

CURRICULUM VITAE

Candidate's name: Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein

Updated: 11/8/2024

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of Birth: May 14, 1989

Country of Birth: Sweden

ID no.: 342767696

Nationality: Sweden/Israel (dual citizen)

Marital status: Married

No. of children: 0

Permanent address: HaLamed Hei st. 32, apt. 5, Jerusalem.

Tel.: 0505954885

E-mail address: benjamin.katzeff@gmail.com

Current position: Senior Lecturer in Korean Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

2. HIGHER EDUCATION

(in chronological order)

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science (minor: Economics), Stockholm University, 2012, #12.

Diploma, Korean Language and Culture (full language course completion, levels 1–6), Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, 2012.

Master's Degree in International Relations and International Economics, Korean Studies concentration, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, 2015 (*cum laude*), #11, 15.

Doctoral Exchange Student, Department of History, Seoul National University, 2018–2019. Academic host: Prof. Sung Chull Kim. #9, 10.

PhD, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, 2021. Advisor: Prof. Frederick Dickinson. #1, 13, 14.

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, Hebrew University, 2021–2022. Host: Prof. Gideon Shelach. #3, 6, 7, 8.

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Tel Aviv University, 2022–2023. Host: Prof. Hanoach Dagan. #5 (and journal manuscript in progress).

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Special Research Programme for International Studies,
Swedish Institute of International Affairs, 2023–2025 (to start late fall).

3. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

(in chronological order)

4. OTHER ACTIVITY

(in chronological order)

New Voices Fellow, U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced
International Studies, Seoul, South Korea, June–August 2014.

Fellow, Stockholm Free World Forum, Stockholm, Sweden, 2015–.

Non-Resident Kelly Fellow, Pacific Forum CSIS, Hawaii, USA, 2015–.

Visiting Fellow, University of North Korean Studies, Seoul, South Korea, May–
August 2016.

Associate Scholar, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia, USA, 2017–.

Research Fellow, North Korea Human Rights Database Center, Seoul, South Korea,
2018–2019.

Non-Resident Fellow, editor of North Korean Economy Watch website, Henry L.
Stimson Center, Washington DC., USA, 2019–.

Library Fellow, the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, October 2019–.

Visiting Research Fellow, Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, Hebrew University
of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel, 2019–2020. Academic host: Prof Yuri Pines.

Research Fellow, Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, 2020–2021.
Academic host: Prof Ori Sela.

Project Manager, “Sweden's role on the Korean Peninsula: Functions, motivations,
and impact,” research project with the Swedish Institute for International Affairs,
funded by Korea Foundation grant, 2021–2023 (see below).

Reviewer (occasional and ongoing): *Asian Perspective*, *Global Affairs*, *The Pacific
Review*, *East Asia Forum*, *Korea Observer*, *North Korean Review*, *Orbis*.

Book reviewer, *Pacific Affairs*.

Regular commentator on North Korean affairs in outlets such as *The Economist*, *New
York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR*, *Reuters*, *Ynet*, *Voice of
America*, *Yonhap News*, *Radio Free Asia*, *Sveriges Television* and *Sveriges Radio*
(Sweden’s public service radio and television) among many others.

Regularly publishing author with outlets such as *38 North* (monthly column on the North Korean economy), *World Politics Review*, *IHS Jane's Intelligence Review*, *Svenska Dagbladet* and *Dagens Nyheter* (Sweden's main newspapers), among many others.

5. RESEARCH GRANTS

2013–2014: Marcus Wallenberg Foundation for Studies in International Industrial Enterprise, Scholarship for MA degree studies (full year), \$72,000.

2013–2014: U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Student Fellowship, \$10,000.

2014 (summer): U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, New Voices Fellowship, \$3,000.

2014–2015: U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Student Fellowship, \$10,000.

2014–2015: Marcus Wallenberg Foundation for Studies in International Industrial Enterprise, Scholarship for MA degree studies (full year), \$72,000.

2014–2015: Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, General Funds Fellowship for Academic Performance, \$8,000.

2015: Thanks to Scandinavia Foundation, personal research grant, \$15,000.

2015–2020: University of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, full five-year funding package for PhD studies.

2015–2016: James Joo-Jin Kim Program, University of Pennsylvania, full funding for one year of PhD studies.

2016: James Joo-Jin Kim Program, University of Pennsylvania, summer research grant, \$2,000.

2017–2018: Marcus Wallenberg Foundation for Studies in International Industrial Enterprise, Scholarship for PhD Studies at University of Pennsylvania, 300,000 SEK (approx. \$35,000 in present-day exchange rate).

