

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

Sonia (Soon) Ryang

**BUSINESS ADDRESS****Mailing Address**

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**EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY**

## 1. Higher Education and Degrees Awarded

**1995** Cambridge University, PhD in Social Anthropology.  
**1992-1993** University of Tokyo, Graduate research student in Anthropology  
**1991** Cambridge University, MPhil in Social Anthropology.  
**1988** University of York (UK), MPhil in Politics.  
**1982** Korea University of Tokyo, BA Hons., in French.

## 2. Professional and Academic Positions

**2014—present** T.T. and W.F. Chao Professor of Asian Studies, Rice University.  
**2014—2020** Director, T.T. and W.F. Chao Center for Asian Studies, Rice University.  
**2010—2014** Professor of Anthropology and International Studies, University of Iowa.  
**2010—2014** C. Maxwell and Elizabeth M. Stanley Family and Korea Foundation Chair of Korean Studies, University of Iowa.  
**2006—2010** Associate Professor of Anthropology and International Studies, University of Iowa.  
**2006—2010** C. Maxwell and Elizabeth M. Stanley Family and Korea Foundation Scholar of Korean Studies, University of Iowa.  
**2000-2006** Associate Professor of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University.  
**1997—2000** Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University.  
**1995—1997** Research Fellow in Anthropology, Research School for Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University.  
**1995** Post-doctoral Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, Cambridge University.  
**1988—1998** Lecturer in Asian Studies, Center for Asian Studies, University of Adelaide, South Australia.

### 3. Memberships in Professional Organizations and Offices Held

Society for East Asian Anthropology

President, 2020 – 2022 (elected).

Councilor, Executive Board, 2004 – 2007 (elected).

American Anthropological Association

Member, Committee for Minority Issues in Anthropology, 2010 – 2013 (presidential appointment).

Association for Asian Studies

Member, John Whitney Hall Book Prize committee) 2008 – 2010 (appointed by nomination.

Chair, John Whitney Hall Book Prize committee, 2011 (presidential appointment).

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

#### **CONTRACTED AND FORTHCOMING IN 2025**

Ryang, Sonia.

*Do You Still Love the Great Leader? Revisiting North Koreans in Japan*, Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press.

#### **2021**

Ryang, Sonia.

*Language and Truth in North Korea*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press.

#### **2015**

Ryang, Sonia.

*Eating Korean in America: Korean Food and Globalization*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press.

#### **2012**

Ryang, Sonia.

*Reading North Korea: An Ethnological Inquiry*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

#### **2009**

Ryang, Sonia & John Lie (editors).

*Diaspora Without Homeland: Being Korean in Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

#### **2009**

Ryang, Sonia (editor).

*North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding*. Lanham: Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield.

#### **2008**

Ryang, Sonia.

*Writing Selves in Diaspora: Ethnography of Autobiographics of Korean Women in Japan and the US*. Lanham: Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield.

#### **2006**

Ryang, Sonia.  
*Love in Modern Japan—Its Estrangement from Self, Sex, and Society*. London: Routledge.

**2005**

Ryang, Sonia.  
Korean Diaspora—Identities of Koreans in Japan (Korean diaspora: zainichi chōsenjin no aidentiti). In Japanese. Tokyo: Akashi shoten (tr. Nakanishi Kyoko).

**2004**

Ryang, Sonia.  
*Japan and National Anthropology: A Critique*. London: Routledge.

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia (editor).  
*Koreans in Japan: Critical Voices from the Margin*. London: Routledge.

**1997**

Ryang, Sonia.  
*North Koreans in Japan: Language, Ideology, and Identity*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

**Book series editorship:**

**2023 – present**

Ryang, Sonia and Sidney Lu (series editors).  
*Between Asias and Americas: People, Goods, and Ideas*. University of Pittsburgh Press.

**Journal creation:**

**2016**

Ryang, Sonia (managing editor/editor-in-chief).  
*Transnational Asia: An Online Interdisciplinary Journal*. ISSN 2474-476X.  
<http://transnationalasia.rice.edu>

**Edited journal issue:**

**2022**

Ryang, Sonia (editor).  
Revisiting Zainichi, *Transnational Asia* vol. 6, no. 1.

