

North Korea Economic Forum Annual Conference (Part II) Researching North Korea: Sources, Methods, and Pitfalls



Monday, October 12 - Tuesday, October 13, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time

Virtual Event via Zoom

EVENT DESCRIPTION

North Korea has been considered as a ‘hard target’ by analysts because of the country’s lack of transparency and accessibility. Its economy is no exception. With the dynamic marketization North Korea watchers have difficulty in collecting the economic data and relevant information. Sources and methods themselves are often main debate topics among the experts. In this context, the second part of our second North Korea Economic Forum Annual Conference will examine sources, methods and pitfalls of researching North Korea in the areas of interview techniques, official economic data, satellite imagery analyses, maritime monitoring, illicit finance networks, and unclassified commercial data.

PROGRAM

Oct. 12 (Mon.)	Session I. Traditional Methodology: Researching a Hard Target
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<p>Moderator: William Newcomb (Fellow, C4ADS)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Sandra Fahy (Associate Professor of Anthropology, Sophia University) Interview Techniques for Qualitative Research</p> <p>Stephen Haggard (Krause Distinguished Professor, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UCSD) Liuya Zhang (PhD Candidate, Ohio State University) Researching a Hard Target: The Use of Official Economic Data</p> <p>Jenny Town (Fellow, Stimson Center & Deputy Director, 38 North) Eyes In the Sky: How Satellite Imagery Can Enhance Understanding of North Korea</p>

	<p>Discussants:</p> <p>Barbra Demick (Janice B. and Milford D. Gerton Fellow, New York Public Library’s Cullman Center)</p> <p>Nicholas Eberstadt (Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute)</p> <p>Melissa Hanham (Deputy Director of Open Nuclear Network, One Earth Future Foundation)</p>
Oct. 13 (Tues.)	Session II. Cutting Edge: Researching a Hard Target
<p>9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Moderator: John Park (Director of Korea Project, Harvard Kennedy School)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Neil Watts (Former Member of UN Panel of Experts for North Korea) Watching Through the Lens of a Long Telescope: Monitoring North Korean Sanctions Evasion in the Maritime Domain</p> <p>Andrea Mihailescu (Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council & Adjunct Faculty, Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy) Using Open Source to Help Banks and Regulators do Due Diligence</p> <p>David Asher (Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute) Disrupting North Korea’s Regime Using Unclassified Commercial Data as Intelligence</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <p>Hamish MacDonald (Associate Fellow, Royal United Services Institute)</p> <p>Jason Arterburn (Program Director of Counterproliferation Cell, C4ADS)</p> <p>Markus Garlauskas (Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council)</p>

PROFILES (Alphabetical Order)



ANDREA R. MIHAILESCU is a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council and currently on sabbatical from the U.S. Department of State teaching Sanctions in International Relations at Pepperdine University’s School of Public Policy. Andrea was a Member of the Secretary’s Policy Planning Staff at the State Department working on sanctions and CFIUS issues. Prior to that, she was assigned to the Department of Defense to support Secretary Mattis on securing a multi-billion Special Measures Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Korea. Before the Pentagon, Andrea helped design and lead the North Korea sanctions program at the State Department under the Obama Administration. Andrea was also an economic intelligence analyst in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research supporting senior State

Department policymakers by identifying economic pressure points in the Iranian regime. In that role, Andrea's intelligence assessments were often included in the President's Daily Brief and other senior level U.S. intelligence products. Before joining the government, Andrea was a freelance journalist covering oil and gas issues. Andrea was a Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholar. She is a graduate of The George Washington University (MBA), American University (MA), and University of Connecticut (BA).



BARBARA DEMICK is a journalist and author of three books. Most recently *Eat the Buddha: Life and Death in a Tibetan Town*, as well as *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* and *Logavina Street: Life and Death in a Sarajevo Neighborhood*. She was bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times in Beijing and Seoul, and previously reported from the Middle East and Balkans for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Demick grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Yale College. Her work has won many awards including the Samuel Johnson prize (now the Baillie Gifford prize) for non-fiction in the U.K., the Asia Society's Osborn Elliott prize, the Overseas Press Club's the Polk Award and the Robert F. Kennedy award and Stanford University's Shorenstein Award for Asia coverage. Her North Korea book was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. She is currently a writer-in-residence at the Cullman Center of the New York Public Library.



