



GW 한국학연구소

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Sigur Center
for Asian Studies

Sigur Center for Asian Studies

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies is an international research center of The Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University. Its mission is to increase the quality and broaden the scope of scholarly research and publications on Asian Affairs, promote U.S.-Asia scholarly interaction, and serve as the nexus for educating a new generation of students, scholars, analysts, and policymakers.

The Sigur Center promotes research and policy analysis on East Asia, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia through an active program of publishing, teaching, public events and policy engagement. The Center offers students the largest Asian Studies program in the Washington, DC metropolitan region, with around 70 faculty members working on Asia. The Center was founded in 1991 out of the Sino-Soviet Institute. It was named for Gaston Sigur (1924-1995), a Japan specialist with a long career at The George Washington University, the National Security Council, and the US Department of State. It has enjoyed status as a signature program of the university since 2003.

GW Institute for Korean Studies

Founded in the year 2016, GW Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS) is part of the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University. The establishment of GWIKS was made possible by a generous grant from the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS).

The mission of the GWIKS is to consolidate, strengthen, and grow the existing Korean studies program at GW, and more generally in the greater D.C. area. The GWIKS enhances academic programs, faculty members, and scholarly activities by promoting collaboration and partnerships across the university, expanding the depth and breadth of Korean Studies by focusing on a humanities approach, hosting events, creating new courses, and increasing access to Korean resources. Moreover, we play a leading role in Korean studies by providing various platforms to interact with scholars and experts from the metropolitan D.C. area and from all around the world as we invite them to our signature conferences, Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium in the Korean Humanities, Soh Jaipil Circle on Contemporary Korean Affairs, Korean studies workshops, and lecture series.

The Elliott School of International Affairs

1957 E Street NW, Suite 503

Washington, D.C. 20052

Phone: 202-994-5886

Fax: 202-994-6096

gsigur@gwu.edu

<https://sigur.elliott.gwu.edu>

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies

[@gwusigurcenter](https://twitter.com/gwusigurcenter)

The 23rd Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture

Empire and Righteous Nation: 600 years of China-Korea Relations

With Dr. Odd Arne Westad

Co-Sponsored by the Sigur Center for Asian Studies &
the GW Institute for Korean Studies

Elliott School of International Affairs
1957 E Street, State Room - 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20052

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
5:30PM-7:30PM

LEGACY OF GASTON SIGUR



Gaston Sigur (left) in the Oval Office briefing President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George H.W. Bush, and Secretary of State George Shultz on the South Korean crisis in June 1987.

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies was founded in September 1991 at The George Washington University and named in honor of Gaston J. Sigur, Jr., a long-time university professor and noted expert on Asia.

Gaston Sigur received his Ph.D. in Japanese history in 1957 from the University of Michigan. He was then employed for many years with the Asia Foundation, with postings across the globe including Afghanistan, Japan, and Washington, D.C. He arrived at The George Washington University in 1972 to teach and direct the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies.

After more than a decade as director of the Institute of Sino-Soviet Studies, Sigur was tapped by President Ronald Reagan in July 1982 to become Senior Director of Asian Affairs on the National Security Council (NSC). Becoming the President's close confidant, in June 1983 Sigur was appointed Special Assistant to the President for Asian Affairs.

On January 24, 1986, Sigur was nominated by President Reagan as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. In this position, Sigur is widely credited for having negotiated advantageous economic deals for the United States with Japan—even as he strengthened the overall US-Japan alliance—and for promoting the democratization of the Republic of Korea via his personal and forceful interaction with South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan. After the 1988 election, Sigur continued to serve as Assistant Secretary under President George H.W. Bush for one-year and continued to act an informal adviser for the President Bush even after stepping down from his official position in 1989. Sigur's papers from his time in the NSC and State Department are available for consultation at the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California.

Sigur retired from public service in 1989 and promptly returned to George Washington University. Recognizing Sigur's contributions to Asian studies, The George Washington University, and public service, the university administration decided to name the new Center for East Asian Studies, established in September 1991, in his honor. Sigur was appointed Senior Counselor of the Sigur Center, while Professor Young C. Kim was appointed founding director. William R. Johnson, professor of Chinese history, was made Associate Director.

After several years of actively promoting the Sigur Center, Sigur passed away in April 1995. His death was intimately felt across the university and within the Center, which noted that "while cognizant that no person can fully replace the leadership, wisdom and contributions of Dr. Sigur, we are now even more determined than ever to continue to strengthen this Center and its role in the academic and policy community of this country as a living testimony in his honor." Since then, the Sigur Center has held its annual Memorial Lecture to honor the legacy of Dr. Sigur.

Today, the Sigur Center coordinates the largest Asian Studies program in the Washington, DC metropolitan region, with a national and international reputation for its educational program and the quality of its academic and policy research.

In special memory of Estelle Sigur, beloved wife of the late Gaston Sigur Jr., who passed away peacefully in October 2017.

AGENDA

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

REGISTRATION & WELCOME RECEPTION

6:00 PM – 6:15 PM

OPENING REMARKS & INTRODUCTIONS

- **Dr. Benjamin D. Hopkins**, Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies; Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, GW

6:15 PM – 7:30 PM

GASTON SIGUR MEMORIAL LECTURE

- **Dr. Odd Arne Westad**, S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations, Harvard University

SPEAKERS

Dr. Odd Arne Westad is the S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations at Harvard University, where he teaches at the Kennedy School of Government. He is an expert on contemporary international history and on the eastern Asian region. Before coming to Harvard in 2015, Westad was School Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). While at LSE, he directed LSE IDEAS, a leading centre for international affairs, diplomacy and strategy. Professor Westad won the Bancroft Prize for *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times*. The book, which has been translated into fifteen languages, also won a number of other awards. Westad served as general editor for the three-volume Cambridge History of the Cold War, and is the author of the Penguin *History of the World* (now in its 6th edition). His most recent book, *Restless Empire: China and the World since 1750*, won the Asia Society's book award for 2013.

Dr. Benjamin D. Hopkins is a specialist in modern South Asian history, in particular that of Afghanistan, as well as British imperialism. His research focuses on the role of the colonial state in creating the modern states inhabiting the region. Professor Hopkins is currently working on a comparative history of frontiers across empires, using the history of the governance of the Afghanistan-Pakistan frontier as the central case study. Outside of GW, his research has been funded by Trinity College, Cambridge, the Nuffield Foundation (UK), the British Academy, the American Institute of Iranian Studies, the Leverhulme Trust and the National University of Singapore. Professor Hopkins regularly teaches courses on South Asian history, the geopolitics of South and Central Asia, as well as World history.