

Steven C. Denney

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Current Positions

Asian Institute, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto
Graduate Fellow, 2015-present

Innovation Policy Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto
Associate, 2015-present

Education

University of Toronto, PhD., Department of Political Science [spring 2019 expected]
Subfields: Comparative Politics & Public Policy
Advisors: Joseph Wong (supervisor), Neil Nevitte & Andre Schmid

Yonsei University, M.A. in Global Affairs and Policy, 2011-2013
Advisors: Rhyu Ssang-young, John Delury & Seo Jungmin

Harding University, B.A. in Political Science, Department of Political Science, 2005-2008

Sogang University & Seoul National University, Korean Language Institute, 2010-2012

Research and Teaching Interests

Comparative politics, innovation policy, democratic transitions, national identity, East Asia and Korea, public opinion, surveys and experiments

PhD Dissertation

The Foundations of National Identity in Post-Autocratic South Korea

What is the relationship between political system type and national identity? Existing research suggests that citizens in countries with consolidated democratic institutions have national identities that are more open and inclusive. But what about citizens in new(er) democracies? Do identities forged under autocratic regimes change, or are they resilient over time? Using pooled cross-sectional data on South Korean national identity between 2003 and 2015, this research considers whether people who were socialized under democratic political conditions have national identities different from those who came of age under autocracy. Using newly collected survey and interview data, this research also leverages a natural experiment in institutional change to isolate the effects of both “growing up autocratic” and exposure to democratic institutions by comparing responses from native South Koreans with that of resettled North Korean defector-migrants.

Research Grants & Fellowships

Research Grants

- 2018-present. UniKorea research grant, “Politics and Process of ‘Unification in Action.’” Primary investigator.
- 2018-present. Korea Foundation research grant, “North Korean Refugee Business Survey.” Co-investigator.
- 2017-present. Mitacs research grant, “The Scale-up Challenge for Canada? Obstacles to High-Growth Technology-based Firms and the Policy Response.” Project manager.
- 2014, 2015 & 2016. Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) Competitive Research Grant (x3). Co-Investigator.
- 2016. Dissertation fieldwork grant, Richard Simeon Doctoral Student Scholarship, University of Toronto.
- 2014 & 2016. School of Graduate Studies (SGS), University of Toronto, fieldwork grants (x2)
- 2014-2015. Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) Visa Award, University of Toronto

Fellowships

- 2016-present. Asian Institute Graduate Fellowship, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto
- 2017 (summer). Korea Junior Unification Fellowship, The Institute for Unification Education, Seoul, ROK
- 2016 (summer). Pre-doctoral Fellow, Academy of Korean Studies (AKS), Seoul, ROK
- 2012-2013. Young Scholar, Asan Institute for Policy Studies, Seoul, ROK

Teaching

University of Toronto	POL242, Methods in Political Science, 2017-2018 (course instructor) POL218, Introduction to Comparative Politics, 2013-2018 (teaching assistant)
Myungji College	English (ESL), 2011-2012 (course instructor)

Book Project

New Settlers: Insights into the Social and Political Transformation of the Korean Peninsula [In preparation, with Christopher Green, Leiden University]

What can the resettlement of North Korean defector-migrants into South Korean society today tell us about Korean national identity and the likely challenges of integrating the two Koreas tomorrow? In this book, we report findings from novel surveys and interviews with North Korean defector-migrants on two main dimensions: (1) national identity and (2) political attitudes and behavior. On the first dimension, we consider how North Korean defector-migrants define “Koreaness” and whether their attitudes about national membership and belonging are affected by pre- or post-migration effects. We focus on whether their attitudes converge or diverge with that of native-born South Koreans. On the second dimension, we look at what those born in North Korea think about their host country’s democracy, specifically whether they adopt the democratic norms and practices of their South Korean compatriots.

Papers Under Review or In Progress

“Transforming a Cluster While Building a Firm: Entrepreneurs and the Evolution of Toronto’s ICT Cluster,” with David Wolfe and Travis Southin.” [Under review]

“South Korean Attitudes Toward Immigrants: A Conjoint Analysis.” [In preparation for journal submission]

“Nationalism After Autocracy: Generational Change and National Identity in South Korea.” [In preparation for journal submission]

“Becoming South Korean: What the Re-socialization of North Korean Migrants Tell Us about Identity Change in Korea.” [In preparation for journal submission]

Articles

2019 "Juche and the Everyday: Does Ideology Matter for Ordinary People of the DPRK?," with Christopher Green, *Korea Journal* (forthcoming).

