

KYONG-MIN SON

Department of Political Science & International Relations
University of Delaware
347 Smith Hall, 18 Amstel Avenue
Newark, DE 19716
tel (302) 831-1931 fax (302) 831-4452
kmson@udel.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Delaware, Department of Political Science and IR

2019- Associate Professor
2012-2019 Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

Cornell University

2012 Ph.D. in Government
2010 M.A. in Government

Seoul National University

2005 M.A. in Political Science
2002 B.A. in Political Science, *Summa Cum Laude*

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Eclipse of the Demos: The Cold War and the Crisis of Democracy before Neoliberalism (University Press of Kansas, forthcoming spring 2020).

Articles

“The Making of the Neoliberal Subject,” *Political Theory* 47:2 (2019).

“What is Populism? And Who is the Populist? A State of the Field Review (2008-2018)” (with Jean-Paul Gagnon, Emily Beausoleil, Cleve Arguelles, Pierrick Chalaye, and Callum N. Johnston – third author), *Democratic Theory* 5:2 (2018). [Long-form editorial for the journal’s special issue on populism.]

“Cybernetic Freedom: David Easton, Systems Thinking, and the Search for Dynamic Stability,” *American Political Thought* 7:4 (2018).

“The Cold War Origins of the ‘Crisis of Democracy,’” *Democratic Theory* 5:1 (2018).

“A Discordant Universe of Pluralisms,” *Political Theory* 43:4 (2015).

“Walter Benjamin’s Politics of Experience,” *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory* 20:4 (2013).

Reviews

Future Politics: Living Together in a World Transformed by Tech, by Jamie Susskind, *American Political Thought* (forthcoming).

The Politics of Attention: How Government Prioritizes Problems, by Bryan D. Jones and Frank R. Baumgartner, *Political Studies Review* 4 (2006).

Works in Progress

“The Great Disintegration: Finance Capital and the Transformation of Democratic Citizenship”
(book project in progress)

Engaging in the current debate over populism and neoliberalism’s impact on democracy, this book analyzes the ascendance of finance capital and its implications for democratic citizenship. I take a close look at some of the watershed moments that variously opened the door to the rise of finance capital in the twentieth century—the marginal revolution, the embedding of democracy in the mass consumption economy in the post-World War II era, and the development of valuation and risk management techniques in the late twentieth century—and examine how those events influenced the ideas and practices of democratic citizenship.

“Populism or Disintegrating Democracy? Finance Capital and the Volatile Politics of Citizenship”
(under review)

“Against Rent: The Ambivalent Origins of Modern Citizenship”

“Taming Democracy for the World: The War for Modernization and the Decline of Democratic Radicalism”

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

General University Research Grant, University of Delaware, 2014-16

Nominated for Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Delaware, 2014, 2016

Nominated for the American Political Science Association’s Leo Strauss Award for the best doctoral dissertation in Political Philosophy, 2013

Mellon Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University, 2011-12

Dissertation Writing Group Grant, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, 2010-11

Graduate Reading Group Grant, Institute for Comparative Modernities, Cornell University, 2010-11

Preferred Participant Fellowship, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, 2010

Travel Grant, East Asia Program, Cornell University, 2010

Sage Fellowship, Cornell University, 2006-7

The Samsung Lee Kun Hee Foundation Scholarship, 2005-6

Summa Cum Laude, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea, 2002

International Exchange Student Program, Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico, 2000

The WoonKyung Foundation Scholarship, 1999-2000

INVITED TALKS

- “Populism or Disintegrating Democracy? Finance Capital and the Volatile Politics of Citizenship”
Political Theory Speaker Series, Georgetown University, March 2019
- “Democratic Disaffection: Hannah Arendt’s Critique of Cold War Liberalism”
Research Colloquium, Institute for Political Studies, Seoul National University, December 2013
- “Dissolving the Demos: A Genealogy of Postwar Democracy”
Political Theory Workshop, Cornell University, March 2011