**2020**

Ryang, Sonia and Lee, Alex (editors).  
Special issue on Anthropology and East Asia, *Transnational Asia* vol. 4, no. 1. Online:  
<https://transnationalasia.rice.edu/index.php/ta/issue/view/9>

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia (editor).  
Special issue on Koreans in Japan, *Korean and Korean American Studies Bulletin* vol. 11, no. 1.

**Book chapters:**

**2021**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Kimchi's Transnational Journey: Tastes of Authenticity and Ambiguity." In Steffan Igor Ayora Diaz ed., *Taste, Politics, and Identities: Food in the Global Stage*, New York: Bloomsbury Academic. Pp. 197-212.

**2009**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Between Life and Death: Korans in Japan—an Introduction." In S. Ryang & J. Lie eds., *Diaspora without Homeland: Being Korean in Japan*, Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 1-20.

**2009**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Visible and Vulnerable: Predicament of Koreans in Japan." In S. Ryang & J. Lie eds., *Diaspora without Homeland: Being Korean in Japan*, Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 62-80.

**2009**

Ryang, Sonia.

"North Korea: Beyond Security Discourse. Introduction." In S. Ryang ed., *North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding*. Lanham: Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield. Pp. 1-22.

**2009**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Biopolitics, or, the Logic of Sovereign Love—Love's Whereabouts in North Korea." In S. Ryang ed., *North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding*. Lanham: Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield. Pp. 57-84.

**2008**

Ryang, Sonia.

"New Dimensions of Hybrid and Diverse Communities: An Introduction." In H. Chun Koh et.al. eds., *Korean Diaspora; Central Asia, Northeast Asia and North America*, New Haven, CT.: East Rock Institute. Pp. J1-J10.

**2008**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Osaka's Transnational Town: An Ethnography." In H. Chun Koh et.al. eds., *Korean Diaspora; Central Asia, Northeast Asia and North America*, New Haven, CT.: East Rock Institute. Pp. J71-J93.

**2007**

Ryang, Sonia. Kashiwazaki Chikako, tr.

"Joron" [Introduction]. In H-S. Chun Koh (ed.), *Diasupora toshiteno korian* [Korean as diaspora], Tokyo: Shinkansha. In Japanese. Pp. 123-136.

**2007**

Ryang, Sonia. Kashiwazaki Chikako, tr.

"Ōsakano toransunashinaruna machi: esunogurafi" [Osaka's transnational town: An ethnography]. In H-S. Chun Koh (ed.), *Diasupora toshiteno korian* [Korean as diaspora], Tokyo: Shinkansha. In Japanese. Pp. 229-260.

**2004**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Introduction: In Search of Women's Voices." In J. Kim, *Hidden Treasures*, Rowman and Littlefield. Pp. xiii-xxvii.

**2004**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Japan's Ethnic Minority: Koreans." In J. Robertson ed., *Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*, Oxford: Blackwell. Pp. 89-103.

**2003**

Ryang, Sonia (Tr. Y. Nemoto).

"Rachihōdō ga zainichi chōsenjin ni motarashita shōgeki (Impacts of the Abduction News on Chongryun Koreans)." In Y. Hirama and Y. Sugita eds., *Kitachōsen o meguru hokutōajia no kokusaikankei to nihon* (International relations in northeast Asia and Japan focusing on North Korea), Tokyo: Akashi shoten. (In Japanese) pp. 188-206.

**2003**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Impacts of the Abduction News on Chongryun Koreans." In Yone Sugita ed., *Significance of Koizumi's Visit to North Korea*, monograph series 3, Tokyo: Architect Press, inc.  
<http://www.smallworld.co.jp>

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Introduction: Resident Koreans in Japan." In S. Ryang ed., *Koreans in Japan: Critical Voices from the Margin*, London: Routledge. Pp. 1-12.

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia.

"The North Korean Homeland of Koreans in Japan." In S. Ryang ed., *Koreans in Japan: Critical Voices from the Margin*, London: Routledge. Pp. 32-54.

**1994**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Chosen Soren no Chosengo Kyoiku (Korean Language Education of Chongryun)." In J. Maher & H. Honna eds., *Atarashii Nihonkan, Sekaikan ni Mukatte* (Towards a New Order: Language and Cultural Diversity in Japan), Kokusai Shoin. (in Japanese) pp. 182-199.

### Scholarly journal articles:

**2022 Accepted for publication**

Ryang, Sonia

"Japan, North Korea, and the Biopolitics of Repatriation," *Asia Pacific Journal/Japan Focus*.

**2022**

Ryang, Sonia

"Introduction: Revisiting Zainichi," *Transnational Asia* vol. 6, no. 1.

**2022**

Ryang, Sonia

"Afterword: Toward A More Inclusive Asian Studies," *Journal of Asian Studies* 80 (4): 133-144.

**2021**

Ryang, Sonia

"Anthropology as a Method: North Korea at A Distance," *Journal of Korean Studies* 26 (2): 187-204.

**2020**

Ryang, Sonia

"Toward a New Anthropology of Japan: A National Frame of Study and Its Potential Use in the Study of Japan as Biopower – with the Focus on the Figure of the Korean," *Transnational Asia* vol. 4, no. 1. Online: <https://transnationalasia.rice.edu/index.php/ta/article/view/59/73> (13,000 words).

**2019**

Ryang, Sonia, with Alex Lee (equal capacity authors)

"Diaspora and Unification: Changing Landscape on the Korean Peninsula and A Diasporic Community's Response – With the Focus on Korean Americans in the Greater Houston Area," *Transnational Asia* vol. 3, no. 1. Online: <https://transnationalasia.rice.edu/journal/volume-3/issue-1/diaspora-and-unification> (15,000 words).

**2018**

Ryang, Sonia

"Anne Frank in Japan," *Transnational Asia* vol. 2 no. 1. Online:

<https://transnationalasia.rice.edu/journal/Volume-2/Issue-1/Number-1> (7,000 words).

**2017**

Ryang, Sonia

"A Critique of Medicalization: Three Instances," *Anthropology and Medicine* 24 (3): 248-260.

**2017**

Ryang, Sonia

"Reading Kim Il Sung," *Transnational Asia* vol. 1, no. 2. Online:

<https://transnationalasia.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=153> (9,700 words)

**2016**

Ryang, Sonia, and Smith, Richard J.

"Transnational Asia and the Challenge of Globalization," *Transnational Asia* vol. 1, no. 1. Online:

<http://transnationalasia.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=123> (6,000 words).

**2016**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Transnational (Re)Turn of Korean Studies," *Transnational Asia* vol. 1, no. 1. Online:

<http://transnationalasia.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=119> (10,000 words).

**2016**

Ryang, Sonia.

"North Korea and the Limits of Our Humanity," *Transnational Asia* vol. 1, no. 1. Online:

<http://transnationalasia.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=99> (8,000 words).

**2016**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Rise and Fall of Chongryun: From Chōsenjin to Zainichi and Beyond," *Asia-Pacific Journal/Japan Focus*, Vol. 14, Issue 11, No. 11, August 1, 2016. <http://apjif.org/2016/15/Ryang.html>

**2015**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Introducing Young Min Moon's Reflections on Photographic Art, of Insook Kim," *Asia-Pacific Journal/Japan Focus*, Vol. 13, Issue 5, No 3, February 2, 2015. [http://japanfocus.org/-Young\\_Min-Moon/4263](http://japanfocus.org/-Young_Min-Moon/4263)

**2014**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Time and Space: Life Histories of the *Zainichi*, the Ethnic Korean Population in Japan," *Urban Anthropology* 43(3): 519-530.

**2013**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Reading *Volcano Island*: In the Sixty-fifth Year of the Jeju 4.3 Uprising," *Asia-Pacific Journal/Japan Focus*, Vol. 11, Issue 26, No 2, September 9, 2013. <http://japanfocus.org/-Sonia-Ryang/3995>.

**2012**

Ryang, Sonia.

"North Koreans in South Korea: In Search of Their Humanity," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, Vol. 10, Issue 25, No 1, June 18, 2012. <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Sonia-Ryang/3771>.

**2012**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Neoliberal Manifestation of Old Conservatism: A Review Essay," *Ethos* 40 (2): 221-224.

**2012**

Ryang, Sonia.

"The Denationalized Have No Class: The Banishment of Japan's Korean Minority: A Polemic," *The New Centennial Review* 12 (1): 173-202.

**2010**

Ryang, Sonia.

"To Be or Not To Be—In Japan and Beyond: Summing up and Sizing down Koreans in Japan," *Asia Pacific World* 1 (2): 7-31.

**2008**

Ryang, Sonia.

"The Denationalized Have No Class: The Banishment of Japan's Korean Minority," *Japan Focus* (An international, inter-disciplinary, peer-reviewed e-journal). June 8, 2008. <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Sonia-Ryang/2776>.

