

# Sara Kang

## Curriculum vitae

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### EDUCATION

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#### Harvard University, Cambridge MA

*Ph.D., History, Secondary in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality*, May 2024 (expected)  
Dissertation: “Operation Relax: Empires of Sex in Japan, South Korea, and the Asia-Pacific”  
Committee: Andrew Gordon (Chair), Carter Eckert, Ian J. Miller, Durba Mitra

#### Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

*A.M., Regional Studies-East Asia*, 2016-2018

#### Williams College, Williamstown, MA

*B.A., History with Honors, and Japanese*, 2010-2014

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### *Refereed Journal Articles*

“Contested Pilgrimage: Shikoku Henro and Dark Tourism.” *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*, Vol 17. No. 1, March 2019.

#### *Online Publications*

Durba Mitra, Sara Kang, and Genevieve Clutario. “[It's Time to Reckon with the History of Asian Women in America.](#)” *Harper's Bazaar*, March 23, 2021.

#### *Invited Publications*

“The Origins of Global R&R in the Japanese City of Kokura.” *Fukuoka Women's History (Fukuoka Joseitachi no Sengo)*, Vol. 5. (forthcoming in Japanese)

### GRANTS • FELLOWSHIPS • AWARDS

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Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2023-2024
Harvard History Department History Prize Instructorship (declined)	2023
Fulbright Graduate Student Research Award	2022–23
Schlesinger Library Fellow for the Asian American Women's Collection	2021
Weatherhead Program for International Studies Predissertation Grant	2020
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (awarded twice)	2020–2021
Reischauer Institute Wintersession Grant	2019
Korea Institute Graduate Summer Language Grant	2018
Noma-Reischauer Essay Prize, Reischauer Institute	2018
Joseph Fletcher Memorial Award for RSEA Master's Thesis	2018
Satoh-Tsuchiya Merit Award, Nominated by the EALC Department	2017
Harvard University Asia Center Summer Research Grant	2017

Tokyo Club Scholarship (1-year scholarship to IUC Japan, Yokohama)	2015–2016
Fulbright U.S. Student Research Award	2014–2015

## CONFERENCES • PRESENTATIONS

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### *Invited Lectures:*

- “The Korean War and R&R in Japan (1950-53),” Institute of Liberal Arts and Science at Kanazawa University in Japan, hosted by Dr. Ide Akira, 2023 (In Japanese)
- “Comforting Soldiers: The Korean War in Japan and Korea,” International Workshop and Book Talk for Eiichiro Azuma’s *In Search of Our Frontier* at Sophia University, Tokyo, January 2023.
- “A Reckoning with Care Labor and Violence in Asian America,” Wellesley College, sponsored by the Wellesley Korean Student Association, 2021
- “Intersectionality and the ‘Comfort Women’ Issue: Beyond South Korea and Japan,” at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea hosted by Dr. Yuki Asahina, 2021
- “Fulbright Fellow Talk: Historical Amnesia, Recasting Japanese Women in the American Occupation of Japan,” Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan, 2015

### *Conference and Workshop Presentations:*

- “Spas, Saunas, and Soaplands: The Sexual Geographies of Hot Springs in East Asia,” for the panel “Feminist Epistemologies in the Transpacific World: Labor, Recreation, Militarism,” 19<sup>th</sup> Berkshire Conference for Women Historians, Santa Clara University, July 1, 2023
- “Prophylaxis and Penicillin: R&R during the Korean War,” for the panel “Disease, Public Health, and Biogovernance on the Korean Peninsula (Part 1),” Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Boston, March 2023
- “Operation Relax: Empires of Sex in Japan and the Asia-Pacific,” AAS-SSRC Dissertation Workshop “Demographics, Migration, and Transnational Flows,” Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Honolulu, March 2022
- “Reproductive Labor under the Japanese Empire,” for the panel “Essential yet Unrecognized: Gendered and Racialized Mobilization of Civilian Labor in Wartime East Asia,” Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Honolulu HI, 2022
- “Fertility and Feticide under the Japanese Empire: The Tale of Futsukaichi,” EU-funded COST Action ‘Worlds of Related Coercions in Work’ (WORCK) workshop, Vienna, Austria, 2022
- “Ports as Sites of Public Health and Military Hygiene in Colonial Korea and Japan” at the 13<sup>th</sup> Kyujanggak International Symposium on Korean Studies 2020, Seoul, South Korea, 2020
- “Kiroe sŏn han'guk yŏsŏngdŭl: P'ihaeguk ija kahaegugin han'gugŭi p'eminiŭt'ŭ nonjaeng,” (Standing at Crossroads: Korean Feminists as Citizens of a ‘Victim’ and ‘Aggressor’ Nation), Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea, 2018 (Presentation in Korean)
- “Misugosaretekita nihonjin ‘ianfu’: nashonarizumu to gunjiseibōryoku,” (The Forgotten Faces of Japanese ‘Comfort Women’: Nationalism and Military Violence), Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama, Japan, 2016 (Presentation in Japanese)

