

SARAH KOVNER

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Columbia University
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EDUCATION

- October 2004 Ph.D. in History, Columbia University, New York
Certificate in Korean Studies, Weatherhead East Asian
Institute
- May 1995 A.B. in East Asian Studies, Princeton University, New Jersey

EXPERIENCE

- 2015 - Senior Research Scholar, Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and
Peace Studies, Columbia University
- 2014-2015 Research Scholar, Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace
Studies, Columbia University
- 2013-2014 Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Florida
- 2006-2013 Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Florida
- 2006 Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of
Wisconsin-La Crosse
- 2004-2005 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of
Florida

RESEARCH INTERESTS

East Asian history; Japanese history; gender and sexuality; International and
transnational history; military history

PUBLICATIONS

Current Book Project

Prisoners of the Empire: POWs and their Captors in the Pacific War” (under contract, Harvard University Press)

“Prisoners of the Empire” will explain how the vast complex of Japanese POW camps worked, or failed to work, as a system. It will be the first comprehensive account to give equal weight to guards and prisoners, and to relate the internal life of camps to the larger context of diplomacy and international law. And it will conclude by explaining how a simple condemnation of Japanese cruelty shaped the 1949 Geneva Convention, which has been crucial in present-day controversies over how the U.S. treats its own captives.

Book, articles, and translations

“Allied POWs in Colonial Korea” in *Specter of Empire: The Fall of Imperial Japan and the Postwar Struggle for Legitimacy*, edited by Barak Kushner (forthcoming from Routledge).

“A War of Words: Allied Captivity and Swiss Neutrality in the Pacific, 1941-1945,” (accepted, *Diplomatic History*).

“The Soundproofed Superpower: U.S. Bases and Japanese Communities, 1945-1972,” (accepted, *Journal of Asian History*).

“GIs in the Global History of Gender and Sexuality,” Book Forum on *What Soldiers Do*, Mary Louise Roberts, *Journal of Women’s History* 21: 3 (August 2014), 147-151.

Occupying Power: Sex Workers and Servicemen in Postwar Japan (Stanford University Press, 2012; paperback 2013).

Choice Outstanding Academic Title, 2012

Winner of Southeast Conference Association for Asian Studies book prize, 2014

Review of Alexis Dudden, *Troubled Apologies Among Japan, Korea, and the United States*, in the *Journal of World History* 21: 2 (June 2010): 362-363.

“Selling Sex under Occupation: The American-Japanese Encounter after 1945,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 68: 3 (August 2009): 777-804.

“1946 nen -1956 nen no Nihon ni okeru baishun no haishi ni tsuite” [Abolishing Prostitution in Japan, 1946-1956]. In *Shin Nichiha ga egaita Nihonzō* [Perspectives on Japan from a New Generation of American Specialists], edited by Terry McDougall. Kyoto: Kyoto Center for Japanese Studies, 2000.

Translation of “Nationalism in Korean Women’s Studies: Addressing the Discourses

Surrounding the ‘Comfort Women Issue,’” by Yamashita Yeong-ae. *U.S.-Japan Women’s Journal, English Supplement* 15 (October 1998): 52-77.

Introduction and translation of “Is Forgetting a Kindness?” by Kim Yonghi. *U.S.-Japan Women’s Journal, English Supplement* 14 (April 1998): 49-63.

GRANTS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2012-14 | Henry Chauncey Jr. ’57 Fellowship in International Security Studies, Yale University |
| 2012 | Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Award, University of Florida |
| 2012 | Mellon THATCamp AHA fellowship |
| 2011 | Travel Grant, Association for Asian Studies |
| 2011 | Humanities Enhancement Scholarship, University of Florida |
| 2009 | Junior Research Leave, University of Florida |
| 2008-09 | Visiting Associate Research Scholar, Weatherhead East Asia Institute, Columbia University |
| 2007-08 | Humanities Enhancement Grant, University of Florida |
| 2006 | Travel Grant, Association for Asian Studies |
| 2003 | Junior Fellowship, Center for Historical Social Science, Columbia University |
| 2000-01 | President’s Fellowship, Columbia University |
| 1999-00 | Oriental Fellowship, Columbia University (for dissertation research in Japan) |
| 1999 | German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) stipendium (for study in Germany) |
| 1997-98 | President’s Fellowship, Columbia University |
| 1997 | Korea Foundation Summer Grant (for study in Korea) |
| 1997 | Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (for Japanese-language study) |