2017–2018: Thanks to Scandinavia Foundation, personal research grant for PhD studies, \$15,000.

2020: YH Park Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, full funding for one semester of PhD studies.

2021: Korea Foundation, “Sweden's role on the Korean Peninsula: Functions, motivations, and impact,” team research grant with the Swedish Institute for International Affairs, 2021–2023, \$133,342.

2022: Hebrew University, grant for international research travel to South Korea for interviews with North Korean refugees, October 2022, NIS5,000.

2022: Institute for Humane Studies, George Mason University, Hayek Fund for Scholars, grant for research expenses in South Korea, October 2022, \$2,000.

2023: Special grant from the board of *Svenska Dagbladet*, Sweden’s 2nd largest morning newspaper, for a series of publications on the editorial page about Sweden’s geopolitical position (120,000 SEK, approx. \$12,000).

6. TEACHING AT ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

A. Supervision of master and doctoral degree students in the last five years

- **Master's degree students:**
- **Doctoral degree students:**

B. Post-doctoral Visitors

C. Courses taught in the last 3 years

- **Bachelor's degree courses**

2021, spring semester: Asia Across Boundaries (international relations in Asia). Course coordinator and occasional lecturer, Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University.

2022, spring semester: North Korea Behind the Curtain: Everyday Life and Totalitarian Society. Lecturer, Department of Asian Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

2023, spring semester: North Korea Behind the Curtain: Everyday Life and Totalitarian Society. Instructor, Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University.

2023, fall semester: Understanding North Korea. Instructor, Department of Asian Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

2023, fall semester: From Great Leader to Great Famine: North Korea from Kim Il Sung to Kim Jong Un. Department of Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University.

2024, spring semester: Genocide, Famine, and Political Control: Totalitarianism and Political Oppression in Asia, Past and Present. Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University.

- **Master's degree courses**

7. LANGUAGES

Korean (full professional proficiency), Swedish (native), English (fully bilingual/fluent), Hebrew (fluent).

List of Publications
Updated: 11/8/2024

1. Doctoral Dissertation

1. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** “When Sherlock Holmes Left Pyöngyang: Surveillance and Social Control in North Korea, 1954–2021.” Supervisor: Professor Frederick R. Dickinson. Doctoral dissertation defended on July 7, 2021. PhD degree conferred: August 6, 2021. Resulting publications: 1 (in addition to book proposal currently under preparation).

Books

2. Bergström, Villy and **Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein.** *Bilder från Nordkorea* [Images from North Korea]. Stockholm, Sweden: Bokförlaget Atlas AB, 2010. 233 pp. In Swedish.

Projects in Progress

3. *Counting Spoons and Chopsticks: Surveillance and Political Control in North Korea.* Book project with estimated draft completion by 30/9/2024.
4. “Markets Under Totalitarianism: Trust, Cooperation and Organization Among Market Traders in North Korea”. Journal article to be submitted to *Journal of East Asian Studies* by November 2024.

Chapters in Collections

5. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** ”The Red, Big Family: Utopian Surveillance in North Korean Cities,” chapter in *Pursuing Sustainable Urban Development in North Korea*, ed. Pavel Em, Routledge, 2024.
6. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** “Between the Markets and the State: North Korea’s Fragile Agriculture and Food Supply,” chapter in *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary North Korea*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2020.
7. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** ”The North Korean Economy and U.S. Policy: Stability Under “Maximum Pressure,” *Joint U.S. Korea Academic*

Studies 2019. Edited by Gilbert Rozman. Washington, D.C.: Korea Economic Institute, 2019.