DAVID ASHER is a Senior Fellow at Hudson Institute. His work focuses on U.S. foreign policy in Asia, economic and financial policy toward U.S. state adversaries, and high technology. Dr. Asher is well known as one of the most experienced advisors to the U.S. government on countering money laundering, terrorism financing, and sanctions evasion schemes. Over the last 25 years he has played a senior role in numerous economic and financial pressure campaigns involving defiant states, terrorist organizations, drug cartels, and weapons proliferation networks. Dr. Asher has a doctorate in international relations from Oxford University and was a College Scholar at Cornell University as an undergraduate. He is fluent in Japanese. He has over two decades of experience working in the international financial community, including advising several of the world's largest global hedge funds on Japan and Asia strategy. He is co-founder of Sayari Labs, a financial intelligence and commercial data provider.



HAMISH MACDONALD is an Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London. He is currently working on Project Sandstone, a new open-source initiative designed to systematically analyze and expose North Korean illicit networks. Recent publications by Project Sandstone, include multiple long-form investigations into North Korean sanctions evasion activities at sea, primarily focusing on coal and oil smuggling networks. Recent work by Project Sandstone has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times and the Times newspaper in London. He was formerly a journalist who has also

focused uniquely on North Korea related topics and affairs. He previously served as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Korea Risk Group, which produces the NK News and NK Pro platforms. Specializing in this area as a journalist, his investigations covered topics including North Korean sanctions evasion activities, domestic economic development and human rights. Hamish graduated from the University of Sydney with a BA in Media and Communications, majoring in Government and International Relations.



JASON ARTERBURN is Program Director for the Counterproliferation Cell at C4ADS, where he oversees analysis on illicit North Korean, Iranian, Chinese, and Pakistani finance and procurement networks. Jason's research and writing have been directly cited by the Congressional Executive Commission on China and the United Nations Panel of Experts on North Korea, and have appeared in front page stories in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Washington Post. Jason earned a bachelor's degree in economics and interdisciplinary security studies from the University of Alabama, where he was awarded the Harry S. Truman and David L. Boren Scholarships, and a master's degree in China studies from Peking University, where he was a Yenching Scholar. Prior to C4ADS, Jason studied at Tsinghua University as a Blakemore Freeman Fellow in the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies. He speaks Mandarin.



JENNY TOWN is a Fellow at Stimson and the Deputy Director of Stimson's 38 North, a website devoted to providing policy and technical analysis on North Korea. She was named one of Worth Magazine's "Groundbreakers 2020: 50 Women Changing the World" and one of Fast Company's Most Creative People in Business in 2019 for her role in co-founding and managing 38 North. Ms. Town is the former Assistant Director of the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies where she focused on North Korea, US-DPRK relations, US-ROK alliance, and Northeast Asia regional security. She is an expert reviewer for Freedom House's Freedom in the World Index, where she previously worked on the Human Rights in North Korea Project. She is an Associate Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute at SAIS, a Member of the National Committee on North Korea, and an Associate Member of the Council of Korean Americans. She serves on the Editorial Board for Inkstick, an online foreign policy journal for emerging scholars. Ms. Town holds a BA in East Asian Studies and International Relations from Westmar University and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.



