

Michael Joseph Seth

ADDRESS

Department of History
MSC 2001
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Office: (540) 568 7801
Home : (540) 438 1301
sethmj@jmu.edu
FAX: (540) 568 6556

CURRENT POSITION

Professor of History
James Madison University (1998-)
Fields: East Asia, World

Responsible for Teaching:

World History to 1500
World History Since 1500
Critical Issues in Recent Global History
Patterns of World History
History of Korea
Special Topics in World History
Thinking Like a Historian

Also Taught: Great Works, U.S. History, Special Topics Honors Program

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of History, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1994
Major Field: Korea
Other Fields: Modern Japan, Modern China, Modern Europe
Dissertation: "Education, State and Society in South Korea, 1948-1960."

M.A. State University of New York at Binghamton, 1974
Major Field: Modern Europe
Minor Field: U.S. History
Thesis: "John Armstrong and the Diplomacy of the Berlin and Milan Decrees."

B.A. State University of New York at Binghamton, 1970

AWARDS & GRANTS

School of Liberal Arts Alumni Legacy Fund Award 2019
German Research Council Grant 2014
Academy of Korean Studies Research Grant 2012
Madison Scholar Award 2008
NEH Summer Institute 2007
Academy of Korean Studies Grant, 2006
Korean Education Institute/World Bank Grant 2005
NEH Summer Institute 2004
Academy of Korean Studies Scholarship Award 2002
Edna Schaeffer Award 1999
Social Science Research Council Research Grant 1996
NEH Summer Seminar 1995
East-West Center Grant 1991-1994

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Asian Studies
Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Regional Conferences of the Association of Asian Studies
World History Association
East-West Center (Honolulu) Degree Associate

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Current Professional Activities-Off Campus

Member of UNESCO sponsored Jikji Project
Associate in the Varieties of Democracy Project
An Associate Editor of *Education About Asia*
Board Member Southeast Regional Conference of Asian Studies
Board Member of Institute for Korea and Taiwan
Faculty (Without Stipend) Member of the University of Central Lancaster
External Consultant Korean Anti-Corruption Agency

Current Professional Activities at James Madison University

Faculty Advisor to the Madison Historians (JMU History Club)
Faculty Advisor to JMU Chapter of LiNK
Asian Studies Coordinator
Organizer of Madison Global Student Conference

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

Not on the Map: The Peculiar Histories of De Facto States. Lanham, MD: Lexington, December, 2021.

Korea: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press, 2020.

A Concise History of Korea: From Antiquity to the Present. (Revised Third Edition). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2020.

North Korea: A History. London, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018

Routledge Handbook of Modern Korean History, editor. London: Routledge, 2016.

A Concise History of Korea: From Antiquity to the Present. (Revised Second Edition). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

The History of Education in Korea: A Sourcebook, edited with Gilsang Lee, Jae-Hong Joo and Seunghyun Roh. Bundang, ROK: Academy of Korean Studies, 2015.

A Concise History of Korea: From Antiquity to the Present. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2011.

A Concise History of Modern Korea: From the Late Nineteenth Century to the Present. Boulder, Co: Rowman and Littlefield, 2009.

A Concise History of Korea: From the Neolithic to the Nineteenth Century. Boulder, Co: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.

Education Fever: Politics, Society and the Pursuit of Schooling in South Korea. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2002.

ARTICLES, ESSAYS AND PUBLISHED CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Educational Development, Society and Politics in South Korea” in Sojin Lim and Niki Alsford, editors, *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary South Korea*. London, Routledge, 2022, pp.11-26.

“Korean Colonial Cosmopolitanism,” in J. Bruce Jacobs, Niki J.P. Alford, and Sojin Lim, editors *Assessing the Landscape of Taiwan and Korean Studies in Comparison*. Boston: Brill, 2021, pp.133-156.

“Education, Nation-Building and the Quest for Legitimacy in South Korea,” in Marcelo Caruso and Daniel Maul, editors, *Decolonization(s) and Education: New Politics and New Men*, Berlin: Peter Lang, 2020, pp.91-110. .

“What Honors High School and Undergraduate Survey Instructors Should Know about North Korea’s Nuclear Threat.” *Education About Asia*, (Spring 2018): 68-74.

“South Korea's Economic Development, 1961-1996” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asia* Oxford,UK: Oxford University Press, 2018.
<https://oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.001.0001/acrefore-9780190277727-e-271>

“Bildungsfieber / Bildung als Schlüssel zu (fast) allem” [Education Fever: A Key to (Almost) Everything] in *Korea Kulter und Geschichte*. Hamburg: Kulturmuseum, 2017.