Articles – please list in chronological order

8. **Dukalskis, Alexander and Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein.** "Evaluating Everyday Politics in North Korea," Asian Studies Review 2024, special issue introduction by editors. Both authors contributed equally to the work. Vatat ranking: A.
9. **Ward, Peter and Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein.** "Strategies of Political Control under Kim Jong Un: Understanding the Changing Mix of Containment, Repression, Co-optation, and Coercive Distribution," Asian Survey vol. 63, no. 4 (2023): 557–583. Both authors contributed equally to the work. Vatat ranking: A.
10. **Chestnut Greitens, Sheena, and Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein.** "Toward Market Leninism in North Korea: Assessing Kim Jong Un's First Decade," Asian Survey vol. 62, no. 2 (2022): 211–239. Both authors contributed equally to the work, names listed in alphabetic order. Vatat ranking: A.
11. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** "Social (Im)mobility and Bureaucratic Failings: Family Background and the *Sŏngbun* System in North Korea," Journal of Korean Studies vol. 28, no. 1 (2023): 111–137. Top-ranked English-language journal in Korean studies. Vatat ranking: B.
12. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** "Let Them Eat Potatoes: Communism, Famine and the Case of North Korea," North Korean Review vol. 17, no. 2 (2021), pp. 34–55. Top English-language journal in North Korean studies.
13. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** "How High-Tech Can Boost Regime Stability in North Korea," Orbis vol. 64, no. 4 (2020), pp. 589–598.
14. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** "Economic Engagement with North Korea: Moving Beyond Kaesong," commentary essay, Asian Perspective vol. 43 (2020), pp. 721–736. Top-ranked journal in contemporary Asian affairs. Vatat ranking: B.
15. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** "Explaining North Korea: A 'Guerilla Dynasty', but Where Does it Go From there? ". Book Review Essay, Orbis vol. 62, no. 2 (2018), pp. 335–338.
16. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** "Book Review: *The Accusation: Forbidden Stories from Inside North Korea* by Bandi," Seoul Journal of Korean Studies, vol. 30, no. 2, December 2017, pp. 260–262.
17. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** "The Political Force of Cereal: How Dependent are North Korean's on the State? ". Georgetown Journal of Asian Affairs (Fall issue 2014).

18. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** “Book Review: ‘North Korea’s Juche’ by Jae-Jung Suh (Ed)”, *North Korean Review*, vol. 10, no. 2 (2014), pp. 99–105.
19. **Katzeff Silberstein, Benjamin.** “North Korea: Fading Totalitarianism in the ‘Hermit Kingdom’”. *North Korean Review*, vol. 6, no. 1 (2010), pp. 40 – 54.

Participation in Scientific Conferences, Lectures, and Other Activity

20. Presenter and panel co-organizer, *Understanding North Korea’s Markets: Evidence From Trader Interviews*, panel: “North Korea: Internal and External Perspectives,” at “The 15th Biennial Conference of Asian Studies in Israel,” Sunday, June 4th, 2023.
21. Presenter, *Markets Under Totalitarianism: Trust, Cooperation and Organization among North Korean Market Traders*, at “The 7th Korean Studies Workshop in Israel,” Bar Ilan University, December 25th, 2022.
22. Presenter, *Between State Power and the Grassroots: Toward a Social History of North Korea*, at “The 6th Korean Studies Workshop in Israel,” Bar Ilan University, December 5th, 2021.
23. Presenter, *Culture Shock: Ethnic Korean Immigration from Japan and North Korea’s Surveillance System*, at “The 5th Korean Studies Workshop in Israel,” virtually via Zoom, December 13th, 2020. Topic: Social control in North Korea.
24. Panelist, “After the U.S. Presidential Election: East Asia and the Middle East between the Coronavirus and the Sino-American Rivalry,” joint roundtable discussion, Moshe Dayaan Center, Tel Aviv University, Department of East Asian Studies, and University of Tokyo, December 2nd, 2020. Subject: East Asian geopolitics and Korea.
25. “The North Korean Economy: Economic Control as Crisis Response?”, lecture at online roundtable, “Deciphering North Korea in the Fall of 2020” organized by Far Eastern Federal University and Mongolian Institute of Northeast Asian Security, October 12, 2020. Topic: The North Korean economy. Invited lecture.
26. “The North Korean Economy,” guest lecture, seminar class on North Korean Identity, Johns Hopkins University, October 1, 2020. Topic: The North Korean economy. Invited lecture.
27. “Assessing North Korea’s COVID-19 Containment and Kim Jong-un’s Political Challenges,” lecture event (virtual), Foreign Policy Research Institute, June 9, 2020. Topic: Covid-19 and North Korea. Invited lecture.
28. “Social control in North Korea, guest lecture (virtual), seminar class on Modern Korea, Tel Aviv University, May 27, 2020. Topic: Social control in North Korea. Invited lecture.

