-Director of the Center for Korean Research. The KPP has been hosting six North Korean professors each year since 2011 for six-month periods of study at UBC, as part of a long-term knowledge sharing and academic exchange and thus represents an unprecedented, ground-breaking program in North America. She is a former president of the Association of Korean Political Studies in North America. She is the author, coauthor, and editor of many scholarly publications on issues

ranging from North and South Korean politics and foreign relations to gender and development. Notable publications include *Non-Traditional Security Issues in North Korea*; *North Korea in Transition: Politics, Economics, and Society*; *New Challenges of North Korean Foreign Policy*; *Korean Security Dynamics in Transition*, and *China and North Korea: Politics of Integration and Modernization*. She has also authored articles in a number of journals, including *Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Asian Survey*, and *Pacific Review*. Since the mid-1990s, she has made many trips to Pyongyang and hosted North Korean delegation visits to Canada, playing a key role in promoting track II exchanges and diplomacy between the two countries.



Norma H. Nichols has spent the majority of her life involved with Korean affairs. She and her husband arrived in Seoul, Korea with one small son in March, 1967, and immediately began to study Korean to prepare for teaching and development work in Korea. She had grown up on a farm and earned a double major in Biology and Physical Sciences at her college and later a master's degree in Education. They were so interested in the people of Korea and began to use this language study and enjoy learning about the people and their customs. After language school, they lived in almost all of the areas of Korea, so they learned a great deal about the history and the tragedy of the division of the country. She was especially interested in the rapid development that began to take place in the 70s and was thrilled to be a part of that development, but the plight of the people in North Korea bothered her. After working for many years in education and in administration, the couple was invited to work with the PVOC that would be working with the US Food for Peace Program as Food Monitors in 1998. After working in North Korea for 5 months and being allowed to travel over most of the country, they completed the contract and moved into Northeast China, near the North Korean border to work with the Yanbian University of Science and Technology (or YUST.) This was at the end of the time of starvation in the late nineties and they witnessed the constant exodus of the refugees fleeing out of North Korea. Norma was involved in administration and education during that time and helped with the planning and the development of the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (or PUST.) She was asked to be the International Affairs Director for both YUST and PUST, a job that she continues to handle for PUST, but she resigned from that position at YUST in 2015. Currently she handles this work from the United States.