# East Asia National Resource Center THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

# **Korea Policy Forum**



### Cyber Shadows: Understanding and Countering North Korea's Illicit Digital Operations Thursday, August 29, 2024

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (EDT) 10 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. (KST)

Virtual Event via Zoom

#### **<b>O** Event Description

North Korea's increasingly sophisticated cyber operations, including cryptocurrency heists and cyber espionage, are reshaping the global cybersecurity landscape. As these threats evolve, how are the U.S. and South Korea adapting their cybersecurity policies to counteract North Korea's digital tactics? What strategies are being implemented to enhance U.S.-ROK cooperation in the face of these challenges? How will these developments impact broader regional and global security dynamics? Please join the GW Institute for Korean Studies for an in-depth panel discussion on North Korea's illicit cyber activities and the changing cybersecurity policies, featuring expert insights into the future of U.S.-ROK cooperation in this critical area. This event is co-hosted with the GW East Asia National Resource Center and the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies at Seoul National University.



## **O Event Schedule**

Time	Content
9:00 AM - 9:05 AM	<ul> <li>Welcome Remarks:         <ul> <li>Celeste Arrington (Director, GW Institute for Korean Studies)</li> <li>Bumsoo Kim (Director, Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, Seoul National University)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Moderator: Yonho Kim (Associate Director, GW Institute for Korean Studies)
9:05 AM -	Speakers         North Korea's Cryptocurrency Heist & Cyber Espionage:         Insun Her (Counselor, Republic of Korea Mission to the UN. Former member of UN Panel of Experts on DPRK)
10:15 AM	<ul> <li>Nick Carlsen (Senior Investigator, TRM Labs)</li> </ul>
	Changing Cybersecurity Policy and US-ROK Cooperation:
	<ul> <li>Tae-Eun Song (Assistant Professor, Korea National Diplomatic Academy)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Jenny Jun (Assistant Professor, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology)</li> </ul>
10.15 AN	
10:15 AM	Q&A
10:30 AM	Quan .



### **PROFILES (Alphabetical Order)**

## **WELCOMING REMARKS**



**CELESTE ARRINGTON** is Korea Foundation Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at GW. She is the current Director of the GW Institute for Korea Studies (2024-Present) and Co-Director of the East Asia National Resource Center (2024-Present). She specializes in comparative public policy, law and social change, lawyers, and governance, with a regional focus on the Koreas and Japan. She is also interested in Northeast Asian security, North Korean human rights, and transnational activism. Her first book was *Accidental Activists: Victim Movements and Governmental Accountability in Japan and South Korea* 

(Cornell, 2016). She has published numerous articles and, with Patricia Goedde, she co-edited *Rights Claiming in South Korea* (Cambridge, 2021). Her current book project analyzes the legalistic turn in Korean and Japanese governance through paired case studies related to tobacco control and disability rights. She received a PhD from UC Berkeley, an MPhil from the University of Cambridge, and an AB from Princeton University. She is a core faculty of the GW Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS) and president of the Association of Korean Political Studies. Her recent article "Knowledge production through legal mobilization: Environmental activism against the U.S. military bases in East Asia" with Claudia Kim won the Asian Law and Society Association's distinguished article award.



**BUMSOO KIM** is Professor of Political Science and Dean of the College of Liberal Studies (CLS), and Director of the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies (IPUS) at Seoul National University (SNU). At SNU, he previously served as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Associate Dean of Student Affairs of CLS, and as Deputy Director of IPUS. In academia, he was elected as President of the Korean Political Science Association (his term will begin in 2025), and already served as Vice President of the Korean Political Science Association,

Executive Secretary of the Korean Association of International Studies, President of the Korean Society for Governance Research, and Secretary General of the Korean Society for Political Thought. He also previously taught at the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington as the Y.T. Shim Endowed Visiting Professor and was a Foreign Research Scholar at the Institute of Social Science at the University of Tokyo. In the public sector, he currently serves as a committee member of the Korean Government's Policy Committee for Overseas Compatriots. His main academic research areas include justice, human rights, identity politics, nationalism, multiculturalism, and many other issues of contemporary political theory. His articles have appeared in many academic peer-reviewed journals



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such as the Journal of Korean Studies, Ethnic and Racial Studies, and the Social Science Japan Journal. He has also published a number of books (in Korean), which include *What Is Fairness in the Korean Society?* (2022) and *What Is Peace Studies?* (2022). He received his M.A. in Political Science from the University of Chicago and Seoul National University and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago.

