

# John G. Grisafi

Ph.D. Student  
Yale University

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## **EDUCATION**

### ***Schools***

- 2019–TBD            Ph.D. (in progress), Religious Studies  
Yale University, New Haven, CT  
Fields of Study: Asian Religions; Religion & Modernity
- 2016–2018           MA, East Asian Languages and Civilizations  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
Concentration: Korean Studies  
Thesis: “U.S. Occupation and the Religious Cold War in Korea: Religious Policy and Strategy of the U.S. Occupation of South Korea, 1945-1948”
- 2014–2017           BA, East Asian Languages and Civilizations; History  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
Concentrations: Korean Studies; World History  
Distinctions: Dean’s Scholar, Summa cum laude, Dean’s List
- 2003–2005           Diploma, Korean Language Basic Program  
Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA

### ***Other Educational Programs & Workshops***

- 2021                 Summer Program, Sun Academy Nihongo Center, Tokyo, Japan
- 2020                 Kyujanggak Korean Studies Summer Workshop, Kyujanggak Institute of Korean Studies, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea
- 2018                 Knowing North Korea Workshop, National Committee on North Korea, Washington, D.C.
- 2010                 Korean Language Enhancement and Assessment Program, Kyunghee University, Seoul, South Korea

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- 2021–Present       Teaching Fellow, Yale University
- 2019–Present       Content Author/Editor, Yale Korean Studies Website, Yale University
- 2017–2019           Japanese & Korean Technical Services Assistant, Penn Libraries, University of Pennsylvania
- 2018                 Indexer and Proofreader, for Jolyon Thomas on *Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019)
- 2013–2017           Contributor and Analyst, NK News/NK Pro
- 2003–2013           Korean Linguist and Military Analyst, United States Army

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE*****University Teaching***

- Fall 2022 Teaching Fellow, Buddhist Thought: The Foundations, Yale University  
 Spring 2022 Teaching Fellow, Introduction to Chinese Philosophy, Yale University  
 Fall 2021 Co-instructor, Religion and Culture in Korea, Yale University

***Community Volunteer Teaching***

- January 2020–TBD Instructor, Korean History Lecture Series, Connecticut Korean Presbyterian Church  
 December 2019 Guest lecturer, “Religions of Korea,” Sunday school, Connecticut Korean Presbyterian Church

**RESEARCH & TRAVEL GRANTS**

- 2021 CEAS Summer Language Mini-Grant, Yale University  
 2018 James Joo-Jin Kim Program in Korean Studies Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania  
 2018 Faculty Buddhist Studies Working Group Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania  
 2017 James Joo-Jin Kim Program in Korean Studies Graduate Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania

**FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2019–2020 Franke Fellowship in the Humanities, Yale University  
 2016–2017 Undergraduate Fellowship, James Joo-Jin Kim Program in Korean Studies, University of Pennsylvania

**PUBLICATIONS*****Solo-authored Journal Articles***

“A Marginal Religion and COVID-19 in South Korea: Shincheonji, Public Discourse, and the Shaping of Religion,” *Nova Religio* 25, no. 1 (August 2021): 40–63.

\*Blind peer-reviewed; <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2021.25.1.40>

“Popular Anxieties and Miyazaki’s Optimism: Concerns about the Youth and Future of Japan in Popular Culture of the Post-Bubble Economic Era,” *Penn Asian Review* 6 (Spring 2016): 15–19.

\*Undergraduate journal

***Outreach Publications***

“[Discourses on Religion in the US and Their Complex Influences in Japan and Korea](#),” *American Religion*, 22 February 2021.

**News Reports, Analyses, and Features (selections)**

- [“DPRK history: the 170mm self-propelled gun in the Iran-Iraq War,”](#) *NK News*, 19 June 2016.
- [“N. Korean ‘human roller coaster’ case of mistaken identity,”](#) *NK News*, 13 June 2016.
- [“N.Korea reveals details of 300mm multiple rocket launcher,”](#) *NK News*, 4 March 2016.
- [“North Korea’s potential nuclear delivery systems,”](#) *NK News*, 21 February 2016.
- [“North Korea’s nuclear force reshuffles its politics, economy,”](#) *NK News*, 11 February 2016.
- [“Ma Won Chun reappears after 11-month absence, purge rumor,”](#) *NK News*, 8 October 2015.
- [“Pointing the world’s largest bomb at North Korea,”](#) *NK News*, 27 September 2015.
- [“Wonsan Airport nears completion, with potential for impact on tourism and economy,”](#) *NK Pro*, 30 July 2015.
- [“North Korea’s million man army in post-unification Korea,”](#) *NK News*, 31 May 2015.
- [“Imagery reveals renovations of Pyongyang airfields,”](#) *NK News*, 28 May 2015.
- [“South Korea faces tough choice on THAAD,”](#) *NK News*, 24 March 2015.
- [“Wonsan airport undergoing major renovation, expansion,”](#) *NK Pro*, 19 January 2015.
- [“Three-year anniversary of Kim Jong Il’s death important milestone,”](#) *NK News*, 17 December 2014.
- [“Kim’s sister a vice department director in Workers’ Party,”](#) *NK News*, 27 November 2014.
- [“Kim Jong Un still a no-show, but coup unlikely,”](#) *NK News*, 9 October 2014.
- [“The An-2: N. Korea’s surprisingly capable Soviet-era biplane,”](#) *NK News*, 16 September 2014.
- [“Recent launches revealed as surface-to-surface missile,”](#) *NK Pro*, 16 August 2014.
- [“Deploying THAAD on the Korean Peninsula,”](#) *NK News*, 28 July 2014.
- [“Two Koreas to resume joint excavation of ancient palace,”](#) *NK News*, 24 July 2014.
- [“Crashed drones reveal state of North’s drone program,”](#) *NK News*, 3 April 2014.
- [“The threat of North Korea’s new rocket artillery,”](#) *NK News*, 13 March 2014.

**RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

- |            |                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 2022  | “Critically Demystifying North Korea’s Approach to Religion and Religious Freedom,” Korean Studies Research Hub Graduate Workshop, University of Melbourne |
| April 2022 | “Setting the Boundaries of Religious Freedom and National Interest in North Korea,” 44th Annual Susman Graduate History Conference, Rutgers University     |
| March 2022 | “Anti-Imperialism and Anti-Americanism in the North Korean Understanding of Religion,” Association for Asian Studies Conference                            |

**RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (continued)**

- February 2022 “The Limits of Religious Freedom in North Korea: How the North Understands Religion,” USC KSI Graduate Symposium, University of Southern California
- December 2021 “Rational Restriction on Religion? How North Korea Conceives of Religious Freedom,” New England Association for Asian Studies Conference, Harvard University
- September 2021 “The Boundaries of Religious Freedom in North Korea: Excluding Religion to Protect the Revolutionary State,” Graduate Student Conference on “Religion and (Breaking) Boundaries,” Boston University
- May 2021 “A Marginal Religion and COVID-19 in South Korea: Shincheonji, Public Discourse, and the Shaping of Religion,” 8th Annual Korea University Graduate Student Conference, Korea University
- November 2020 [“The Memory and Legacy of Shinto Shrine Sites in Seoul: The Geography of Colonial Religious Topoi,”](#) Contesting Memorial Spaces in the Asia-Pacific Conference, Kyushu University
- October 2020 “Marginal Religion and COVID-19 in Korea: Shincheonji, Public Discourse, and the Shaping of Categorical Language,” New England Association for Asian Studies Conference, University of Vermont
- TBD “Mapping the Traces of the Kami: A Geographic Historiography of Shinto Shrine Sites in Seoul,” Beyond Boundaries: Fifth Annual Symposium, Yale University  
\*Postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19
- February 2020 “City Boundaries and the Traces of the Kami: Borders, Urban Spaces, and the Legacy and Memory of Shinto Shrines in Seoul,” Harvard East Asia Society Conference 2020, Harvard University
- June 2019 “A ‘Laissez Faire Policy?’ Defining and Categorizing Religion in Occupied South Korea,” Implicit Religion USA conference, Monmouth University
- May 2019 “‘Nothing Less Than a Religious War’: The Genesis of the Religious Cold War in Korea,” 2019 International Graduate Conference on the Cold War, George Washington University
- April 2019 “Managing Post-Colonial Religious Rights: Religious Freedom and Religions Policy of the U.S. Military Occupation of South Korea, 1945-1948,” Penn EALC Graduate Conference: Myth, Management, and Materiality, University of Pennsylvania
- February 2019 “Benevolent Neutrality: Religious Freedom and Religions Policy of the U.S. Military Occupation of South Korea, 1945-1948,” 28th Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University

**RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (continued)**

- November 2018 “Fostering Freedom and Faith: Religious Liberty and Christianization in the U.S. Occupation of South Korea, 1945-1948,” 47th Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference
- May 2018 “Politics, Public, and Shamans: Marginalization of Shamanism in Korea, Past and Present,” 6th International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars, University of Michigan
- October 2017 “Religious and National Identity in Korea, 1860-1945,” 46th Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference
- May 2017 “Respected but Marginalized: The Paradoxical Treatment of Shamanism in South Korea,” [James Joo-Jin Kim Program in Korean Studies Undergraduate Fellow Research Symposium](#), University of Pennsylvania
- April 2017 “The Soviet-based Korean Communist Movement beyond Kim Il Sung,” [Structure & Subordination: Law, Science, and Religion in East Asia](#) graduate conference, University of Pennsylvania
- February 2017 “The Politics of Shintō in Colonial Korea: Religion on the Margins of Japan’s Empire,” [26th Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia](#), Columbia University
- September 2016 “Shintō in Colonial Korea: A Broadening Narrative of Imperial Era Shintō,” [What Isn’t Shinto? Shinto Symposium 2016](#), University of Pennsylvania

**PUBLIC SERVICE & OUTREACH*****Contributions to News Media (quoted interviews and commentary)***

Elizabeth Shim “[South Korea's approach to secretive church could backfire, analyst says](#),” *UPI*, March 5, 2020.