"Studying North Korea through North Korean Migrants: Lessons from the Field," with Jay Song, *Critical Asian Studies* (forthcoming).

2014 “How Authoritarian Regimes Maintain Domain Consensus: North Korea’s Information Strategies in the Kim Jong-un Era,” with Adam Cathcart and Christopher Green, *Review of Korean Studies*, Vol. 17, No. 2: 145-178.

“South Korea and a New Nationalism in an Era of Strength and Prosperity,” with Karl Friedhoff, *Stanford Journal of East Asian Studies*, Vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 121-129.

2013 “Towards a Developmental Understanding of North Korea: An Institutional Approach to Economic Reform and Development,” with Christopher Green, *European Journal of Korean Studies*, Vol. 15, pp. 92-111.

2013 “North Korea’s Cultural Diplomacy in the Early Kim Jong-un Era,” with Adam Cathcart, *North Korean Review*, Vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 29-42.

Book Chapters

- 2019 "Democratic Support and Generational Change in South Korea," in *Korea and the World: New Frontiers in Korean Studies*, Gregg A. Brazinsky (ed.) (Lanham, MD, Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).
- "Unification in Action? The National Identity of North Korean defector-Migrants: Insights and Implications," in *On Korea: Volume 12* (Korea Economic Institute, 2019).
- 2016 "Kim Jong-un and the Practice of Songun Politics," with Christopher Green and Adam Cathcart, *Change and Continuity in North Korean Politics*, Adam Cathcart et al. (eds.) (Routledge, Fall/Winter 2016).
- "Pockets of Efficiency: An Institutional Approach to Economic Reform and Development," with Christopher Green, *Change and Continuity in North Korean Politics*, Adam Cathcart et al. (eds.) (Routledge, Fall/Winter 2016).
- "The Whisper in the Ear: Re-defector Press Conference as Information Management Tool," in *On Korea: Volume 8* (Korea Economic Institute, 2016).
- 2015 "The Implications of Civic Diplomacy for ROK Foreign Policy," with Peter Hayes et al., in *Complexity, Security and Civil Society in East Asia: Foreign Policies and the Korean Peninsula*, Peter Hayes and Kiho Yi (eds.) (Open Book Publishers).

Selected Papers and Special Reports

- 2019 "South Korean Conservatives: What Now?" *The Diplomat*, Issue 52 (March 2019).
- 2018 "Unification in Action? The National Identity of North Korean Defector-Migrants: Insights and Implications," with Christopher Green, *Korean Economic Institute of America: Academic Paper Series*, October 1.
- "A Black Korean in Pyongyang: Ethnic identity is the latest issue to split the two Koreas," with Andray Abrahamian, *Foreign Policy*, July 17.
- 2017 "South Korea's 19th Presidential Election: Lessons Learned," *The Diplomat*, May 12.
- "South Koreans Can't Agree What Democracy Is," *Foreign Policy*, March 13.
- 2016 "Identité nationale et nationalisme nord-coréens" [North Korean national identity and nationalism], *Korea Analysis* no. 11: 40-44.
- «Hell Chosun», expression de l'insatisfaction de la jeunesse sudcoréenne ["Hell Chosen:"] Expressions of Dissatisfaction among South Korean Youth], *Korea Analysis* no. 9: 42-45.
- "Presidential Scandal in South Korea Creates Power Vacuum," *Foreign Policy*, November 2.
- "From hero to zero: North Korea's failure in Yanbian," with Christopher Green, *NK News Pro*, June 14.
- 2015 "The Whisper in the Ear: Re- defector Press Conference as Information Management Tool," with Christopher Green and Brian Gleason, *Korean Economic Institute of America: Academic Paper Series*, March 12.
- "The Tumen Triangle Documentation Project Goes to China: AKS Special Edition," with Adam Cathcart and Christopher Green (Introduction by James Hoare), *SinoNK.com*, January.
- 2013 "Confronting History in East Asia," in Proceedings for Asan Plenum 2013: "New World Disorder," The Asan Institute for Policy Studies.
- "South Korea and a New Nationalism in an Era of Strength and Prosperity," with Karl Friedhoff CSIS PacNet #75, October 7.