- 1996-97 Richard Hofstadter Fellowship, Columbia University
- 1995-96 Itō Fellowship (for postgraduate study at Kyoto University)
- 1994 Japan Foundation Summer Research Grant (for research in Japan)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- August 2015 “The Soundproofed Superpower: American Bases and Japanese Communities, 1945-1972,”
School of Social Sciences Fundação Getulio Vargas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- March 2015 “The Meanings of Peace in Modern Japan: The Tenacity of War and Protest in a “Pacifist State,” (Panel Chair)
Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago
- March 2015 “Prisoners of the Empire: POW Camps in Korea during the Pacific War,”
The University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom
- November 2014 “That Special Business: An International History of Sex Work,”
Unité de Japonais
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
- November 2014 “Allied Captivity and Swiss Neutrality in the Pacific, 1941- 1945,”
History Department Colloquium
European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- September 2014 “Noguchi Yuzuru’s War: From Camp Commander to Prisoner, 1942-1948,”
Breakdown of Japanese Empire Conference
Cambridge University, Cambridge, United Kingdom
- May 2014 “Allied Captivity and Swiss Neutrality in the Pacific, 1941- 1945,”
History on Monday
University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
- April 2014 “A War of Words: Allied Captivity and Swiss Neutrality in the Pacific,”
Strategy and Policy Department
Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island
- April 2014 “Prisoners of the Empire: POWs and their Captors in the Pacific War,”
The Significance of “The Frontier” to Japanese History”
Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
- February 2014 “Sex Workers in East Asia: The Japan Case,” Triangle East Asia

Colloquium
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina

- January 2014 “A War of Words: Allied Captivity and Swiss Neutrality in the Pacific, 1941-1945,”
Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center
Stanford University, Palo Alto, California
- January 2014 “The Shadow of the Occupation: Japan and International Sex Trafficking after World War II,”
American Historical Association, Washington D.C.
- October 2013 “Model Camps: Life and Death in Korea, 1942-1945,”
Yale University, New Haven
- June 2013 “Allied POWs in Colonial Korea,”
European Forum on Korean-Japanese History
Leiden, The Netherlands
- April 2013 Roundtable Discussion on *Occupying Power*
Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Columbia University, New York
- March 2013 “That Special Business: An International History of Sex Work in Occupied Japan,”
International History Workshop,
Yale University, New Haven
- February 2013 “Bodies for Sale,”
Mellon Sawyer Seminar
Washington University in St. Louis
- January 2013 “Prostitution in Japanese History, The State of the Field,” (Roundtable)
American Historical Association, New Orleans
- November 2012 “POWs, Internees, and the Problem of Neutrality: The International Committee of the Red Cross in the Pacific War,”
Yale University, New Haven
- August 2012 “POWs and the Experience of Total War: Using Primary Sources to Teach about Japan,”
Japan Society, New York
- March 2012 “Disease and the Body Politic: Explaining the Epidemic of Venereal Disease in Occupied Japan,” (Presenter; Panel Chair) Association of Asian Studies, Toronto, Canada