JOHN PARK is Director of the Korea Project at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center. He is also an Associated Faculty Member of Harvard University's Korea Institute, Faculty Member of the Harvard Committee on Regional Studies East Asia, and a Faculty Affiliate with the Harvard Project on Managing the Atom. Dr. Park's core research projects focus on the political economy of the Korean Peninsula, nuclear proliferation, economic statecraft, Asian trade negotiations, and North Korean cyber activities. He was the 2012-13 Stanton Nuclear Security Junior Faculty Fellow at MIT's Security Studies Program. He previously directed Northeast Asia Track 1.5 dialogues at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. He advises

Northeast Asia policy-focused officials in the U.S. government. Dr. Park's current research focuses on the North Korean regime's accumulated learning in evading sanctions. He has testified on North Korea before the Senate Banking Committee and the House Financial Services Committee. Dr. Park received his M.Phil. and Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge. He completed his pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center.



MARKUS GARLAUSKAS is a nonresident Senior Fellow with the Scowcroft Center of the Atlantic Council, in the Asia Security Initiative. He focused on North Korea issues for nearly twenty years as a US government official, until concluding his term as a member of the Senior National Intelligence Service in June 2020. He led the US Intelligence Community's analysis on North Korea as the National Intelligence Officer for North Korea on the National Intelligence Council from July 2014 until his departure from government. He also served in Seoul at the headquarters of United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and US

Forces Korea from 2002 to 2014 in a variety of key positions, including as Chief of Intelligence Estimates and as Chief of Strategy. He holds a Master's degree from Georgetown University's Security Studies Program.



MELISSA HANHAMIS is the Deputy Director of Open Nuclear Network (ONN), a program of One Earth Future, and also directs its Datayo Project. She is an expert on weapons of mass destruction (WMD), which include nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their delivery devices such as missiles and bombers. She has studied North Korea and China's WMD programs for over a decade. Melissa is an expert on open source intelligence, incorporating satellite and aerial imagery and other remote sensing data, large data sets, social media, 3D modeling and GIS mapping. She is particularly focused on the monitoring and verification of

international arms control agreements using open source evidence. Melissa also uses open source information to study export-control systems and proliferation finance activities. Melissa is on the board of directors of BASIC and an affiliate of Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation. In 2018, she was awarded the Paul Olum Grant Fund for being one of the most inventive scientific and technical minds working to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons. She previously worked at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA and the International Crisis Group in Seoul and Beijing.



NICHOLAS EBERSTADT holds the Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) in Washington DC and is Senior Adviser to the National Bureau of Asian Affairs (NBR) in Seattle WA. Mr Eberstadt writes extensively on issues in demographics, development, and international security. His books on Korean Affairs include "The Population of North Korea" (co-author, 1992), "The End of North Korea" (1999), and "The North Korean Economy between Crisis and Catastrophe" (2010). He serves inter alia as a founding board member for the US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK). His

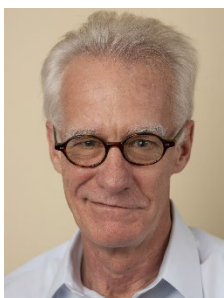
prizes and honors include the Berlin Prize (2008), the Bradley Prize (2012), and the Irving Kristol Award (2020). Mr. Eberstadt earned his AB, MPS and Ph.D. at Harvard and his M.Sc. at the LSE.



NEIL WATTS, formerly a Captain with 33 years' service in the South African Navy, specialized in surface warfare and weapons systems, serving nearly 20 years at sea. Neil has served as the Maritime Expert on the United Nations Security Council Panel of Experts (POE) for North Korea from 2013 to 2018. He investigated sanctions evasion, illicit shipments and networks, tracking suspect vessels worldwide and uniquely boarded several North Korean and North Korean-controlled vessels, starting with the Chong Chon Gang in 2013. Neil was also responsible for monitoring North Korea's navy, which included the Sea Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) program. He co-authored seven reports for the UN Security Council and authored the Maritime Sanctions Handbook for the DPRK. Prior to joining the Panel, he served on the South African National Maritime Security Advisory Committee, the Priority Committee for Maritime Security, and as a member of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Counter-piracy Assessment Group. Until 2013, he was responsible for developing and executing the national counter piracy strategy. Neil obtained an MA in International Security and Global Justice at Brooklyn College CUNY, is a graduate of Stellenbosch University, the South African Executive National Security Program (First place and best academic paper) and the Joint Senior Command and Staff Course. He is a Senior Contributor, Maritime Security for Compliance and Capacity Skills International (CCSI), and a Senior Research Associate for Kings College London, United Kingdom – Project Alpha.



