

# Byunghwan ‘Ben’ Son

Curriculum Vitae

4400 University Dr., George Mason University, 6B4, Fairfax, VA 22030

✉: [bson3@gmu.edu](mailto:bson3@gmu.edu) ☎: 703-993-9185



---

## Current Academic Positions

- George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)
  - Associate Professor (with tenure), [Global Affairs Program](#) 2020–current
    - \* Assistant Professor, Global Affairs Program 2014–2020
  - University Affiliate Faculty, [Schar School of Policy and Government](#) 2021–current
  - Director, [Asia-Pacific and Northeast Asian Studies](#) 2014–current
  - Faculty Affiliate (Associate Director), [Korean Studies Center](#) 2016 (2020)–current

## Previous Academic Positions

- [The College of Wooster](#) (Wooster, OH) 2013–2014
  - Gillespie Visiting Professor (VAP), [Political Science](#)
- [University of Missouri-Columbia](#) (Columbia, MO) 2011–2013
  - Graduate Instructor, [Political Science](#)
- [Korean Air Force Academy](#) 2003–2007
  - Instructor, [Department of Military Strategy](#)

## Education

- University of Missouri-Columbia (Columbia, MO) 2007–2013
  - PhD, Political Science
    - \* Dissertation: Democratization and Exchange Rates
    - \* Dissertation Advisor: Dr. [Jonathan Kriekhaus](#)
- [Yonsei University](#) (Seoul, South Korea) 1997–2003
  - MA & BA, [Political Science](#)

## Research & Teaching Areas

Political Economy; Politics of Global Finance; Asian Politics; Public Opinion; Democratization; Democratic Support; Contentious Politics; Political Communication; Social Media Analysis

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles Published

- 2021 “Presidential Approval Ratings and Foreign Exchange Market: The Case of the Korean Won during the Park Government” *Asian Survey*. Forthcoming. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1525/as.2021.1412754> [Working Paper Version] [Journal Link]
- 2020 “Doi Moi and Vietnamese Threat Perception of Chinese Economic Growth,” *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 21: 179-193. [Journal Link]
- 2020 “Interpersonal Trust and Confidence in Labor Unions: the case of South Korea,” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 20: 267-290. [Journal Link]
- 2020 “Democracy and Reserves,” *Foreign Policy Analysis* 16(3): 417–437. [Journal Link]
- 2019 “Political Parties and Foreign Direct Investment Inflows Among Developing Countries” *Political Studies* 67: 712–731. (with Nisha Bellinger) [Journal Link]
- 2018 “The Mysterious Overvaluation of KRW in the 1990s,” *The Pacific Review* 31: 573– 597. [Journal Link]
- 2018 “Democratization and Currency Crises in Latin America,” *Journal of International Relations and Development* 21: 442–463. (with Jonathan Krieckhaus) [Journal Link]
- 2016 “Are the Poor the Weak Link? Democratic Support and Income Levels in Post-Crisis South Korea,” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 16: 219-237. [Journal Link]
- 2016 “Policy Choices in Tough Times: The case of democratization and currency defense,” *International Political Science Review* 37: 453-469. [Journal Link]
- 2015 “Economic Coercion and Currency Crises in Target Economies,” *Journal of Peace Research* 52: 448-462. (with Dursun Peksen) [Journal Link]
- 2014 “Inequality and Democratic Support,” *Journal of Politics* 76: 139-151. (with Jonathan Krieckhaus, Nisha Bellinger, and Jason Wells) [Journal Link]

## Articles Under Review

- “Security Threats and Investment”(with Chungsik Moon), *invited to revise and resubmit*
- “Democratic Backsliding and Public Health” (with Nisha Bellinger), *invited to revise and resubmit*
- “Democratization and Fear of Pegging”
- “National Image and Pop Culture: the case of SubReddit”

## Projects in Progress

- “Inequality and Violence” (with JP Singh)
- “Developmental State Revisited: Foreign Reserves of Asian Emerging Economies”
- “Democratization, Inequality, and Speculative Attacks: Difference-in-Difference Approach”
- “Political Economy of Happiness” (with Jonathan Krieckhaus & Nisha Bellinger)
- “Income Levels and Institutional Confidence”
- “The Diffusion and Reception of K-pop in the US” (with Dae Kim and Younga Jung)

## Other Writings & Media Appearance

- Comments on “[Korea-US Summit 2021](#)” NewsUp, CBS Radio (Korean) 2021  
– also featured in [Nocut News](#); [Hankookilbo](#) (Korean).
- “The Causes of Biden’s Victory and its Implications” [Pressian](#) (Korean) 2020
- “Is Authoritarianism Bad for the Economy?” (with N. Bellinger) [The Conversation](#) 2019  
– Translated in Portuguese at [Gazeta do Povo](#).
- “Party Systems Matter for FDI Inflows” [PSA Blog](#) 2019

