

**The Soh Jaipil Circle on Contemporary Korean Affairs:  
“North Korea in 2019: More of the same, or a historic opportunity?”**

David C. Kang, USC Korean Studies Institute

Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Elliott School of International Affairs Room B17, The George Washington University

1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20052

◇ **Event Description**

Many in the U.S. are deeply skeptical of North Korea’s intentions. There is a conventional wisdom that Kim will never denuclearize, he can’t be trusted, and that the dramatic moves of the past year are simply yet another episode of North Korean manipulation and deception. Is this the case? Or, do North Korean leader Kim, South Korean leader Moon, and U.S. president Trump have an historic opportunity to make genuine change on the peninsula? What are the issues and stakes in 2019? In this talk, Professor Kang will explore these issues and put the current situation in a broader historical and political context.

**Speaker: David C. Kang, USC Korean Studies Institute**



David C. Kang is Maria Crutcher Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California, with appointments in both the School of International Relations and the Marshall School of Business. Kang is also director of the USC Korean Studies Institute. Kang’s latest book is *American Grand Strategy and East Asian Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). He has authored four other scholarly books, and has published articles in journals such as *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and *International Security*. A regular consultant for U.S. government agencies and the military, Kang has also written opinion pieces in the *New York Times*, the *Financial Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, and appears regularly in media such as CNN, PBC, the BBC, and NPR. A former Fulbright Scholar, Kang received an A.B. with honors from Stanford University and his Ph.D. from Berkeley.

**Moderator: Celeste Arrington, GW Institute for Korean Studies**



Celeste Arrington is Korea Foundation Assistant 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: Victims and Government Accountability in South Korea and Japan* (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.

*This event is on the record and open to the media.*