
Curriculum Vitae (as of 2026 1 March 2026)

Didi Kyoung-ae Han

Centre for Multicultural Collaborative Learning, Saitama University;

Saitama, Japan

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Personal web:

ORCID

SUMMARY

Didi Han is Associate Professor at the Centre for Multicultural Collaborative Learning, Saitama University, Japan. She received her PhD in Urban Studies/Human Geography from the London School of Economics and Political Science and her MA in Communication Studies from Simon Fraser University. A multilingual scholar working across Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and English, she maintains active research collaborations with scholars at institutions across East Asia, and is actively engaged in international academic networks in the fields of urban studies and commons research. Alongside her scholarly work, she has pursued the translation and commoning of ideas through numerous translation projects across English, Korean, and Japanese.

Didi Han is a scholar whose work traverses urban political ecology, commons studies, feminism, cultural studies, communication, philosophy, and anthropology. Through a distinctive methodology that combines extensive ethnographic fieldwork in East Asian cities with genealogical historical archiving, she contributes to expanding the horizons of critical urban theory beyond its predominantly Western framings.

RESEARCH KEYWORDS: Urban Commons, Urban Political Ecology, Precariat, Social Reproduction and Infrastructure, Finance, Affective Economy, Work and Home, East Asian Cities, Comparative Urbanism, Co-research

CURRENT POSITIONS

Curriculum Vitae (as of 2026 1 March 2026)

10.2025 – Present **Associate Professor**
Centre for Multicultural Collaborative Learning
Saitama University, Japan

10.2025 – Present **Visiting Researcher**
Asia Centre
Seoul National University, Korea

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS

06. 2023 – 09. 2025 **Research Fellow**
Asia Centre
Seoul National University, Korea

09. 2023 – 03. 2025 **Part-time Lecturer**
Saitama University, Japan

11. 2022 – 04. 2023 **Research Fellow**
Andong National University, Korea

2022 **Part-time Lecturer**
Humanitas College, Kyung Hee University, Korea

2022 - 2024 **Visiting Fellow**
Department of Geography and Environment, LSE, UK

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Urban Studies and Human Geography, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Thesis: Producing Urban Commons between Autonomy and Togetherness: A Genealogical Analysis of the Precariat movements in Tokyo and Seoul

MA Communication and Cultural Studies, Simon Fraser University, Canada

BA Korean Literature, Sung Kyoon Gwan University, Korea

PUBLICATIONS

● BOOKS

1. **Han, Didi** (2024). *What is the Commons: Reclaiming Sovereignty of Life Beyond Capitalism*. Seoul: Red salt publishing (in Korean). 커먼즈란 무엇인가: 자본주의를 넘어서 삶의 주권 탈환하기. 빨간소금

Japanese translation: Han, Didi (under contract). *What is the Commons: Reclaiming Sovereignty of Life Beyond Capitalism*. Tokyo: Ibunsha (in Japanese).
2. **Han, Kyoung-ae** (2007). *Master of the Play: Homo Ludens*. Seoul: Greenbee Publishing (in Korean). 놀이의 달인: 호모 루덴스. 그린비.

● JOURNAL ARTICLES

3. **Han, D.** (under review). Reconceptualising urban commons through the precariat movements in East Asian cities and articulating nonsovereign translation as a method of commoning. *Urban Studies*.
4. **Han, D.** (under review). Imagining the urban care infrastructures for freedom: On the transformation of labor and care in Tokyo's collective childcare. *Urban Political Ecology*.
5. **Han, D.** and Mukai, K. (under review). Subversive smart urbanism: Tokyo's underclass enacting phygital autonomy. *International Journal of Urban Sciences*.
6. **Han, D.** (2026). The metabolic rift in subjectivities: Toward an epistemology of the commons and capitalism in the age of polycrisis. *Bulletin of the Faculty of Liberal Arts*,

Saitama University, 61(2). (in Japanese). 主体性における物質代謝の亀裂 —複合的危機時代の
のcommonsと資本主義の認識論に向けて. *埼玉大学紀要 (教養学部)* 第 61 卷第 2 号

7. **Han, D.** and Shin, H. B. (2025). Working-in-commons in the middle of precarity: The legacy of the urban movement of South Korea in the 1970s. *Antipode*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.70081>
8. **Han, D.** (2025). Caring for uncommon bodies: Commoning *yoseba* through indifferent care and working together. *Journal of Urban Affairs*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2024.2379882>
9. Park, B., Lee, J., **Han, D.**, Lee, S., Back Y., and Sim, H. (2024). Enabling infrastructure: seeing infrastructure as the urban commons. *International Journal of Urban Sciences*. 1-13.
10. **Han, D.** (2023). Ethics of care in commons: Transitioning from the 'home/family' ownership to a caring commons via Bin-Zib, a co-housing experiment. *Space and Environment*, 33(4). 256-292 (in Korean). 소유하는 '집/가족'에서 돌봄의 커먼즈로: 공유주거 '빈집'을 통해 보는 커먼즈의 돌봄윤리. *공간과사회* 33(4). 256-292.
11. **Han, D.**, Back, Y., and Jung, J. (2023). How value is performed?: The affective economy of housing values in the new town of Kwang-kyo. *Space and Environment*, 33(4). 115-171 (in Korean). 가치는 어떻게 실천되는가: 광고 신도시의 주거가치를 둘러싼 정동경제. *공간과사회* 33(4). 115-171.
12. **Han, D.** (2023). The historical formation of the precariat movement in Tokyo: Looking through precarity and the precariat. *Journal of the Korean Urban Geographical Society*, 26(1). 53-71 (in Korean). 도쿄 프레카리아트 운동의 역사적 형성과정: 불안정성과 프레카리아트의 의미를 통해 살펴보기. *한국도시지리학회지* 26(1). 53-71.
13. **Han, D.** (2022). From village communities to the urban commons: Rearticulating the urban commons from a view of East Asia. *Space and Environment* 32(4). 11-44 (in Korean). 마을 공동체에서 도시적 커먼즈로: 동아시아의 시선으로 보는 도시적 커먼즈. *공간과사회* 32(4). 11-44.

14. Han, D. (2018). Turning a home into the common: the micro-politics of subjectivations in a cohousing community in Seoul. *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, 19(3), 372-385.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14649373.2018.1497895>.

● BOOK CHAPTERS

15. Han, K. (2026). Imagining care infrastructure for freedom, In Kwon et al., *Spaces of Care: Ten Spatial Readings of the Social Sensorium Surrounding Care*. Seoul: Moshineun Saramduel. (in Korean). 자유를 위한 돌봄의 인프라 상상하기. 돌봄의 공간들: 돌봄을 둘러싼 사회적 감각과 열 개의 공간 읽기. 모시는 사람들.
16. Han, K. (2025). Caring for uncommon bodies. In Koopman et al., *Multiple Spatiotemporalities within the Family-Community and the Family-Community Yet to Come*. Institute for the Humanities, Chonnam National University. (in Korean). 비공통적 신체 돌보기. 가족커뮤니티 내 복수의 시공간과 도래할 가족커뮤니티. 전남대학교 인문학연구원.
17. Han, D. (2023). The new cultural politics of victimhood, In Kwon, Kim Hyun Yeong et al., *Feminism of Victimhood and Perpetration*. Tokyo: Kaiho publishing (in Japanese). 「被害者性」という新しい文化・政治. 被害と加害のフェミニズム. 会報出版.
18. Han, D. (2019). Weaving the Common in the Financialized City: A Case of Urban Cohousing Experience in South Korea. In Chen & Shin. (eds.) *Neoliberal Urbanism, Contested Cities and Housing in Asia*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 171-192.
19. Han, D., and Hajime Imamasa (2015). Overcoming privatized housing in South Korea: Looking through the lens of commons and the common". In Dellenbaugh, Mary et al. (eds.) *Urban Commons: Moving Beyond State and Market*. Berlin: Birkhäuser. Berlin, 91-100.
20. Han, D. (2007). The power of money and politics of anti-money. In Yi, Jin Kyeong. (ed.) *Lectures on Modernity and Capitalism*. Seoul: Greenbee Publishing (in Korean). 화폐의 권력, 반화폐의 정치학. *모더니티의 지층들: 자본주의와 근대성 강의*. 그린비.

● BOOK TRANSLATIONS

21. **Han, Didi** Choi, S., and Yi, S. (forthcoming). The Korean translation of *Theory of Self-Governance in Commons* (by Kohei, S., 2023) Seoul: Dongnyeok publishing.
22. **Han, Didi** and Kwon, B. (forthcoming). The Korean translation of *Radiation and Revolution* (by Kohso, Sabu, 2020). Seoul: Greenbee publishing.
23. **Han, Didi** and Byeong Kwon Koh (2025). The Korean translation of *Pirate Enlightenment, or the Real Libertalia* (by Graeber, David, 2019). Seoul: Imagine for one thousand years.
24. **Han, Kyoung-ae** (2024). The Korean translation of *Urban Commons: Rethinking the City* (by Borch, Christian, and Martin Kornberger, 2015). Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements.
25. **Han, Didi**, Imamasa Hajime, and Soryang Park (2023). The Japanese translation of *Feminism of Victimhood and Perpetration* (by Kwon, Kim Hyun Yeong et al., 2018). Tokyo: Kaiho publishing.
26. **Han, Didi**, Imamasa Hajime, and Soryang Park (2015). The Korean translation of *September, On the Street of Tokyo: Echoes of the 1923 Kanto Earthquake Massacre* (by Kato, Naoki, 2014). Seoul: Galmuri Publishing.
27. **Han, Didi**, Imamasa Hajime, and Soryang Park (2013). The Korean translation of *City of Death, Streets of Life: 42 Essays on New York, Streets, and Earth* (by Kohso, Sabu, 2010). Seoul: Galmuri Publishing.
28. **Han, Didi**, Imamasa Hajime, and Soryang Park (2012). The Korean translation of *Build a Fluid City: The Creation of New York through Moving Bodies, Architecture, Art and Immigration* (by Kohso, Sabu, 2007). Seoul: Galmuri Publishing.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2023 – 2025 Principal Investigator. "A comparative research on spatialities and subjectivations of finance: Focusing on financial practices around "home" in

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Tokyo and Seoul" KRW 40,000,000 each year for maximum 5 years.
Research Fellowship. National Research Foundation of Korea

- 2023 Best PhD Dissertation in Social Science (One of the five shortlisted amongst 120 submissions), ICAS Book Prize 2023, International Convention of Asia Scholars
- 2022 The International Academic Forum (IAFOR) Scholarship, USD 500
- 2018 The Lady Marks Charitable Trust Grant for Japanese Research, GBP 2,500
- 2017 4 Years' PhD Studentship, London School of Economics and Political Science, GBP 18,000 per year

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

2026. "Political subjectivation of Korean women in their 20s and 30s, and the 'Idaenam' phenomenon", invited talk organized by Institute of Social Science, Chuo University, Japan, March 14
- "Political subjectivation of Korean women in their 20s and 30s, and the 'Idaenam' phenomenon", invited talk organized by Renaissance Research Society, Japan, January 13
2025. "What is the commons: From the perspective of feminism", a lecture organized by the Mokpo Women's Hot-Line, Mokpo, Korea, November 27
- "What kind of magic do we cast on the world?: Commoning as a world-making act producing colorful commonalities" Keynote speaking at the public lecture series "Ancient Futures: The Commons" organized by Mokpo National University, Korea, August 27
- "Researchers' Commons, Researchers' Commoning, and the Researchers' Mutual Aid Society" invited talk organized by Jisikgongyu Yeonjujau Jip, event "Researchers' Mutual Aid Society and the Researchers' House," August 20

"What is the commons?" invited talk at the Commons Lecture Series organized by Seong Gong Hoe Nanumui Jib June 19/26

"Pirate Enlightenment" book talk organized by Ilggiui Jip (Reading House), April 24

2024. "What is the commons: From the perspective of feminism", a series of lectures organized by the Female Culture Theory Institute, Seoul, Korea, November 14, 21, 28

"Commoning cities: The experience from Seoul and Tokyo," guest lecture at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Suzhou, China, October 17

"The urban commons of autonomous individuals beyond community," guest lecture at Sang-ji Academy for Humanities, Seoul, July 18

"Revisiting the precariat movements in Tokyo and Seoul from a historical and comparative view," guest lecture at *Social Movement at Asia-Pacific* (an undergraduate course), Tokyo Foreign Language University, Tokyo, July 4 (online)

"What is the commons: From the perspective of care," invited talk at a regular colloquium organized by the Research Institute for Feminist Culture, Seoul, May 31 (online)

"The modern process of urbanization and the urban commons," guest lecture at *Science in the History* (an undergraduate course), Seoul National University, Seoul, May 29

"Urbanisation, urban planning, and commons," guest lecture at *Theories of Urban Planning* (a postgraduate course), Seoul National University, Seoul, May 13

3 invited talks in academic setting and 12 public lectures based on the authored book titled, "What is the commons: Reclaiming the sovereignty of life beyond capitalism" between February 29 and now

2023. "Caring uncommon bodies: Producing commons through indifferent care and working together," invited talk at Asia Square Brownbag Seminar organized by Asia Centre, Seoul National University, Seoul, November 7
- "The historical formation of the precariat movement in Seoul and Tokyo," invited talk at Social Movement Workshop hosted by Sophia University, Tokyo, October 1
- "The historical formation of the precariat movement in Seoul," invited talk at *If Suffered, Take Revenge*, a film screening event hosted by the If Suffered Take Revenge Film Screening Committee, Tokyo, May 23
- "Practicing the urban commons between autonomy and togetherness: Revisiting the precariat movements in Tokyo and Seoul from a comparative view," invited talk at *Promoting Commons Presents and Futures Symposium* hosted by the Centre for Commons Organising Values Equalities and Resilience, Essex University, Essex, February 17
- "Practicing the urban commons between autonomy and togetherness: Revisiting the precariat movements in Tokyo and Seoul from a comparative view," guest lecture at *GY438, Urban Asia: Cities and Social Change* (a postgraduate course), Department of Geography and Environment, LSE, London, February 15
- "From village communities to the urban commons," invited talk at Korea Research Institute for Human Settlement, Osong, February 3
2022. "The historical paths of the precariat movements: focusing on the post-war urbanization, governmentality and resistance around precarity in Tokyo and Seoul," invited talk at Korea Research Institute for Human Settlement, Osong, September 24
- "Commons and finance," invited talk at *Rethinking Finance Commons* organized by the Commons Network and the Commune Bank, Bin-Go, Seoul, September 17

"The urban commons as post-capitalist practice beyond capital, state, and community: Focusing on value struggles of the precariat movements in Tokyo and Seoul," invited talk at the Centre for Asian Urban Society, Seoul National University, Seoul, July 13

"Community, communing, and urban commons: Theories and practices," guest lecture at a Graduate School of Urban Studies at Hanyang University, Seoul, May 30

"What is the commons? Contemplating a way of living together," a public lecture series (three times' lecture) organized by the Humanities Research Institute at Sungshin Women's University, Seoul, May 12, 19, 26 (online)

"Property and commons," invited talk and panel discussion at *Commons and the Publicity: Imagining Publicity beyond Ownership* organized by the Centre for Asian Urban Society, Seoul National University, Seoul, April 27

"Memories of the university as autonomous space," invited talks and panel discussion at *Life, Knowledge, and Commons* organized by the Centre for Asian Urban Society, Seoul National University, Seoul, February 17 (online)

"Imagining commons between autonomy and togetherness," invited talk at *Commons, or Navigating another World* organized by the Centre for Asian Urban Society, Seoul National University, Seoul, January 27 (online)

"The historical formation of the precariat movement in Tokyo," invited talk at Suyu+Nomo (an alternative scholars' network), Seoul, January 11

2019. "What can a grassroots movement do about housing," invited talk at Centring Housing Question in (Neoliberalising) Asian Cities, a book launch event hosted by the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre, LSE, London, December 3

"Rethinking the right to the city from the perspective of East Asian cities," Special lecture at GY 411, Political Economy of Urbanisation (a postgraduate course), Department of Geography and Environment, LSE, London, January

2018. "Comparatively viewing the precariat movements in East Asian cities," invited talk at the Labor Welfare Hall in Tokyo, January 2

ORGANIZATION OF WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE SESSIONS

2022. 10th EARCAG (East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography), National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, 9-11 December

Session on "Commons Unbound"

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025. "Building for Freedom: Urban Vernacular Technology of Tokyo's Homeless Toward Enabling Infrastructure," paper presented at the International Workshop "Decentering Circulations and Transregional Encounters: Knowledge, Things, and Intermediaries in East Asia" Korea, December 12-14

"Archipelagic Neighbourhood: Making and Traversing Koenji, Tokyo," paper presented at the International Workshop, "Neighbourhoods and Grassroots Movements for Just and Resilient Cities in East Asia" organized by Seoul National University. Korea, July 15

"Can we produce the urban commons by doing nothing collectively?: Production of heterogeneous space by Dameren in Tokyo", paper presented at the Perforating the City Workshop, organized by Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore. May 16-17.

"Reconceptualising Care from the Perspective of Urban Commons: The Collective Childcare Experiment of Sinking Family in Tokyo and Care for Freedom," paper presented at Academic Conference, "Imagining New Humanities from the Local" at Chonnam National University, Korea. April 25

"Rethinking Care from the Perspective of Urban Commons: The Case of Sinking Family in Tokyo," paper presented at the 11th EARCAG Conference, *Territorial Justice in*

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Times of Polycrisis: Perspectives from East Asia and Beyond, Fukuoka, Japan. February 13.

2024. "Imagining housing from the perspective of commons and care," paper presented at the International Conference, Cities Ending Homelessness, September 25
- "Caring uncommon bodies," paper presented at the International Conference, The Future of Family, Community, Commons, Jeon Nam National University, Gwang-ju, South Korea, September 27
- "Comparative studies on the development of village communities: Focusing the cases of Japan and Korea," paper presented at the Village Development Forum: East Asian Experience in Integrated Rural-Urban Development, Seoul, South Korea, August 24
- "Rethinking finance with urban commons: Focusing on the case of financialized cities in South Korea," paper presented at the International Convention of Asian Scholars, Surabaya, Indonesia, August 1
- "Revisiting crisis from the perspective of the commons and metabolism," paper presented at the 18th International Conference on Crisis & Emergency Management, Osong, South Korea, July 13
2023. "Caring for uncommon bodies: (Re)building yoseba as a space of indifferent care for the drifting underclass labourers," paper presented at the 15th Asian Conference on Cultural Studies, Tokyo, Japan, May 12
- "Commons as worlding with others to share precariousness: The micropolitics of reproduction in a co-housing experiment," paper presented at the Korean Space and Environment Conference, Residing, Residence, Welfare of Residence, Seoul, South Korea, April 21
2022. "Rearticulating commons from a view from East Asia: From a village community to urban commons," paper presented at the 10th East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography, Taipei, Taiwan, December 9
- "Practicing urban commons between autonomy and togetherness: Revisiting the precariat movement in Tokyo and Seoul from a comparative view,"

paper presented at the 15th Asian Conference on Cultural Studies, Tokyo, Japan, June 9

2017. "Weaving the commons in the financialized city in South Korea," paper presented at the Inter-Asia Studies Conference, *Worlding: Asia beyond/after Globalization*, Seoul, Korea, July 28–30

"Weaving the commons in the financialized city: A case of urban co-housing experiment in South Korea" paper presented at *Desperate Youth in Disparate Cities: Affects, Practices, Spaces of Urban Youth Activism in Asia*, June 10–11

2015. "Overcoming privatized housing in a neoliberal city in South Korea," paper presented at the Research Committee 21 Conference, *The Ideal City: Between Myth and Reality*, Urbino, Italy, August 27–29

2013. "Weaving the commons in the financialized city: A case of co-housing experiment in Seoul," paper presented at Urban Commons Symposium, *Urban Commons: Moving beyond State and Market*, Berlin, Germany, September 27–28

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

● JOURNAL PEER REVIEW

Korean Journal: 공간과환경(Space and Environment), 문화와사회(The Korean Journal of Cultural Sociology)

International Journal: International Journal of Urban Sciences

● MA COMMITTEE, EXTERNAL

- 2025-present Abanes, Mariel Anne V. "Defacement through Makeshift Music Commons: Rewriting Urban Redevelopment Narratives in Seoul" Sungkyunkwan University, Interdisciplinary Program in Comparative Culture.

2024- 2025 Sebin, Kim. "Collective Experiments in Rural Communities: Focusing on Cooperative Young Collaborative Farm, Cooperative Haengbok Farm, and Pyeongmin Village School in Hongseong County, South Chungcheong Province" Sungkyunkwan University, Interdisciplinary Program in Comparative Culture.

● MEMBER OF ORGANISING COMMITTEE

"Scholar's Commons," a research group dedicated to constructing alternative knowledge commons that transcend the neoliberal knowledge production system, and to promoting the welfare and rights of irregular researchers (Website: <https://scholarscommons.or.kr>), 2022 – present

TEACHING

● POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Social Movement Studies: Theories and Practices (lecturer) 2023, 2024, 2025 at Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Saitama University, Japan

CAUS Urban Seminar Series (project associate and seminar leader) 2024 at Centre for Asian Urban Societies, Seoul National University in collaboration with Scholar's Commons

Political Economy of Urbanisation (project associate, course assistant, and seminar leader), optional course for MSc in Urbanisation and Development; 2019

● UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Civilizations in Global Context 1: Humanity's Quest for Values 2022/3 – 2022/8, compulsory course for BA students at Humanitas College, Kyung Hee University, