Yemok Jeon
yemok.jeon@gmail.com
https://yemokjeon.com

INTERESTS

Modern History of Medicine; Traditional Korean Medicine
Social and Cultural History
Global Cold War History; Health Insurance
Digital Humanities; Computational Methods

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University — Baltimore, MD
Ph.D. Candidate, History of Medicine — Aug. 2023–Present
(Advisor: Lan Li)

Hanyang University — Seoul, Korea
M.A. in Korean History — Sep. 2019–Aug. 2021

Hanyang University — Seoul, Korea
B.A. in History, Summa Cum Laude — Sep. 2013–Aug. 2019

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **Jeon, Yemok** and Young-jeon Shin, "Health Security Ideas of Major Political Groups and the U.S. Military Government during the Liberation Period (1945–1948) in Korea," *Korean Journal of Medical History*, 31, no. 1 (April 2022): 221–262 (in Korean). [PDF]
- "The Process of 'Biological Warfare' Allegation and Behind-the-Scenes Accounts during the Korean War," *Military History*, 120 (2021): 1–42 (in Korean). [PDF]

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "What Can the Korean War Teach Us About Bringing COVID-19 Vaccines to North Korea?," *Wilson Center Blog Post*, June 3, 2022. [Link]
- Research and Industry Development Foundation of Hanyang University, *A Study on the Historical Origins and Changes of Public Health in Korea*, Wonju: National Health Insurance Service, 2021 (in Korean). [Detail]
- Shin, Youn-jeon, Il-yeong Jeong, Tae-hyun Kim, **Jeon, Yemok**, Jan-di Kim, *A Study on the Modern History of Health Security in Korea*, Wonju: National Health Insurance Service, 2020 (in Korean). [Detail]

FELLOWSHIPS

- Hugh Hawkins Research Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University ($3,500), 2025
- MSH-CMHSM Summer Research Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University ($2,000); accepted to the JHU–Fiocruz Summer School in Medicine, Technology, and Environment (Rio de Janeiro, July 22–August 1, 2025), 2025
- BLAST Courses in the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University ($2,500), stipend for designing and teaching a summer course, 2025
- **Compilation of Previously Overlooked Twentieth-Century Korean Studies Records**, Ministry of Education of Korea **($20,000)**, 2024–2025
- Studying Abroad Scholarship, Hanyang University ($11,800), 2023
- **Korea Foundation Global Challengers (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C.)**, Korea Foundation **($14,028)**, 2021–2022
- Fellowship for the Youth of Korean Studies, Pony Chung Foundation, 2020
- **National Humanities and Social Science Undergraduate Student Scholarship**, Korea Student Aid Foundation **($37,102)**, 2017–2021

- Scholarship for Future Humanities, Ministry of Education ($13,021), 2017–2018
- Samsung Dream Class Scholarship, Samsung Welfare Foundation ($2,150), 2017
- Media Scholarship, Hanyang University, 2014
- Academic Excellence Scholarship, Hanyang University, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018

GRANTS

- 2026 NSF-HSS Travel Grant for American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) in Buffalo ($750), 2026
- East Asian Studies Program Conference Grants, Johns Hopkins University ($500), 2026
- Asia Library Travel Grant, University of Michigan ($1,000), 2025
- Korea Studies Graduate Student Travel Grant, Korea Foundation (KF) and Association for Asian Studies (AAS) ($500), 2025
- East Asian Studies Training and Research Grant, Johns Hopkins University ($2,000), 2024
- Travel Grant, American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), 2022

HONORS & AWARDS

- Graduate Student Association (GSA) Student Spotlight Award Recipient, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, 2025 [Post]
- **Hugh Hawkins Research Fellow**, June 2025–June 2026
- Runner-up Prize, Hanyang Review Competition, Hanyang University, 2021
- Academic Excellence Award, Hanyang University, 2019
- Prize, Book Review Competition, Chinese Economy and Trade Program at Hanyang University, 2018
- Third Prize, Book Review Competition, Chinese Economy and Trade Program at Hanyang University, 2017
- Model Social Service Agent Award, Military Manpower Administration in Korea, 2016
- Best Learning Mate Award, Hanyang University, 2015
- Dean's List, Hanyang University, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018
- Best Essay Award (First Prize), Hanyang University, 2013

CONFERENCES

- "Unsettling Tradition: National Health Insurance and the Transformation of Korean Medicine, 1970s–1980s," Presenter, Midwest Korean Studies Graduate Student Conference, Bloomington, IN, November 7, 2026
- "Translating Ginseng: Korean Efforts to Prove the Medicinal Effects of Ginseng through Biomedical Language, 1960s–1970s," Presenter, American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), Buffalo, NY, June 5, 2026
- "Fragile 'Heroes' Under Benevolent Control: U.S. Aid, Heroic Narratives, and the Silencing of Korean Student Doctors at Johns Hopkins, 1945-1950s," Presenter, Hugh Hawkins Fellowship Presentation, Baltimore, MD, May 5, 2026 [Post]
- "How U.S. Aid Shaped Heroic Narratives and Silenced Korean Doctors' Voices, 1945–1950s," Presenter, MSH-CMHSM Research Fellows Symposium, Baltimore, MD, October 24, 2025.
- "Insects on Ice: Disease Uncertainty and Local Knowledge in Germ Warfare Narratives of the Korean War (1950–1953)," Presenter, Spring 2025 Colloquia, Johns Hopkins Programs in the Science, Medicine and Technology, Baltimore, MD, April 24, 2025

- "Patient or Martyr of Imperialism: Uncertainty of Disease and 'Germ Warfare' During the Korean War (1950–1953)," Panel Organizer and Presenter, Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Columbus, OH, March 13–16, 2025 [Program]
- "Going Beyond the 'Fathers' of National Health Insurance," Presenter, 4th Korean Studies Young Scholars Graduate Student Conference, James Joo-Jin Kim Center for Korean Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, March 1–2, 2024
- "Awkward Debut in the International Community: North Korea's Anti-American Propaganda Driven by 'Biological Warfare' During the Korean War," Presenter, 11th World Congress of Korean Studies, October 19–21, 2022
- "War during the War: Public Health Campaigns Driven by 'Biological Warfare' in North Korea during the Korean War," Presenter, 95th Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), Saratoga Springs, NY, April 21–24, 2022 [Abstract]
- "Changes in the Infectious Disease System in North Korea Caused by the Korean War," Presenter, Academy of Critical Health Policy, June 4, 2021 (in Korean)
- "North Korea's Mobilization and Diplomatic Strategies through the Accusation of Using Biological Weapons against the U.S. during the Korean War," Presenter, Research Institute of Korean Studies (RIKS), December 14–18, 2020 (in Korean) [Detail]
- "The Debate on the Health Security System of Major Political Groups during the American Military Government Period," Poster presentation, Autumn Conference of the Korean Society for Preventive Medicine, October 15–16, 2020 (in Korean)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Washington, D.C.
Korea Foundation Junior Scholar [PROFILE] Oct. 2021–Apr. 2022

- Published a policy-focused historical analysis on North Korea's COVID-19 vaccine refusal
- Organized and made a presentation on international relations between the U.S. and Korea
- Conducted archival research at Washington, D.C. and Cambridge, MA for my individual research

Institute for Health and Society at Hanyang Medical School Seoul, Korea
Research Assistant Apr. 2020–Present

- Led an individual project on the allegation of biological warfare in Korean War and won grants and an opportunity to make a presentation
- Directed project on debate on health care system during U.S. military government period and gave poster presentation on the same topic and consequently published paper
- Compiled the list of public hospitals in post-colonial South Korea and elicited its historical meaning as a part of research report of the project initiated by National Health Insurance Service of Korea, Jul. 2021–Jan. 2022.
- Led the research project on history of post-colonial South Korea's health insurance supported by the National Health Insurance Service of Korea and worked on a book based on a research report of the project, Jun. 2020–Dec. 2020.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

History of Modern Medicine Baltimore, MD
Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins University Jan. 2026–May 2026

- Led a discussion section primarily composed of pre-med students.

History of Medicine: Antiquity to the Scientific Revolution Baltimore, MD
Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins University Aug. 2025–Dec. 2025

- Led a discussion section primarily composed of pre-med students.

Herbs, Acupuncture, and Moxibustion: Living Histories of Medicine in Asia
Instructor, Johns Hopkins University Jul. 2025–Aug. 2025

- Instructed a course introducing foundational concepts and practical approaches to medicine in Asia, reaching 2,357 students globally.
- Trained through a three-month Teaching Academy program provided by Johns Hopkins University
- Designed a five-week asynchronous online summer course for a public audience.

History of Modern Medicine Baltimore, MD
Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins University Jan. 2025–May 2025

- Led a discussion section primarily composed of pre-med students.

History of Medicine: Antiquity to the Scientific Revolution Baltimore, MD
Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins University Aug. 2024–Dec. 2024

- Led a discussion section primarily composed of pre-med students.