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- August 2019 American Political Science Association
Paper: “Populism or Disintegrating Democracy? Finance Capital and the Volatile Politics of Citizenship”
Discussant: “Adam Smith”
- October 2018 Association for Political Theory
Paper: “Against Rent: The Ambivalent Origins of Modern Citizenship”
- August 2018 American Political Science Association
Paper: “Against Rent: The Ambivalent Origins of Modern Citizenship”
Chair: “What is an Arendtian World?”
- May 2018 “Democracy in Decline? The Challenge of Global Populism,” Department of Political Science & IR, University of Delaware
Chair and Discussant: “Theoretical Approaches to Populism”
- March 2018 Western Political Science Association
Paper: “Superfluous Citizens: Finance Capital and the Volatile Politics of Citizenship”
Chair and Discussant: “Domination and Autonomy”
- September 2016 American Political Science Association
Paper: “Command and Control: David Easton and the Cost of Democratic Stability”
- March 2016 Western Political Science Association
Paper: “Command and Control: Cold War Science and the Cost of Democratic Stability”
Chair and Discussant: “Politics and Economics”
- September 2015 American Political Science Association
Paper: “Democratic Pluralism: Between Two Worlds”
- April 2015 Western Political Science Association
Paper: “The Two Worlds of Pluralism”
Chair and Discussant: “Marxism, Socialism, and Theories of Crisis”

- August 2014 American Political Science Association
Paper: “Democratic Disaffection: Hannah Arendt’s Critique of Cold War Liberalism”
Chair and Discussant: “Democracy and Rights in the Digital Age”
- April 2014 Western Political Science Association
Paper: “Cold War Neoliberalism and the Capitalist Restructuring of Democracy”
Discussant: “Rational Choice Liberalism and the Cultivation of Subjectivity”
- September 2013 American Political Science Association
Paper: “Taming Democracy for the World: Cold War Democratic Theory and the Decline of Democratic Radicalism”
Panel Organizer: “Rethinking Cold War Political Theory”
Discussant: “Canons in Comparative Perspective”
- October 2012 Association for Political Theory
Paper: “Democratic Disaffection: Arendt between Heidegger and Marx”
- September 2011 American Political Science Association
Paper: “The Cold War Origins of Instrumental Democracy”
- September 2010 American Political Science Association
Paper: “The Reasonable Acquiescence of Democracy: Affectless Democratic Theory”
Panel Organizer: “The Demands of Affects and Sentiments: Political Theory beyond Rationality”
- March 2009 Western Political Science Association
Paper: “The Locations of Power: Pierre Bourdieu and Democratic Politics”
- August 2008 American Political Science Association
Paper: “From the Fateful to the Truthful: Walter Benjamin and the Political”
Panel Organizer: “Walter Benjamin, Now Political”
- April 2007 Midwest Political Science Association
Paper: “To the Memory of Socrates: Moral Philosophy in Plato’s *The Laws*”

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Department of Political Science and IR, University of Delaware

- POSC 285: Introduction to Political Theory
- POSC 333: Contemporary Political Ideologies
- POSC 438: Topics in Political Theory: Debating Capitalism
- POSC 472: Democratic Theory
- POSC 822: Theoretical Approaches to Capitalism (Graduate Seminar)
- POSC 836: Democratic Theory (Graduate Seminar)

PROFESSIONAL AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES

Department of Political Science and IR, University of Delaware

Coordinator, Research Colloquium Series, 2019-
Member, Graduate Policy Committee, 2019-
Co-organizer of the Conference, "Democracy in Decline? The Challenge of Global
Populism," May 2018
Member, Graduate Admissions and Funding Committee, 2013-2014, 2015-2016
Member, Graduate Field Exam Committee, 2014-2016
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Online Course Evaluations, 2014
Member, Honors and Awards Committee, 2018-2019
Member, Undergraduate Committee, 2012-2019

Department of Government, Cornell University

Graduate Student Organizer, Political Theory Workshop, 2011-12

Association for Political Theory

Member, Program Committee for the 2018 annual conference

Editorial Board

Democratic Theory: An Interdisciplinary Journal

Manuscript Reviewer

Oxford University Press

*American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Constellations: An International
Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory; Democratic Theory: An Interdisciplinary Journal;
Political Theory*

REFERENCES

Letters available upon request