“Korean Neo-Confucianists and Islamic Reformers: A Historical Comparison,” *Journal of Political Criticism* 19.4 (December 2016): 1-19

“South Korea’s Education: A National Obsession,” in Hani Morgan and Christopher Barry, editors, *The World Leaders in Education*. New York: Peter Lang, 2016, 107-126.

“Education zeal, state control and citizenship,” in Chang Kyung-sup, editor, *South Korea in Transition: The Politics and Culture of Citizenship* (London: Routledge, 2015), 17-32.

“Contemporary Korean History: Recent Scholarship Trends in North America,” in Lee Sanghyon and John B. Duncan editors, *Intellectual and Institutional Trends of Korean Studies in North America 2013* (Seoul: The Academy of Korean Studies Press, 2014), pp. 175-191.

“Myth, Memory and Reinterpretation in Korea: The Case of Tan’gun,” (in Chinese), The Center for Korean Studies Peking University *Collected Papers of the Study of Korea XXII* (2014): 113-123.

“An Unpromising Recovery: South Korea's Post-Korean War Economic Development: 1953-1961” *Education about Asia* 18.3 (Winter 2013): 42-46.

“Is Korean Education a Model?” (in Korean) in *Segye ui Sokhak-dul, han’guk ui mirae-rul malhada* [Looking at Korea’s Future: The Views of International Scholars]. Emmanuel Pastreich, editor, (Seoul: Dasan, 2013): 82-93.

"Education Zeal, State Control and Citizenship in South Korea" *Citizenship Studies*, 16.1 (February 2012): 13-28.

"Educational Exceptionalism" in Nancy Abelmann, Jung-ah Choi and So-jin Park editors, *No Alternative?: Experiments in South Korean Education*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2012, pp. 12-27.

"North Korea's 1990s Famine in Historical Perspective," *Education About Asia*. Vol.16:3 (Winter 2011): 24-28.

"Korea: From Hermit Kingdom to Colony," *Education About Asia*, Volume 13, Number 2 (Fall 2008): 28-33.

"Korean Education Needs Fundamental Reform," in Yu Kun-ha, editor, *Insight into Korea*, (Seoul: Korea Herald Media, 2007).

"Premodern Korea in Global Context" *Proceeding of the 3rd World Congress of Korean Studies* (Cheju, Korea: October, 2006).

"Korean Education: A Philosophical and Historical Perspective," Young-Key Kim-Renaud, editor, *Korean Education*, Washington, D.C. The Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, 2005.

"The Korean War's Impact on East Asia," in Mark F. Wilkinson, editor, *The Korean War at Fifty: International Perspectives*, Lexington, VA: VMI Press, 2004, pp.245-263.

"The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyong: Using an Eighteenth Century Korean Autobiography as a Core Text," in Anthony Brunello and J. Scott Lee editors, *The Wider World of core Texts and Courses* South Bend, Indiana: University of Notre Dame, 2004.

"Creating a Korean Education System," The Korean Academy of Korean Studies, *Proceeding of the 1st World Congress of Korean Studies: Embracing the Other: The Interaction of Korean and Foreign Cultures*, (Seoul: July 2002).

"Japan's Colonial Legacy on South Korean Education" *The Virginia Review of Asian Studies* Vol. 3 (Fall 2001)

"Educational Expansion and Social Turmoil in Post-Liberation Korea," Proceedings of the Fourth Pacific-Asia Conference on Korean Studies, Vancouver, B.C., (University of British Columbia, December, 2000).

"Examination Mania: South Korea's Entrance Examination System," *Acta Koreana* Vol. 3 (July 2000): 83-96..

“Dissident Teachers and Democratic Reform in South Korea,” *Southeast Review of Asian Studies* Vol.XXI (December 1999).

“Democratizing Education in South Korea: The U.S. Military and Its Educational Reforms,” in *Korea and Regional Politics*, Xiaobing Li and Timothy Jung editors, (University Press of America, 1998).

“Strong State or Strong Society?,” *Korean Studies* 21, (1997).