**2007**

Ryang, Sonia.

"The Tongue That Divided Life and Death: *Ichien gojissen*," *Japan Focus* (An international, inter-disciplinary, peer-reviewed e-journal). September 4, 2007. <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Sonia-Ryang/2513>.

**2006**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Does It Have to Be hESC? A Note on War, Embryo, and the Disabled," *Anthropological Quarterly* 79 (3): 509-530.

**2005**

Ryang, Sonia.

"How To Do or Not Do Things with Words: North Koreans in Japan," *Asian Ethnicity*, 6 (3): 223-236.

**2005**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Dilemma of A Native: On Location, Authenticity, and Reflexivity," *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, 6 (2): 143-157.

**2005**

Ryang, Sonia.

“Yukidomari no gettō: Gen Getsu no Akutagawa jushōsaku ‘Kage no sumika’ ni miru zainichi chōsenjin no aidentiti o yomitoku” (A Dead-end in a Korean Ghetto: Multiple Readings of a Complex Identity in Gen Getsu’s *Akutagawa*-winning Novel *Where the Shadows Reside*), *Gendai no riron* (Theories in modernity) vol. 2: 108-122. Y. Yamaoka tr. (in Japanese)

**2004**

Ryang, Sonia.

“A Note on Transnational Consanguinity, or, Kinship in the Age of Terrorism,” *Anthropological Quarterly* 77 (4): 747-770.

**2003**

Ryang, Sonia.

“The Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923 and the Massacre of Koreans: *Homo Sacer* and the Emergence of Japan’s Modern Sovereignty,” *Anthropological Quarterly* 76 (4): 691-708.

**2002**

Ryang, Sonia.

“A Long Loop: Transmigration of Korean Women in Japan,” *International Migration Review* 36 (3): 894-911.

**2002**

Ryang, Sonia.

“A Dead-end in a Korean Ghetto: Multiple Readings of a Complex Identity in Gen Getsu’s *Akutagawa*-winning Novel *Where the Shadows Reside*,” *Japanese Studies* 22 (1): 5-18.

**2002**

Ryang, Sonia.

“Chrysanthemum’s Strange Life: Ruth Benedict in Postwar Japan,” *Asian Anthropology* 1(1): 87-116.

Reprinted with revision as *Japan Policy Research Institute Occasional Papers No. 32*, July 2004, [www.jpri.org](http://www.jpri.org)

**2002**

Ryang, Sonia.

“Technologies of the Self: Reading North Korean Novels from the 1980s,” *Acta Koreana* 5 (1): 21-32.

**2001**

Ryang, Sonia.

“Diaspora and Beyond: There Is No Home for Koreans in Japan,” *Review of Korean Studies* 4 (2): 55-86.

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia.

“Ethnography or Self-cultural Anthropology? Reflections on ‘Writing about Ourselves,’” *Dialectical Anthropology* 25 (3/4): 297-320.

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia.

“New Dimensions of Hybrid and Diverse Communities. An Introduction,” *Korean and Korean American Studies Bulletin* 11 (1): 1-10.

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia.

“Osaka’s Transnational Town: An Ethnography,” *Korean and Korean American Studies Bulletin* 11 (1): 75-87.

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Gender in Oblivion: Women in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)," *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 35 (3): 323-349.

**1998**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Inscribed (Men's) Bodies, Silenced (Women's) Words: Rethinking Colonial Displacement of Koreans in Japan," *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars* 30 (4): October 1998: 3-15.

**1998**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Love and Colonialism in Takamure Itsue's Feminism: A Postcolonial Critique," *Feminist Review* No. 60: 1-32.

**1998**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Nationalist Inclusion or Emancipatory Identity? North Korean Women in Japan," *Women's Studies International Forum* 21 (6): 581-597.

**1997**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Japanese Travelers' Accounts of Korea," *East Asian History* No. 13 September 1997: 133-152.

**1997**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Categories and Subjectivities in Identification of North Koreans in Japan," *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 32 (3/4): 1-20.

**1997**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Native Anthropology and Other Problems," *Dialectical Anthropology* No. 22: 23-49.

**1996**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Do Words Stand for Faith? Linguistic Life of North Korean Children in Japan," *Critique of Anthropology* 16 (3): 281-301.

