Yoon Walker

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CITIZENSHIP: USA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

State violence and human rights under authoritarian rule; memory, heritage, and transitional justice; public history.

EDUCATION

PhD in Korean Studies, SOAS University of London 2026
Dissertation: "Institutionalized Human Rights Violation During the Authoritarian Regime in South Korea, 1960s–1980s"
MA in Korean Studies (Merit), SOAS University of London 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, SOAS University of London
- Contemporary Korean Society (2022, 2024)

Seminar Tutor, SOAS University of London
- The Other Korea: North Korea since 1945 (2023, 2024)
- East Asian Imperialisms (2026)
- History and Memory in East Asian Cultures (2026)

Korean Language Instructor, Cambridge Korean School (2021–2023)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Centre of Korean Studies, SOAS 2026–Present
Research Assistant, Prof. Avery Gordon, University of California, Santa Barbara 2026–Present
Secretary, British Association of Korean Studies (BAKS) 2026–Present
Chair, Korean Researchers in the UK 2024–2025
Committee Chair, SOAS Early Career Researchers Conference 2025
Visiting Researcher, Research Institute of Korean Studies, Korea University 2022
Council Advisor, Peaceful Unification Advisory Council (UK Chapter) 2021–2022

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript in Preparation
- Monograph based on doctoral research on state violence and welfare institutions in South Korea.

Journal Articles
- "Sŏn'gam Academy: The Island of Boys — State Violence, Forced Labor, and Institutional Continuity in Modern Korea, 1942–1982," *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* (in press).
- "Contested Futures: The Liberation Space (Haebang Gonggan) of Post-1945 Korea and the Politics of Its Memory," *European Journal of Korean Studies* (submitted April 2026, under review).
- "Divergent Routes to History Before the Truth Commission in South Korean Confinement Cases, 1987–2024," *Korean Histories* (submitted August 2026, under review).

Public Writing

- "What lies ahead for South Korea after the impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol?," *The Conversation*, April 11, 2025.
- "South Korea: failed arrest of impeached president sets stage for more turmoil in 2025," *The Conversation*, January 3, 2025.
- "South Korea at a crossroads after president is impeached — here's what will happen next," *The Conversation*, December 18, 2024.

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, Workshop "History Museums in South Korea and Beyond," Kyoto University (2026).
- Presenter, Digitally Mediated Nostalgia in Korea Conference, Palacký University (2026).
- Presenter, 18th Kyujanggak International Symposium, Seoul National University (2025).
- Program Lead & Presenter, RIKS Workshop, Korea University (2025).
- Discussant, SOAS Remembering 'Comfort Women' Conference (2025).
- Convenor & Presenter, Asian Archaeology Group Seminar Series, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge (2025).
- Presenter, Beyond the Academy Workshop, University of Sheffield (2025).
- Presenter, The European Association of Archaeologists Conference (2024).

GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- RIKS Korean Studies Workshop team-project grant, Korea University (approx. US$6,500, 2025).
- UNESCO heritage team-project grant (approx. US$7,200, 2025).
- RIKS Academy award, Korea University (approx. US$720, 2025).
- Kyujanggak International Symposium participation award (approx. US$720, 2025).
- SOAS Early Career Researchers Conference award (approx. US$670, 2025).
- Language Acquisition award (approx. US$940, 2023).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Researcher & Translator for Prof. Avery Gordon, "Liberation Space 1948: Lines of Flight," in the book accompanying the Korean Pavilion (*Liberation Space: Fortress/Nest*), 61st International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia (2026).
- Guest Commentator, London Korean Film Club, screening of a 1970s Korean film (2026).
- Expert commentary, France 24, "Crise en Corée du Sud : la 'trumpisation' du camp de Yoon Suk-yeol" (January 10, 2025).

LANGUAGES

Korean (native); English (fluent); Japanese (basic)

REFEREES

Dr. Owen Miller, Lecturer in Korean Studies and Chair of the Centre of Korean Studies, SOAS University of London; om4@soas.ac.uk
Dr. Sarah A. Son, Senior Lecturer in Korean Studies, University of Sheffield; s.a.son@sheffield.ac.uk
Professor Avery F. Gordon, Professor Emerita of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara; hawthornearchives@gmail.com,