- 2012 “American Foreign Policy towards the Korean Peninsula,” in Proceedings for Asan Plenum 2012: “Leadership,” The Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

Selected Reviews

- 2018 “Park Chung Hee and Modern Korea: The Roots of Militarism, 1866-1945, by Carter Eckert,” *Korea Journal*, Vol. 58, no. 3: 184-190.
- “Unveiling the North Korean Economy: Collapse and Transition, by Byung-Yeon Kim,” *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, Vol. 25, no. 1: 93-96.
- “North Korea’s Hidden Revolution, by Jieun Baek,” *Pacific Affairs*, Vol 91, no. 1: 176-178.
- 2015 “Assimilating Seoul: Japanese Rule and the Politics of Public Space in Colonial Korea, 1910–1945 by Todd A. Henry,” *European Journal of Korean Studies*, October 15.
- “The Korean War: An International History, by Wada Haruki,” *European Journal of Korean Studies*, May 4.
- “Brokers Of Empire: Japanese Settler Colonialism In Korea, 1876–1945 by Jun Uchida,” *European Journal of Korean Studies*, May 13.
- 2014 “The Oxford Handbook of the International Relations of Asia,” *Asan Forum*, Vol. 2, no. 6.
- 2012 “To Never Forget, One Must First Know,” review of *Escape from Camp 14: One Man’s Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West*, by Blaine Harden, *Korea Review*, Vol. 2, no. 2, pp. 171-175.

Selected Presentations

- 2019 “South Korean Attitudes Toward Immigrants: A Conjoint Analysis,” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 4-7.
- “Juche and the Everyday: Does Ideology Matter for Ordinary People of the DPRK,” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Denver, CO, March 21-24.
- 2018 “Does Democracy Matter? What the Re-socialization of North Korean Migrants in South Korea Tells Us About the Relationship Between Institutions and National Identity,” Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 5-8.
- “After Defection: The Identity Politics of Integrating North Korean Refugees,” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington DC, April 18-21.
- 2017 “Korea and the World: New Frontiers in Korean Studies,” Conference/Workshop at the George Washington University, Washington, D.C., May 23-24.
- 2016 “Assessing Ethnic National Identity among North Korean Migrants in the ROK,” Brookings Institution Second Annual Young and Brave Conference, Washington, D.C., September 30.
- “What the Re- socialization of North Korean Immigrants Tells Us about Changes in Contemporary South Korean National Identity,” Joint East Asian Studies Conference (JEAS), SOAS, London, UK, September 7 – 9.
- “What the Re- socialization of North Korean Immigrants Tells Us about Changes in Contemporary South Korean National Identity,” Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) 127th Overseas Korean Studies Colloquium, Bundang, South Korea, August 18.
- “Transformation of Korean National Identity: What Can Different Developmental Experiences Tell Us about National Identity Formation?” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, March 31-April 3.

- 2015 “Telling Tales: North Korea’s Use of Re-Defectors,” presentation for KEP’s Academic Paper Series, March 12.
- “Contentious Politics on the Korean Peninsula: A Workshop for Koreanists,” Social Movements and Contentious Politics: Theories and Methods of Local Protest and Global Activism, University of Toronto, March 8.
- “Activated Borders: Re-openings, Ruptures and Relationships,” 4th Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network, City University of Hong Kong, December 8-10.
- 2014 7th World Congress of Korean Studies, University of Hawai’i at Manoa, November 5-7. “Post-Cold War Borders: Global Trends and Regional Responses,” Association for Borderlands Studies, 1st World Conference, Joensuu, Finland – St. Petersburg, Russia, June 9-13.
- “Changes and Variations in Post-Industrial South Korea: A Primer on a New Nationalism,” 17th Annual Harvard East Asia Conference, Harvard University, March 21-23.

Others

Languages	Korean (advanced), Spanish (intermediate)
Programming	R (intermediate), Python (intermediate)
Analytics	SPSS, R, Nvivo
Reviewer	International Political Science Review, North Korean Review
Member	Association of Asian Studies, Canadian Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Industry Studies Association

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