#### ♦ SPEAKERS



**NICK CARLSEN** is a Senior Investigator at TRM, where he specializes in complex cryptocurrency investigations. Prior to joining TRM, Nick spent 12 years as an intelligence analyst at the FBI. While at the FBI, Nick played a key role initiating and executing the US government's largest investigations and disruptions of North Korea's trade-based money laundering networks. These cases resulted in the indictments of dozens of North Korean agents, the seizure and forfeiture of over \$700 million, the first-ever extradition of a North Korean

national to the United States, and pioneering case law on the use of the USA Patriot Act to obtain international financial records. Nick is the recipient of two FBI Director's Awards (2013 and 2017), the FBI's highest award for investigative excellence. He is also the recipient of two FINCEN Director's Awards (2018 and 2020), and two National Counterintelligence and Security Center Director's Awards (both awarded in 2016).



**INSUN HER (she/her)** currently serves as Counsellor of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Mission to the United Nations in New York. Before her current posting, she was a member of the Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) under the 1718 Sanctions Committee at the UN Security Council from September 2024 until April 2024. She also served as Director for the Inter-Korea Policy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ROK. Previously, she was posted to ROK embassies in Washington D.C. (U.S.), and Dili (Timor-Leste). Ms. Her has an undergraduate degree in Psychology

from Seoul National University (Korea) and an LLM in International Law from the University of Edinburgh (UK). She also completed the MSc Human Rights course at the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK).





**JENNY JUN** is an Assistant Professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Institute of Technology. Her research focuses on international security, cyber conflict, emerging technologies, and Korean peninsula security issues. She was previously a Research Fellow on the CyberAI Project at Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET), where she currently serves as Non-resident Fellow. She has testified before Congress on the implications of North Korea's cyber threat

and is a co-author of the 2015 Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) report North Korea's Cyber Operations: Strategy and Responses. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University and received her M.A. and B.S. each from the Security Studies Program (SSP) and the School of Foreign Service (SFS) at Georgetown University.



**TAE-EUN SONG** is Assistant Professor of the Department of International Security & Unification Studies at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Korea. She received a Ph.D. in International Relations from Seoul National University and Master's from University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Professor Song currently serves as an advisory committee member for both R.O.K. Cyber Operations Command and Defense Counterintelligence Command. She is also a General Affairs Director of

Korean Association of World Politics of Information (KAWPI), Editorial Chief of the Korean Association of Cybersecurity Studies (KACS), and the Chief of the Emerging Technologies & Cybersecurity Study Committee of the Korean Association of International Studies (KAIS). As both a government official and a scholar, she has actively collaborated with the R.O.K. Army and intelligence community as well as foreign government agencies and think tanks of the U.S., U.K., Germany, and Australia. Her major field of research is emerging security issues including cyber and space security, hybrid threats, information & cognitive warfare, the effects of emerging technologies in military domain as well as science & technology diplomacy, influence operations and strategic communications.



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# **OMODERATOR**



**YONHO KIM** is the Associate Director of the GW Institute for Korean Studies and an Associate Research Professor of Practice. He specializes in North Korea's mobile telecommunications and U.S. policy towards North Korea. Kim is the author of North Korean Phone Money: Airtime Transfers as a Precursor to Mobile Payment System (2020), North Korea's Mobile Telecommunications and Private Transportation Services in the Kim Jong-un Era (2019) and Cell Phones in North Korea: Has North Korea Entered the Telecommunications Revolution? (2014). His research findings were covered by various media outlets, including Wall Street

Journal, The Atlantic, Yonhap News, and Libération. Prior to joining GWIKS, he extensively interacted with the Washington policy circle on the Korean peninsula as Senior Researcher of the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Senior Reporter for Voice of America's Korean Service, and Assistant Director of the Atlantic Council's Program on Korea in Transition. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in International Relations from Seoul National University, and an M.A. in International Relations and International Economics from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

This event is on the record and open to the public. The event will be recorded and made available on GWIKS' YouTube channel.