Seoul Baekje Museum Seoul, Korea
Instructor Feb. 2020–Jun. 2021

- Led around 20 children and their parents weekly and taught them Korean history about ancient Korean historical sites
- Appeared in an educational video adapted from historical facts as an actor and wrote a script for the video [VIDEO]

Department of History at Hanyang University Seoul, Korea
Teaching Assistant Sep. 2019–Aug. 2021

- Assisted undergraduates in the class, the Media and History of Gender from the transnational perspective

Samsung Dream Class Seongnam-si, Korea
Instructor Mar. 2017–Aug. 2017

- Led an English class twice a week, totaling 72 hours, with around 10 underprivileged middle school students, supported by Samsung Welfare Foundation

PUBLIC HISTORY

Historiography Committee of Bucheon-si Bucheon-si, Korea
Committee Member Oct. 2022

- Became co-author of a book and wrote the local history of public health in Bucheon-si [LINK]

National Institute of Korean History Gwacheon-si, Korea
Researcher Sep. 2022–Dec. 2022

- Compiled primary sources of local history (e.g., Busan, Jecheon, Gokseong, etc.) in Korea, which were collected from local people and institutes such as community centers
- Established and updated the databases of (1) documents produced by the Far Eastern Commission about the Imperial Japanese army's war crimes (e.g. Record Group 43, 59) and (2) captured documents of North Korea during the Korean War (RG 242), which are housed at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland

The Korean Studies Institute Andong-si, Korea
Assistant Jul. 2022–Present

- Publicized local Confucian scholars' books and documents which were produced during the Chosŏn dynasty by adapting those historical materials for hip-hop music and audiobooks as a part of public history

Watching History by Newspaper 2021
Advisor
- Suggested topics of the TV show broadcasted by CNTV and supervised the contents not to be ahistorical [VIDEO]

Historical Court 2020
Guest
- Appeared four times on a TV show, broadcasted by CNTV, as a guest to explain Korean history [VIDEO]

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Coala Univ Seoul, Korea
Leader Sep. 2019–Jan. 2020
- Learned Web Data Crawling and Machine learning through Python and made a presentation as a result of a Hackathon by leading eight students

Office of Assemblymen of California State Legislature Los Angeles, California
. Jan. 2018–Feb. 2018
- Translated documents from English to Korean and addressed civil appeals by Korean Americans at the 53rd Assembly District office of Miguel Santiago

Shanghai Jiao Tong University Shanghai, China
Visiting Student July. 2014–Aug. 2014
- Took Chinese language and thereby improving Chinese proficiency

Hanyang University Newspaper Seoul, Korea
Journalist and Editor in Chief Mar. 2013–Dec. 2015
- Edited and published a newspaper weekly and led weekly meeting for it

ACADEMIC SERVICE

School of Medicine Graduate Student Association Baltimore, MD
Alternate Program Representative, Johns Hopkins University Aug. 2025–May 2026
- Served as an alternate liaison between program students and the GSA Executive Board.

Institute of the History of Medicine Baltimore, MD
Student Representative, Johns Hopkins University Aug. 2024–May 2025
- Suggested students' concerns and ideas by attending the monthly faculty meeting and organized student events.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

World Vision International Seoul, Korea
Volunteer Translator Mar. 2016–Jan. 2017
- Translated letters 475 times between Korean sponsors and oversea children supported by the sponsors, amounting to 133 hours

Community Child Care Center Changwon-si, Korea
Volunteer Instructor Mar. 2016–Dec. 2016
- Taught underprivileged children English and consulted them about their academic and daily issues 58 times, amounting to 87 hours

Korean Red Cross Seoul, Korea
Blood Donor Jun. 2008–Present
- Donated blood 56 times from 2008 to now and received Silver and Gold Achievement Medal

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

October 2021–April 2022 (6 months)
Harvard-Yenching Library Cambridge, Massachusetts
Library of Congress Washington, D.C.

National Archives — College Park, Maryland
UN Archive — New York City, New York

December 2020–August 2021 (9 months)
National Archives of Korea — Seongnam-si, Korea
National Institute of Korean History — Gwacheon-si, Korea
National Library — Seoul, Korea

MEMBERSHIP

American Association for the History of Medicine 2022–present
Member

Korean Society for the History of Medicine 2021–present
Member

LANGUAGES Korean (Native), Chinese (Fluent), Classical Chinese (Reading knowledge), Japanese (Reading knowledge)

COMPUTING

Programming: Python, R
Software: LaTeX

REFERENCES

Professor Lan Li, Ph.D.
Department of History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, MD, lanli@jhu.edu

Professor Julia Cummiskey, Ph.D.
Department of History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, MD, jcummis1@jh.edu

Professor Jin-A Kang, Ph.D.
Department of History, Hanyang University, Korea, canton@hanyang.ac.kr

Dr. Sangrok Lee, Ph.D.
National Institute of Korean History, Korea, isangrok@korea.kr

Professor Soo-Hyun Mun, Ph.D.
Department of History, Hanyang University, Korea, munshyun@hanyang.ac.kr

Professor Chan-seung Park, Ph.D.
Department of History, Hanyang University, Korea, pcshistory@hanyang.ac.kr

Professor Young-jeon Shin, M.D., MPH, Ph.D.
Department of Preventive Medicine, College of Medicine, Hanyang University, Korea, yshin@hanyang.ac.kr