

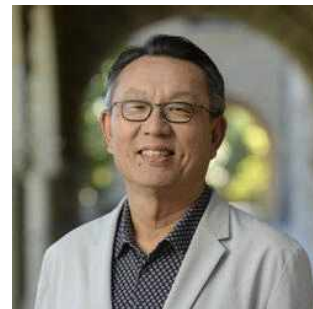
Seminar: Racism in Asia

With Professor Gi-Wook Shin & Dr. Junki Nakahara
(Stanford University)

- **Date:** April 23, 2024 (Tue.) PM 3:00-4:30
- **Venue:** Ewha Womans University School of Law, Room 402
(이화여자대학교 법학관 402 호)
- **Title:** Unveiling the Blindspot: A Critical Analysis of Racism Denial in Asia
- **Speaker:** Professor Gi-Wook Shin and Dr. Junki Nakahara (Stanford University) (English)
- **Overview:** Does racism exist in Asia? Or is it largely a Western, especially American phenomenon? To answer these questions, this presentation explores how nationalism and racism interact in the Asia-Pacific region, causing various forms of suppression and intolerance. More specifically, we analyzed reports from 16 Asian countries (including the Republic of Korea) submitted to the United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), focusing on different forms of racism "denial" and "downplaying." The Asian discourse of denial stems from fundamental conceptions of historical identity and dominant social, political, and religious values that shape the national understanding of race and racism. The real-world consequences of this denial, including discriminatory treatment of racial/ethnic minorities, are exacerbated by recent demographic challenges, social stratification, global migration, and geopolitical tensions. This study urges Asian leaders to be aware of the blind spot that has hindered meaningful discussions about racism. We also highlight South Korea's potential to lead critical dialogue and make progress in eliminating racial discrimination and promoting social justice within the nation and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

Professor Gi-Wook Shin

Gi-Wook Shin is the William J. Perry Professor of Contemporary Korea in Sociology; senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies; the director of the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center since 2005; and the founding director of the Korea Program, all at Stanford University. As a historical-comparative and political sociologist, his research has concentrated on social movements, nationalism, development, democracy, and international relations.



Dr. Junki Nakahara

Junki Nakahara is a postdoctoral fellow at the Stanford Next Asia Policy Lab (SNAPL), directed by Gi-Wook Shin, within the Asia-Pacific Research Center. Her research interests include nationalism and xenophobia, critical and cultural studies, feminist (digital) media studies, and postcolonial/decolonial international relations. As an inaugural member of SNAPL, she leads the "Nationalism and Racism" research team. The team examines how nationalism and racism intertwine to create various forms of suppression and intolerance across the Asia-Pacific region, where entanglements among race, ethnicity, nation, and postcoloniality complicate the race/racism debates. She earned her PhD in Communication from American University, Washington DC, in 2023.