- June 2011 “Regenerating Cultures in Japan: Sexuality and Reproduction in the Aftermath of War”
Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Amherst, Massachusetts
- March 2011 “Allied Prisoners in the Pacific War”
National Consortium for Teaching about Asia Seminar, University of Florida
- August 2008 “Geisha Girls and GI Johns: Marketing Sex in the Aftermath of the Pacific War”
University of Melbourne, Department of History; University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Department of Women’s Studies (February 2008)
- October 2007 “Beyond Victimhood: Situating Sex Work in Postwar Japan, 1945-1956”
Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Washington University in St. Louis
- July 2006 “G.I. Johns: The American Forces in Japan, 1945-1952” Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan
- March 2006 “Selling Sex Under Occupation”
Center for East Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- December 2005 “Base Cultures: Regulating Sex Work in Occupied Japan”
History Department, University of Florida; Center for International History, Columbia University
- April 2005 “International Human Trafficking”
Vox Voices for Planned Parenthood, University of Florida
- April 2005 “When Flesh Glittered: Sex-Work Markets in Postwar Japan” Gender Conversations Series, University of Florida
- March 2005 “Occupied Japan: Sex, Race, and the U.S. Military”
National Consortium for Teaching about Asia Seminar University of Florida
- January 2005 “Economies of Cooperation: Military-Base Sex Workers and Japan’s Ongoing Occupation”
American Historical Association, Annual Meeting, Seattle
- March 2003 “Reconceptualizing Sex Work in Japan, 1945-1953” Association of Asian Studies, Annual Meeting, New York
- January 2002 “Prostituting Japan, 1931-1956”

University of Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

October 1999 “1946 nen -1956 nen no Nihon ni okeru baishun no haishi ni tsuite” [Abolishing Prostitution in Japan, 1946-1956] 10th-Year Anniversary Symposium, Kyoto Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto, Japan

SERVICE

2014-16 Book Prize Committee, Southeast Conference Association for Asian Studies book prize

2011-12 Graduate Committee, History Department, University of Florida

2011-12 International Committee, History Department, University of Florida

2010-11 Policy and Planning Committee, History Department, University of Florida

2007 Undergraduate Committee, History Department, University of Florida

2007-8, 2010 Linda Vance Prize in Women’s History Selection Committee, History Department, University of Florida

2007-8, 2010 Asian Studies Research Prize Selection Committee, University of Florida

2007-8, 2010-12 Undergraduate History Advisor, History Department, University of Florida

2005 “Asian Film Series” co-organizer, University of Florida

REFEREE

Monographs: Harvard University Press, Berghahn Books

Journals: *Law and History Review*, *Journal of Military History*, *Pacific Historical Review*, *U.S. Japan Women’s Journal*, *International Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Historical Sociology*

TEACHING

“War and Captivity,” graduate seminar, School of International and Public Affairs, fall 2015.

- “New Approaches to the World: Making Sense of International and Transnational History,” graduate seminar, University of Florida, spring 2012.
- “The Pacific War, 1937-1945,” senior seminar, University of Florida, fall 2011.
- “Gender in International and Transnational History,” graduate seminar, University of Florida, fall 2010.
- “Gender and Sexuality in Japan, 1600-Present,” undergraduate seminar, University of Florida, spring 2007, spring 2008, fall 2010.
- “Modern Korean History: Power and Protest,” undergraduate honors course, University of Florida, spring 2007, as undergraduate lecture course, spring 2005, spring 2008, spring 2011, fall 2011.
- “Modern Japanese History: History and Memory in the 20th Century,” undergraduate lecture course, University of Florida, fall 2005, 2007, spring 2011, spring 2012
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, spring 2006.
- “Occupying Power: Military Rule of Civilian Populations in the 20th Century,” undergraduate lecture course, University of Florida, fall 2006, spring 2005.
- “Global Transition and Change: World History from 1500 to the Present,” undergraduate lecture course, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, spring 2006.
- “The Geisha in American Eyes: Orientalizing Sexuality since 1868,” undergraduate lecture course, University of Florida, fall 2006.
- “Introduction to Japanese Civilization,” undergraduate lecture course, Columbia University (teaching assistant for Gregory Pflugfelder and Max Moerman), spring 2002, fall 2000.
- “Major Topics in Asian Civilization,” undergraduate lecture course, Columbia University (teaching assistant for William de Bary and Max Moerman), fall 1998.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
Association of Asian Studies
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations