



# How Have the ‘North Korea Factors’ Shaped Japan-South Korea Relations?

**FRIDAY  
JANUARY 19  
2018  
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**ROOM 208N,  
NORTH HOUSE,  
1 DEVONSHIRE  
PLACE**

**Speaker:**

**Seung Hyok Lee**  
Department of Political  
Science, University of Toronto;  
Associate, Centre for the Study  
of Global Japan at the Munk  
School of Global Affairs

**Chair:**

**Louis Pauly**  
J. Stefan Dupré Distinguished  
Professor of Political Economy;  
Interim Director, Centre  
for the Study of Global Japan,  
University of Toronto

**Register: [http://uoft.me/  
japansouthkorea](http://uoft.me/japansouthkorea)**

**SOUTH KOREAN AND JAPANESE CITIZENS** have become influential in shaping their respective countries’ bilateral relations. This societal-level sway on government interactions is especially evident when a publicized shared issue linked to national security prompts the mainstream citizenry’s emotional involvement. This presentation will focus on Japan-South Korea bilateral relations during the last decade to illustrate this.

In the midst of the fast-changing regional security environment of the past ten years, the two societies have begun to re-evaluate and re-examine their respective Cold War period national security identities.

Interestingly, both countries’ identity-shifts were first fuelled by the changing domestic public attitude toward North Korea. The normative transformations sparked by the ‘North Korea factors’ has also led to a ‘mutual security anxiety’ between Japanese and South Koreans, as they learn to embrace a sense of uncertainty about the other side’s possible future trajectory. This societal-level mutual distrust continues to provide a powerful ideational limit to government-level bilateral interactions.



**Seung Hyok Lee** is currently a Lecturer at the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto Scarborough, and an Associate at the Centre for the Study of Global Japan, Munk School of Global Affairs. Previously, he was an Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Law, Hokkaido University, Japan, and a Post-doctoral Fellow at the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace and at the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. He also worked as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Renison University College, University of Waterloo. Dr. Lee received his doctoral degree in Political Science (International Relations) at the University of Toronto in 2011. His research interest is domestic society’s influence on publicized foreign policy issues, with specific focus on Japan and the Korean Peninsula.