**1993**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Poverty of Language and the Reproduction of Ideology: Korean Language for Chongryun," *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 28 (3/4): 230-242.

**1992**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Indoctrination or Rationalization? The Anthropology of 'North Koreans' in Japan," *Critique of Anthropology* 12 (2): 101-132.

**1992**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Critical Synthesis on North Korea as Embodied Ideology," *Social Epistemology* 6 (1): 3-12.

**1990**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Historian-judges of Korean Nationalism," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 13 (4): 503-526.

1990

Ryang, S.

"Ethno-political Community of North Koreans in Japan," *International Migrations* 28 (1): 105-112.

b. Non-refereed

**Book chapters:**

2005

Ryang, Sonia.

"Koreans in Japan." In C.R. Ember & M. Ember eds., *The Encyclopedia of Diasporas*, New York and Leiden: Kluwer Academic publishers. Pp. 974-982.

2002

Ryang, Sonia.

"Koreans in Japan." In S. Buckley ed., *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Japanese Culture*, London: Routledge. Pp. 266-267.

2001

Ryang, Sonia.

"North Korea." In M. Ember & C.R. Ember eds., *Countries and Their Cultures*, New York: Macmillan. Pp. 1203-1213.

**Book reviews:**

2007

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of E. Povinelli, *The Empire of Love: Toward a Theory of Intimacy, Genealogy, and Carnality*. Duke University Press. *American Anthropologist* Dec. 2007, 109 (4): 776-777.

2006

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of M. West, *Law in Everyday Japan*. University of Chicago Press. *The Journal of Royal Anthropological Society* 12 (4): 976.

2004

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of L. Kurashige, *Japanese American Celebration and Conflict*. University of California Press. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 4 (1&2): 155-156.

2003

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of G. Shin and M. Robinson eds., *Colonial Modernity in Korea*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 38 (1): 135-137.

2001

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Mark Hudson, *Ruins of Identity*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. *Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute* 6 (4): 731-732.

2000

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Lisa Yoneyama, *Hiroshima Traces*. Berkeley: University of California Press. *Anthropological Quarterly* 73 (4): 215-216.

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia.

"Koreans in Japan Have Their Say." Review of Yasunori Fukuoka, *Lives of Young Koreans in Japan*. Melbourne: Trans Pacific Press. *Japan Quarterly* October-December 2000: 92-95.

**2000**

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Charlotte Furth, *A Flourishing Yin: Gender in China's Medical History, 960-1665*. Berkeley: University of California Press. *Bulletin of History of Medicine* 74 (2): 354-355.

**1999**

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Mutsuhiko Shima and Roger Janelli (eds.), *The Anthropology of Korea: East Asian Perspectives*. Osaka: National Museum of Ethnology. *American Ethnologist* 26 (4): 1016-1017.

**1998**

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Susan Napier, *The Fantastic in Modern Japanese Literature: The Subversion of Modernity*. London: Routledge. *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars* 30 (2): 87-88.

**1997**

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Joyce Gelb and Marian Lief Palley (eds.), *Women of Japan and Korea: Continuity & Change*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. *Bulletin of Japanese Studies Association of Australia* 17 (2-3): 139-42.

**1997**

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Susan Bronwell, *Training the body for China: Sports in the moral order of the People's Republic*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. *Canberra Anthropology* 20 (1/2): 191-193.

**1997**

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Laurel Kendall, *Getting Married in Korea: Of Gender, Morality, and Modernity*. Berkeley: University of California Press. *The Australian Journal of Anthropology* 8 (3): 350-352.

**1997**

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of JaHyun Haboush Kim, *The Memoirs of Lady Heygyong*. Berkeley: University of California Press. *The Australian Journal of Anthropology* 8 (2): 232-233.

**1997**

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Sandra Buckley, *Broken Silence: Voices from Japanese Feminism*. Berkeley: University of California Press. *The Australian Journal of Anthropology* 8 (2): 229-231.

**1996**

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of John Clammer, *Modernity and Difference: Social Theory and Contemporary Japanese Society*. London and New York: Kegan Paul International. *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars* 28 (3-4): 94-96.

1995

Ryang, Sonia.

Review of Gaynor Macdonald and John C. Maher (eds.), *Diversity of Japanese Language and Culture*.  
London: KPI. *Cambridge Anthropology* 18 (2): 83-86.