***Public/Community Lectures and Panels***

- September 2021 “[The ‘Other Korea’: What is North Korea Really Like?](#)” Bristol Public Library
- February 2021 “[Chairman Lee, Shincheonji, and COVID-19: The Verdict](#),” webinar, Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR)
- December 2019 “Covering North Korea: Analysis, Journalism, Scholarship,” ThiNK at Yale, Yale University
- November 2016 “North Korea: What Do We Know?” “Basketball Diplomacy and the North Korean Mind: Film and Discussion,” World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

**PUBLIC SERVICE & OUTREACH (continued)*****Co-organized Public Lectures and Panels***

October 2016            “A More Credible Deterrent?: Nuclear and Missile Developments in North Korea, 2016,” “Missiles, Nukes, Markets, Madman?: North Korea in 2016” North Korea Roundtable, University of Pennsylvania

***Community Volunteer Teaching (see under Teaching Experience section above)***

**PROFESSIONAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE*****Event & Panel Organization and Management***

2021                    Panel Organizer, “Nation, Religion, and Society in Modern Korea,” New England Association for Asian Studies Conference, Harvard University

2020                    Panel Organizer, “COVID-19 in Japan and Korea: Disability, Religion, and Political Change,” New England Association for Asian Studies Conference, University of Vermont

2019                    MC and Panel Chair, 5th Yale-Ewha Conference, Yale University

2018                    Panel Organizer and Chair, “Colonialism, Christianization, and Community: Understanding Transnational Interactions in 20th Century Korea,” 47th Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference

2018                    Conference Organizing Chair, “Bodies and Borders: Inclusion, Exclusion, and Excision in East Asia,” East Asian Languages and Civilizations Graduate Student Conference, University of Pennsylvania

2017                    Conference Organizing Committee, “Structure & Subordination: Law, Science, and Religion in East Asia,” East Asian Languages and Civilizations Graduate Student Conference, University of Pennsylvania

***Publication Production and Editing***

2019                    Indexing and additional proofreading, for Jolyon Thomas on *Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019)

2017                    Editor-in-Chief, *Penn Asian Review* 7 (Spring 2017)

2016                    Associate Editor, *Penn Asian Review* 6 (Spring 2016)

2015                    Associate Editor, *Penn Asian Review* 5 (Spring 2015)

***Peer Reviewing***

2021–Present        *Yale Undergraduate Research Journal*

**PROFESSIONAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE (continued)*****Mentoring and Advising***

- 2021–Present Project Tutor (Korean), East Asian Studies Senior Project Language Support Program, Yale University
- 2021–Present [Ambassador](#), Service to School
- 2020–Present Divinity Doctoral Studies Liaison, Yale University
- 2020–Present Mentor, Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Initiative, Yale University
- 2019–Present Graduate Advisor, ThiNK at Yale, Yale University

***Professional Organization Memberships***

- 2022–Present Student Veterans Research Network (SVRN)
- 2018–Present Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

***Campus Organization Leadership***

- 2022–2023 Coordinator, Korean Studies Reading Group, Yale University
- 2017–2018 Chair, East Asian Languages and Civilizations Graduate Student Research Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania
- 2017–2018 President, University of Pennsylvania Student Veteran Association
- 2016–2017 Founder and President, Penn East Asian Studies Student Association
- 2016–2017 Editor-in-Chief, Penn Asian Review, University of Pennsylvania

***Other Service***

- 2018–2019 Facilitator, Accessibility Mapping Project (AMP), University of Pennsylvania

**AWARDS & HONORS**

- 2021 Graduate Student Paper Prize, NEAAS 2020
- 2017 Dean's Scholar, University of Pennsylvania
- 2016 Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society
- 2016 SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society (Alpha Tier)
- 2015/2016/2017 Dean's List, University of Pennsylvania
- 2012 Award for Linguistic Excellence, 501st MI BDE, U.S. Army

## **LANGUAGES**

English: native

Korean: advanced professional-level reading/writing/speaking; >6 years equivalent education, >16 years professional experience; Defense Language Proficiency Test, ILR Level 3

Japanese: intermediate to advanced reading/writing/speaking; >3 years education

German: elementary reading/speaking; 4 years education; AATG National German Exam

Chinese, Mandarin: beginner reading/speaking

Chinese, Classical/Literary: beginner reading

## **ADDITIONAL SKILLS & EXPERIENCE**

Alma, ArcGIS, archival research, aviation operations support, Canvas, copy editing, curriculum development, data analysis, database maintenance, East Asian calligraphy (novice), Excel, geographic information systems, go/baduk (novice), Google Earth, basic HTML, imagery analysis, land navigation, leadership, mapping, MARC 21, military map reading, OCLC, photography, PowerPoint, public speaking, radio communications, record keeping, Tableau, Tropy, WordPress