BOOK REVIEWS

Since 1998 reviewed books for:

The American Historical Review, Comparative Education, Education About Asia, Education East-West, The European Legacy, The Historian, The Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of Educational Administration, Journal of Korean Studies, Korean Studies, Labor History, The North Korean Review, Pacific Affairs, Seoul Journal of Korean Studies, Southeast Review of Asian Studies, World History Connected

CURRENT PROJECTS

Working on *Korea at War*

Working toward a revised edition of *North Korea: A History*

Contributor to *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary South Korea*

Working with UNESCO on the Development of Moveable Metal Type Printing -The Jikji Project

RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

“Korean Neo-Confucianism and Islamic Reform Movements” Association of Asian Studies January 2023

“Jikji Project” Southeast World History Association, October 2021

“North Korea and the Non-Align Movement,” Southeast Regional Conference of the Association of Korean Studies, January 2021

“North Korea: Failed Development Model,” International Conference on North Korea, Seoul, September 2020

“The March First Movement in Global Context” Symposium on the March First Movement University of Hawaii (March 15, 2019)

“Nagorno Karabakh-de facto State and the State System” at Southeast Regional Conference of the World History Association (November 1, 2018).

Presented Paper on “Reevaluating Korean Historiography since 1945” Symposium on Korea and Taiwan, Preston, UK (June 27 2018)

“North Korea’s Cultural Revolution” Paper, Southeast Conference, Association of Asian Studies, Columbia, South Carolina, February 18, 2018.

“Education, Nation-Building and the Quest for Legitimacy in South Korea,” Humboldt University November 24. 2015.

“Studies on Contemporary Korean History in North America,” Conference on Korean Studies, Seoul, October 2013.

“Education Fever and the Quality of Urban Life,” International Conference on the Quality of Urban Life, Cheonan, Korean, October 2012.

“Can Undergraduates Do World History?” Annual Meeting of the Southeast World History Association, Maryville College, Maryville, Tennessee, October 14, 2011

“North Korea’s 1990’s Famine in Historical Perspective” Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference for Asian Studies, Chapel Hill, January 14-16, 2011.

“The Challenge of Modern Korean History: A Global Perspective,” Annual Meeting of the Southeast World History Association, Roanoke, October 29-31, 2009.

“*The Epic of Gilgamesh: Speaking to the Present and Future from the Distant Past*” Annual Conference of the Association of Core Texts and Courses, Memphis, TN April 2009

“The Korean Encounter with Europe,” East Meets West Conference, March 25-26, 2009, James Madison University.

“A Relatively Peaceful Era?” War and Peace Conference, James Madison University, April 2008

“Tungus-Korean Interactions,” Association of Central Eurasian Studies Conference, Bloomington, Indiana, March 2008

“South Korea-Too Much Zeal for Education?” Asian Studies Conference, University of Maryland, October, 2007.

“Before Globalization: Korea in the Age of Hemispherization” Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, Nashville, January 2007.

“Premodern Korea in Global Context” Third World Congress of Korean Studies, Cheju, Korea, October, 2006.

“Nine Cloud Dream: A Classic Korean Buddhist Novel as a Core Text,” Annual Conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses, Chicago, April 2006

“Social Demand and Educational Development in South Korea,” Latin American Social Science Association Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 2005

“Including Korea in World History: Ideas and Sources,” Annual Meeting of the Southeast World History Association, Lexington, Virginia, October, 2005.

“Korean Education: Resource or Source of Problems?,” World Bank/OECD Conference on Education in the Republic of Korea, Seoul, June 2005

Invited Presentations

“The Korean War in Historical Perspective,” Stanford University guess lecture (via Zoom) April 2020

“Reevaluating Korean Historiography since 1945” University of Central Lancaster, UK June 2018

“Key Issues in Korean Historiography” City University of New York, March 2017

“Decolonizing Education in South Korea,” Humboldt University November, 2015

“Finnish Lessons’ for South Korea” University of Helsinki, Invited Presentation, May 2014

“Education Fever in Historical Perspective,” Academy of Korean Studies, Bundang, South Korea, May 2013

“Education Exodus: Education as a Factor for Korean Emigration,” York University, Toronto, September 2012

“The Annexation of Korea in Global Perspective,” Kyujanggak Institute, Seoul, August, 2010

“The Challenge of Modern Korean History: A Global Perspective” Invited Lecture, Michigan State University, April 2009

“Statistical Reform in South Korea,” Madison Scholar Presentation

James Madison University, October 2008

“Successes and Failures in Korean Education,” Gino Germani Institute for Social Science Research, University of Buenos Aires, December 2005

“South Korea’s Education Fever: Some Reflections,” Center for East Asian Studies, University of California at Berkeley, September, 2005