

GWIKS Soh Jaipil Circle

The Third Talk

“Can North Korea Become America’s Friend?”

Friday, December 1, 2017

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Sigur Center for Asian Studies Conference Room, Elliott School of International Affairs

Can North Korea become America’s friend? In recent years, North Korea has seemingly become an exceptional case compared to Iran and Cuba, America’s old enemies. Although the Trump administration seeks to reverse the Obama administration’s policy, Iran and Cuba have gone through impressive internal and external changes, and have recently been approaching the international community. However, North Korea’s attitude towards the U.S. has become increasingly provocative rather than cooperative. Even with the Obama administration’s engagement diplomacy toward enemy nations, North Korea did not reciprocate. North Korea still continues its hostility and the U.S. has put several economic sanctions against Pyongyang’s nuclear and missile provocations. What differentiates North Korea from Iran and Cuba? This talk compares changes in Iran and Cuba’s domestic politics, economic situation, and security environment with those of North Korea in order to find out what makes North Korea’s course look so different.



Speaker:

Jihwan HWANG is Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Seoul, Korea. He is now a year-long visiting scholar at the Catholic University of America. He is also teaching “Politics in the Two Koreas” at the George Washington University for Fall 2017 semester. He has served in several advisory positions in the Korean government, including the President’s Committee for Unification Preparation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Unification. His publications include “The Paradox of South Korea’s Unification Diplomacy” and “The Two Koreas after U.S. Unipolarity.” He is a graduate of Seoul National University and received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Moderator:

Gregg A. BRAZINSKY is Associate Professor of History and International Affairs and Deputy Director of GW Institute for Korean Studies. His research seeks to understand the diverse and multi-faceted interactions among East Asian states and between Asia and the United States. He is the author of *Nation Building in South Korea: Koreans, Americans, and the Making of a Democracy* and *Winning the Third World: Sino-American Rivalry during the Cold War*. He served as an Interim Director of the GW Institute for Korean Studies during the Spring 2017 semester.



The Soh Jaipil Circle is named after the famous champion of Korean independence who earned a medical degree at GW. The circle will bring together people from the academic and think tank communities for serious and engaged conversations of Korea issues.

Connect with GWIKS for more events like this

Website: gwiks.elliott.gwu.edu | Twitter: @GW_IKS | Facebook: @gwiks2016 | E-mail: gwiks@gwu.edu