29. Panel (principal organizer), “Understanding North Korea,” including paper presentation on the history of North Korea’s Songbun system, Tel Aviv University, Israel, May 18–19, 2020.¹ Topic: Social control in North Korea.
30. “Understanding North Korea”, guest lecture (virtual), undergraduate class on Modern Korea, Bar Ilan University, May 6, 2020. Topic: Social control in North Korea. Invited lecture.
31. Panel (principal organizer), “North Korean Society and the State: Beyond Regime Intentions,” with paper presentation: “The Bureaucracy of Genetics: The Historical Evolution of North Korea’s Songbun,” presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Boston, USA, March 22nd, 2020.² Topic: State-society relations in North Korea.
32. Moderator and regular presenter, “North Korean Economy Roundtable” hosted by the Henry L. Stimson Center, 2019–.
33. “When Sherlock Holmes Left the Country: Social Control and Surveillance in North Korea, 1954–2019,” Presentation at the 4th Korean Studies Workshop, Bar Ilan University, December 29, 2019. Topic: Surveillance in North Korea.
34. “The North Korean Economy and U.S. Policy: Stability under ‘Maximum Pressure’,” Presentation at the 2019 International Studies Association Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada, March 28, 2019. Topic: The North Korean economy and international sanctions.
35. “Development Cooperation with North Korea: A New Approach,” conference presentation, Economic Development in North Korea, Kyunghee University (Suwon campus), November 9, 2018. Topic: Development cooperation with North Korea. Invited lecture.
36. Think-tank report, “A Precarious Accord: Navigating the Post-Summit Landscape.” With Patrick Cronin. Report published by Center for a New American Security (CNAS), Washington, D.C, 2018.
37. “Chinese Pressure on North Korea: What the Data Tells Us,” workshop presentation on economic development in North Korea, Hallyum University and Hanns Seidel Foundation, Seoul, South Korea, October 29, 2018. Topic: North Korea-China relations.
38. “Researching Surveillance in Post-War North Korea, 1954–1990: Mixing Methods, Going Beyond the Archives,” Presentation, joint workshop with Kyungnam University and the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C., November 16, 2018. Topic: Research methods in North Korean history.
39. “Diplomatic Developments on the Korean Peninsula – Impending Stalemate or a Glimmer of Hope?,” presentation and panel discussion with Dr. Shin

¹ Cancelled due to Covid-19.

² Cancelled due to Covid-19.

Beom-chul, at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, September 4th, 2018 Stockholm, Sweden. Topic: International relations in Korea. Invited talk.

40. "Thinking about North (and South) Korea," interview in the speaker series *Geopolitics with Granieri*, hosted by the Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI), December 5th, 2017, Philadelphia, United States. Topic: International relations in Korea. Invited talk.
41. "One Red, Big Family': the Inminban in North Korea, 1947-1963", Conference Presentation, *Korea on Trial: Law and Justice in the Face of Violence*, University of Pennsylvania, April 28th, 2017, Philadelphia, United States. Topic: History of social control in North Korea.
42. "Protracted Purges: The Soviet Koreans in North Korea, 1937–1961." Presentation at the 8th World Congress for Korean Studies, October 7th, 2016, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. United States. Topic: North Korean history.
43. "Three Years Later: Evaluating North Korea Through a *Byungjin* Framework," Presentation at the Brookings Institution, September 30th, 2016, Washington D.C., United States. Topic: Kim Jong-un's strategy for North Korea. Invited talk.
44. "The Role of the *Inminban* in 1960s North Korea," Academic summer colloquium at the University of North Korean Studies and Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University, June 2016, Seoul, South Korea. Topic: Social history of North Korea.
45. "The Development of Markets in North Korea, and their Social, Economic and Political Implications." Presentation at the conference "The EU and North Korea – political economic and humanitarian perspectives" organized by the Hanns Seidel Foundation and Seoul National University, December 4th, 2015, Seoul, South Korea. Topic: Socio-economic trends in North Korea. Invited talk.
46. Think-tank report, *Growth and Geography of Markets in North Korea: New Evidence from Satellite Imagery*. Report published by the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2015.
47. Think-tank report, *China's New Development Bank: Challenger of Norms?* (in Swedish). Report published by Stockholm Free World Forum, 2015.
48. "How Dependent are North Koreans on the state?". Presentation at the 2014 SAIS Asia Conference on April 3rd, 2014. Commentators: Dr. Jae Ku, Director of the U.S.-Korea Institute at SAIS, and Jérôme Sauvage, Deputy Director at the United Nations Development Programme. Topic: Food supply in North Korea.
49. "North Korean Dependence on the State and the Room for Engagement". Presentation, 2014 Harvard Student Conference on the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea, Harvard University, September 13th, 2014. Topic: North Korean society.

- 50.** “A Changing North Korea: The Breakdown of the System of Control – and its Implications for Korean Reunification”. Paper presented at the *Peace Forum on the Korean Peninsula: Visions and Tasks*, organized by the Northern European Chapter of the National Unification Advisory Council, Elite Hotel, Stockholm, November 21st, 2009. Topic: Social control in North Korea. Invited talk.