

Korea Policy Forum

U.S.-ROK-Japan Trilateral Relations in the Biden Era

Institute for
Korean Studies
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

East Asia National
Resource Center
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

KOREA POLICY FORUM

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Tuesday, March 23, 2021
10:00 am - 11:30 am (EDT)
Virtual Event via Zoom

Monday, March 23, 2021
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◇ Event Description

The Biden administration has made it clear that it is committed to re-energizing American alliances in Northeast Asia. At the same time, relations between South Korea and Japan are still strained over legal and economic disputes. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin are to make their first international trip to Japan and South Korea later this month. Responding to the Biden administration's clear signals toward multilateral engagement, South Korean President Moon Jae-in recently invited Japan to renew efforts to mend ROK-Japan bilateral relations. Please join the GW Institute for Korean Studies for an online discussion with experts who will be discussing views from the United States, South Korea, and Japan on reinvigorating trilateral cooperation.

◇ **Speakers**



Gregg A. Brazinsky is Professor of History and International Affairs and Deputy Director of GW Institute for Korean Studies. His research seeks to understand the diverse and multi-faceted interactions among East Asian states and between Asia and the United States. He is the author of *Nation Building in South Korea: Koreans, Americans, and the Making of a Democracy* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007) and *Winning the Third World: Sino-American Rivalry during the Cold War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017). He served as Interim Director of the GW Institute for Korean Studies during the Spring 2017 semester.



Shihoko Goto is the Deputy Director for Geoeconomics and Senior Northeast Asia Associate at the Woodrow Wilson Center's Asia Program. She specializes in trade relations and economic issues across Asia, and is also focused on developments in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. She is also a contributing editor to *The Globalist*, and a fellow of the Mansfield Foundation/Japan Foundation U.S.-Japan Network for the Future for 2014 to 2016. Prior to joining the Wilson Center, she spent over ten years as a journalist writing about the international political economy with an emphasis on Asian markets. As a correspondent for Dow Jones News Service and United Press International based in Tokyo and Washington, she has reported extensively on policies impacting the global financial system as well as international trade. She currently provides analysis for a number of media organizations. She was also formerly a donor country relations officer at the World Bank. She received the Freeman Foundation's Jefferson journalism fellowship at the East-West Center and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's journalism fellowship for the Salzburg Global Seminar. She is fluent in Japanese and French. She received an M.A. in international political theory from the Graduate School of Political Science, Waseda University, Japan, and a B.A. in Modern History, from Trinity College, University of Oxford, UK.



Seong-ho Sheen is Professor of International Security, and Director of International Security Center at Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Seoul National University (SNU). Previously, he was a visiting fellow at the East-West Center DC, a CNAPS fellow at the Brookings Institution, an assistant research professor at Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) and a research fellow at Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis (IFPA). He has taught at University of Massachusetts Boston. In addition, he advised various government organizations including ROK National Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Unification, and the ROK National Assembly. His area of interest includes International Security, US Foreign Policy, Northeast Asian Politics and the Korean Peninsula. Professor Sheen received Ph.D. and M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and B.A. from Seoul National University.

◇ **Moderator**



Celeste Arrington is Korea Foundation Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at GW. She specializes in comparative politics, with a regional focus on the Koreas and Japan. Her research and teaching focus on law and social movements, the media, lawyers, policy processes, historical justice, North Korean human rights, and qualitative methods. She is also interested in the international relations and security of Northeast Asia and transnational activism. She is the author of *Accidental Activists: Victim Movements and Governmental Accountability in Japan and South Korea* (2016) and has published in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Law & Society Review*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Asian Survey*, and the Washington Post, among others. She received a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, an MPhil from the University of Cambridge, and an A.B. from Princeton University. She is currently writing a book that analyzes the role of lawyers and legal activism in Japanese and Korean policies related to persons with disabilities and tobacco control.

This event is on the record and open to the public.