SANDRA FAHY is associate professor of anthropology in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and the Graduate Program in Global Studies at Sophia University in Tokyo. She is the author of *Marching Through Suffering: Loss and Survival in North Korea* (Columbia, 2015) and *Dying for Rights: Putting North Korea's Rights Abuses on the Record* (Columbia, 2019). She has written numerous policy papers and academic articles. She was awarded her PhD in Anthropology from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in 2009.



STEPHAN HAGGARD is the Krause Distinguished Professor at the School of Global Policy and Strategy at the University of California San Diego and director of the Korea-Pacific Program. He has written widely on the political economy and international relations of East Asia including *Pathways from the Periphery: The Newly Industrializing Countries in the International System* (1990); *The Political Economy of the Asian Financial Crisis* (2000); and *Developmental States* (2018). With Robert Kaufman, he is the author of *Dictators and Democrats: Masses, Elites and Regime Change* (2016) and the forthcoming *Backsliding: Democratic Regress in the Contemporary World*. His work on North Korea with Marcus Noland includes *Famine in North Korea* (2007), *Witness to Transformation: Refugee Insights into North Korea* (2011) and *Hard Target:*

Sanctions, Engagement and the Case of North Korea (2017). Prof. Haggard currently writes for the Korea Economic Institute Peninsula Blog.

(Co-Author)



LIUYA ZHANG is a PhD student at Ohio State University. She received her Bachelor's Degree of Arts from Fudan University and Master's degrees in International Studies from Seoul National University and International Affairs from the School of Global Policy and Strategy, University of California, San Diego.



WILLIAM J. NEWCOMB is a member and former chair of the North Korea Economic Forum at the Institute for Korean Studies, the George Washington University. He is a Fellow at C4ADS (Center for Advanced Defense Studies) and a member of the National Committee on North Korea. From October 2014 to May 2018 he was a Visiting Scholar at the US-Korea Institute, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and from July 2014 to December 2015 he was a Senior Advisor at Global Threat Advisory Services LLC. In 2011 Mr. Newcomb was appointed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to serve on the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 (2009). He subsequently was reappointed to the DPRK sanctions panel for successive mandates as the expert on finance through June 2014, when he resigned. A former US government economist, Mr. Newcomb in 2008 retired from the Treasury Department where he was Senior Economic Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis. At Treasury, he led the investigation into Macao's Banco Delta Asia, which had been identified as being instrumental in DPRK money laundering. During 2003-2005, Mr. Newcomb was Deputy Coordinator of the State Department's North Korea Working Group and alternate co-chair of the North Korean Policy Coordinating Committee. From 1984 to 2005, he served as the Senior Economist for Asia, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, US Department of State, and wrote extensively on developments in China, the DPRK and Vietnam for US policymakers. Prior to joining the State Department, he followed East Asian and East European economies in the Office of East Asian Analysis and the Office of Economic Research, US Central Intelligence Agency. He served in the US Army 1970-1972.

BACKGROUND

The North Korea Economic Forum (NKEF) is part of policy program at the George Washington University's Institute for Korean Studies (GIKS). The Forum aims to promote the understanding of North Korean economic issues, distribute the well-balanced, deeply touched, and multi-dimensionally explored pictures of the North Korean economy and to expand the network among the various North Korean economy watchers. The Forum is mostly a closed and off-the-record meeting where participants can freely and seriously discuss the critical issues. Mr. Daniel Wertz is currently the chair of the NKEF and is leading the meetings. It also organizes special conferences made public throughout the academic



year. The Forum is made possible by a generous grant provided by the KDI School of Public Policy and Management.

As a part of the 2nd Annual Conference, a separate webinar on “Current Development Trends in North Korea” is to be held on October 5, 2020.

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