## Invited Talks & Lectures

- “Democratic Backsliding and Human Security” 2021  
– Public Lecture. [Hankuk University of Foreign Studies](#) Virtual.
- “Affective Polarization and Right-Wing Populism” 2021  
– Public Lecture. ‘EverySecondSaturday7PM’ (local activists’ society) Virtual.
- “Autocratization and Public Health Outcomes” 2020  
– Invited talk. [Institute of Korean Studies](#). University of Missouri, Columbia. MO.
- “Presidential Impeachment in South Korea and Financial Market” 2017  
– Invited talk. Korean Studies Center. George Mason University, Fairfax. VA.
- “Obama Administration’s Pivot to Asia” 2016  
– Invited Talk (student-organized). George Mason University, Fairfax. VA.
- “KRW in the 1990s” 2016  
– Public Lecture. Korean Studies Center. George Mason University, Fairfax. VA.
- “Is Democratization to Blame for the Economic Difficulties of S. Korea?” 2014  
– Invited Talk. George Mason University, Fairfax. VA.
- “Territorial Disputes in East Asia” 2013  
– Guest Lecture. [Lincoln University](#). Jefferson City, MO
- “Democratization and Exchange Rate Policies” 2013  
– Invited Talk. Korean Fellow Society, Harvard University, Boston MA.

## Grants, Awards, & Fellowships

- [Faculty Research and Professional Development Award](#). \$14,288 2020  
– with Dae Kim and Younga Jung, [College of Humanities & Social Sciences](#), GMU
- Global Democracy Fellow. \$2,000 2017  
– [Korean Democracy Foundation](#)
- [Faculty Research and Professional Development Award](#). \$3,636 2016  
– [College of Humanities & Social Sciences](#), GMU
- Online Course Development Grant. \$4,000 2016 to 2017  
– [GMU Online Course Development Institute](#)
- [J.G. Heinberg Fellowship](#). 2009–2010  
– One semester’s tuition and stipend. University of Missouri
- [Brain Korea 21 Scholarship](#). 2002  
– Stipend of about \$3,600. Yonsei University, South Korea.

## Conference Presentations

- “Income and Institutional Confidence” 2021  
– Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- “Soft Power and Pop Cultural Products: The case of Pandemic and K-pop Sub Reddit”

- Korean Wave in North America. George Mason University. Virtual. 2021
  - Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Virtual. 2021
- “Covid-19 and (dis)continuity in global political economy”
  - [COVID-19 and Globalization: Insights from GLOA](#). George Mason University. Virtual. 2020
- “Resource-Rich Asians? Mercantilism and Foreign Exchange Reserves in Asia”
  - American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Washington DC. 2019
- (with Nisha Bellinger) “Democratic Backsliding and Public Health”
  - Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. 2019
- (with Johathan Kriekhaus & Nisha Bellinger) “Political Economy of Happiness”
  - Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. 2019
- “Interpersonal Trust and Confidence in Labor Unions”
  - International Studies Annual Meeting. Toronto, ON 2019
- “Can Money Turn Foes into Friends? Vietnamese & China”
  - Global Affairs Seminar. George Mason University. Fairfax VA. 2019
- (with Chungsik Moon) “Security Threats and Investment”
  - International Studies Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. 2018
- (with Myunghwa Cho) “Children, Child Soldiers, and Recurrent Conflict”
  - International Studies Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. 2018
- “Approval Ratings and Monetary Market”
  - American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. 2017
- “Political Economy of International Reserves”
  - American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. 2016
  - Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. 2014
  - International Studies Association Annual Meeting. Toronto, Canada 2014
- (with JP Singh) “Inequality and Social Unrest”
  - DC Area Comparativist Workshop. Georgetown University. Washington DC 2018
  - Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago. IL 2016
  - International Studies Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta. GA. 2016
- “The Mysterious Overvaluation of the Won in the 1990s”
  - Smart Public Policy of Korea. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WI. 2015
  - The Evolution of South Korea’s Public Policy. CUNY, NY 2015
- “Exchange Rates and Regime Support”
  - International Studies Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans. LA. 2015
- “Presidentialism and Monetary Policy Performance”
  - American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Washington DC. 2014
  - Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. 2011
  - Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago IL. 2011
  - International Studies Association-Midwest Annual Meeting, St. Louis MO. 2011
- (with Dursun Peksen) “Economic Sanctions and Currency Crises”
  - International Studies Association-Midwest. St. Louis MO. 2013
- “Democratization and Fear of Pegging”
  - Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago IL. 2013
  - Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Orlando FL. 2013
  - Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston MA. 2012
- “Democratization and Devaluation”
  - International Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA. 2012
  - Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago IL. 2012
  - International Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego CA. 2012
- “Political Economy of Quality of Governance and Foreign Aid Effectiveness”
  - International Studies Association-Midwest Annual Meeting, St. Louis MO.
    - \* Nominated for the Best Graduate Student Paper Award 2010
- (with J. Kriekhaus) “Democratization and Currency Crises in Latin America”

- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago IL. 2010
- “Economic Performance and Democratic Support in Central Eastern Europe”
- Central Slavic Conference, St. Louis MO. November 2009

## Courses Taught

- George Mason University
  - Economic Globalization and Development (MA) every semester
  - Interdisciplinary Research Method (MA)
  - Capstone Seminar (MA)
  - Case Studies in Globalization: Globalization in Asia (MA)
  - Globalization in Asia (BA) every other year
  - Introduction to Global Affairs (BA)
    - \* Online section development [GMU OCDI](#) 2017
    - \* recognized as “[Outstanding](#)” teaching by GMU multiple years
  - Korea in Global Perspective (BA & MA)
- The College of Wooster
  - Independent Studies supervisor for nine senior students
  - International Political Economy
  - Introduction to International Relations
  - East Asian Politics
- University of Missouri-Columbia
  - East Asian Politics
  - Introduction to International Relations
- Korean Air Force Academy
  - Readings on the First World War
  - Introduction to Defense Studies
  - Arms Control
  - The Sociology of Civil-Military Relations

## Services

- To Global Affairs Program (GLOA), GMU
  - Search Committee
    - \* chair, Associate Professor, GLOA-Communication joint hire 2020
    - \* member, GLOA Director 2020
    - \* member, Term Assistant Professor (Songdo Campus) 2019
    - \* chair, Graduate Coordinator 2019
    - \* chair, Assistant Director 2018
    - \* chair, Graduate Coordinator 2018
    - \* member, Assistant Director 2016
  - GLOA Bylaw revision Committee 2020–current
  - Curriculum/Academic Advising GLOA BA/MA students 2014–2020
  - Graduate Admission Committee, Global Affairs 2015–current
  - Executive Committee, Global Affairs 2015–2020
  - Organizer, GLOA Faculty Brownbag 2016–2017
  - Director Renewal Committee 2016

- Textbook Renewal Committee (GLOA 101) 2016
- To the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, GMU
  - Senior Leadership Committee 2020 to 2022
  - Directing Asia-Pacific & Northeast Asian Studies Minor students 2014–current
  - Judge, Diversity Webpage Re-design Competition. Dept. of Psychology 2019
  - Judge, Annual CHSS Undergraduate Research Symposium 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019
  - Adviser for visiting scholars, [Korean Studies Center](#) 2016–current
  - Dissertation Committee
    - \* Yukiko Furuya, Sociology 2016–2020
- To George Mason University
  - Focus Group for Tenure-track Faculty Experience 2016
  - Panelist, New Faculty Orientation 2015
  - Grant Proposal Reviewer
    - \* Provost Multidisciplinary Research Initiatives. 2015, 2016
- To the profession
  - Editorial Board 2019–Current
    - \* [East and West Studies](#) (interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal)
  - Reviewer for publishers: Routledge
  - Reviewer for peer-reviewed journals: American Journal of Political Science; Arts and International Affairs; Asian Survey; British Journal of Political Science; Comparative Political Studies; Comparative Politics; Economics & Politics; Emerging Markets Finance and Trade; Foreign Policy Analysis; Global Perspectives; International Interactions; International Political Science Review; International Studies Review; Japanese Journal of Political Science; Journal of Asian Studies; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of East Asian Studies; Korea Observer; Pacific Focus; Pacific Affairs; Political Research Quarterly
  - Discussant / Chair
    - \* APSA 2014, 2017
    - \* MPSA 2014, 2019, 2021
    - \* [GWIKS](#) Workshop 2021
    - \* DC-Area Comparativist Workshop 2017, 2019
  - Conference Organized
    - \* [The Korean Wave in North America](#)
      - Virtual. With Dae Kim and Younga Jung (GMU) 2021

## References

- Dr. Jonathan Kriekhaus. University of Missouri-Columbia
- Dr. Cooper Drury. University of Missouri-Columbia
- Dr. Matthew Krain. The College of Wooster

Last Update: August 16, 2021