



# Youngkwan Ban

Memory Studies Scholar & Human Rights Administrator

## Contact

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## Profile

Accomplished Human Rights Researcher and Memory Studies Scholar (Ph.D.) specializing in the in-depth investigation and documentation of historical human rights violations. Expert in archival research, sensitive data handling, and truth-seeking processes, including victim identification and UNESCO Documentary heritage registration. Committed to advancing human rights through rigorous research, documentation, and advocacy for accountability. Seeking to leverage unique insights for impactful contributions to human rights work.

## Experience

May 2021 – Present

### **Research Team Manager, Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation**

Conducted **in-depth investigations into historical human rights violations** at the Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation. My work included **archival research** (e.g., U.S. National Archives), **collecting victim testimonies**, and researching critical aspects like state responsibility, military/police brutality, and enforced migration for the national 'follow-up investigation.' Also managed **victim exhumation/DNA identification** and contributed to **policy recommendations and UNESCO Memory of the World registration**.

July 2019 – May 2021

### **Researcher, Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation**

Specialized in **archiving Jeju 4.3-related historical documents in the U.S. Achieves**. Actively managed **human remains excavation and identification projects for victims**. Played a key role in **organizing and executing three international symposiums** as a practical coordinator for international academic exchange conferences. Directly involved in the practical work of drafting the **UNESCO Memory of the World application** for Jeju 4.3 historical materials.

## Education

March 2019

### **Ph.D. in Media & Communication**

Institution of Communication Research, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, US

Dissertation: "We Will Remember You, forever!": Active Forgetting of Moo-hyun Roh in the Age of Mediatized Memories.

- A memory studies inquiry into the regeneration and transformation of cultural memory, examining the performance of spontaneous forgetting and selective recollection within political and media landscapes.

November 2008

**M.A. in Cultural Studies**  
Goldsmiths, University of London, UK

March 2007

**B.A. in Media & Communication**  
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea

## Publication

Academic Journal

**Ban, Y.** et al. (2024) "75 Years of Silence: The Continuing Need for Acknowledgment, Accountability, and Reconciliation between the United States and the Korean People," *SSRN Electronic Journal*.  
<https://doi.org/10.2139/SSRN.4587337>

**Ban, Y.** (2023) "Silencing the Sound of Cracking Bones: Victim Identification as Memorial Practice in Jeju 4.3," *The Korean Journal of History of Science*.  
<https://doi.org/10.36092/KJHS.2023.45.2.299>

**Ban, Y.** (2018) "Talking to the Small Tableau – Touring the site of mediatized memory and forgiveness in Bongha," *Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1532708618819632>

**Ban, Y., & Lee, J.** (2018). Echoing Ghosts. *Qualitative Inquiry*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1077800418810976>

Government Report &  
Archival Collection

**Jeju 4.3 Incident Truth Commission.** (Forthcoming). Jeju 4.3 Incident Additional Truth Investigation Report.

**Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation.** (2020–2021). Jeju 4.3 Incident Additional Truth Investigation Materials, Vol. 3–7; U.S. Archives Materials, Vol. 1–4. (trans and edit).

## Presentation

"Empowering the Precarious Memory- The Jeju 4.3 Archives and Grassroots Truth," *International Meeting on Archives and Memory for Conflict Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in Southeast Asia*, UNESCO Jakarta Office with International Centre for Documentary Heritage, May 2025.

"Silencing the Sound of Cracking Bones: Victim Identification as Memorial Practice in Jeju 4.3," *The Seventh Biennial Conference of East Asian Environmental History*, Daejeon, South Korea, June 2023.

"Remembering People's Sovereignty Through Active Forgetting," *the Fourth International Conference on Communication & Media Studies*, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany, Sep 2019.

"Talking to the Small Tableau - Muted commemoration of Indebtedness in Bongha," *The Third Annual Memory Studies Association Conference*, Madrid, Spain, Jun 2019.

"We will not forget you, forever" *Protest and Dissent in Translation and Culture*, Warsaw, Poland, May 2017.

"Echoing Ghosts," *11<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, Urbana, IL, United States, May 2016.

**Exhibition Research,  
Planning &  
Coordination**

"Capturing 4.3" Invitational Exhibition of Jeju 4.3 Photographers, hosted by Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation (Mar. 21 – May 5, 2024).

Ko Hyun-ju's Posthumous Exhibition "Voices of Memory," hosted by Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation (Jun. 23 – Jul. 31, 2023).

"Jane Jin Kaisen and Kim Seo-kyung" Exhibition, hosted by Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation (Dec. 15, 2023 – Feb. 28, 2024).

74th Anniversary Special Exhibition "Darangshi 30," hosted by Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation (Apr. 11 – Sep. 30, 2022).

Jeju 4.3 Archive Special Exhibition "Traces Becoming Records," hosted by Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation (Dec. 28, 2020 – Aug. 31, 2021).

**Key skills and  
characteristics**

- Critical thinking
- Adaptability
- Korean (Native),  
English (Fluent),  
Japanese (Functional)
- Leadership
- Human Rights Research & Documentation
- Sensitive Data Handling
- Truth-Seeking & Accountability