### *Formal Responses*

Discussant for Gao Ming, “Re-examining the “Comfort Women” Issues: Disease and the Greater Co-prosperity Sphere, 1937 – 1946,” Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies, Seoul National University, 2021

### ***Invited Class Lectures and Classroom Visits***

“Japan’s Empire in Korea and Taiwan,” for Course ‘Modern East Asia’ (60 min lecture), University of Montana, 2023

“Japan in Crisis: Depression to Total War,” for Course ‘Japan in Asia and the World’ (75 min lecture), Harvard College, 2021

“The Global Language of Emancipation: Sexual Violence under the Japanese Empire” for Course ‘Global Feminisms’ (75 min lecture), Harvard College, 2020

## **TEACHING • ADVISING**

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### ***Teaching Fellow***

“Japan in Asia and the World,” Andrew Gordon and David Howell, Harvard College, Spring 2021

“Global Feminisms,” Durba Mitra, Harvard College, Fall 2020

“Where on Earth? Foundations in Global History,” Franziska Seraphim, Boston College, Fall 2020

### ***Undergraduate Senior Thesis Advising***

Vivien Tran, “Stairway to America: Vietnamese Refugee Community Building and Catholicism in Massachusetts, 1975-1995,” Harvard College, 2021-2022

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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### ***Panels Organized***

Panel Organizer, “Disease, Public Health, and Biogovernance on the Korean Peninsula (Part 1),” Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Boston, March 2023

Panel Organizer, “Feminist Epistemologies in the Transpacific World: Labor, Recreation, Militarism,” The 19<sup>th</sup> Berkshire Conference for Women Historians, Santa Clara University, June 2023

Panel Organizer, “Essential yet Unrecognized: Gendered and Racialized Mobilization of Civilian Labor in Wartime East Asia,” Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Honolulu, March 2022

### ***Conferences Organized***

Co-Chair, “Gender and Empire,” Harvard Graduate Conference on International History (CON-IH), 2020-2021

Committee Member, “Militarization: Methods, Approaches, and New Directions,” Harvard Graduate Conference on International History (CON-IH), 2016-2017

Co-Chair, “Roads Through Asia,” Harvard East Asia Society Conference (HEAS), 2016-2017

### ***Japanese Translation Work***

Assistance with English translations for Kojima Yasuo and Yamamura Aki at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies at Kyoto University, funded by MEXT, 2020

## **DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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### ***Harvard University***

Graduate Student Representative to Vietnamese History Faculty Search Committee, History and EALC Department, 2021

Research Fellow for the Asian American Women's Collections at Schlesinger, 2021

Research Assistant for Andrew Gordon and Erez Manela for Course Syllabus Design, "Not Like US? Americans as Occupiers and Nation Builders," 2021

Research Assistant for Andrew Gordon on UNESCO and Industrial Sites in Japan, 2021

Research Assistant for Theodore Bestor on Tsukiji Relocation, 2017

Student Assistant, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, 2016–2019

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

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Familiarity with spatial software, including GIS, ArcGIS Online, QGIS, and Google Earth

- Cartography Workshop, Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University, 2021
- GIS for the Humanities and Social Sciences Workshop, Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University, 2020

## **LANGUAGE TRAINING**

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Japanese (fluent, JLPT N1), Korean (fluent), Vietnamese (beginner)

- Elementary Vietnamese (BA, BB) at Harvard University, 2018-2019
- Inter-University Center for Advanced Korean Language Studies at Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea, Summer 2017
- Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama, Japan, 2015-2016

## **REFERENCES**

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*Andrew Gordon*

Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History,  
Harvard University,  
[agordon@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:agordon@fas.harvard.edu)

*Carter Eckert*

Yoon Se Young Professor of Korean History,  
Harvard University,  
[eckert@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:eckert@fas.harvard.edu)

*Ian Jared Miller*

Professor of History, Harvard University,  
[ian\\_miller@harvard.edu](mailto:ian_miller@harvard.edu)

*Durba Mitra*

Richard B. Wolf Associate Professor of  
Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Harvard  
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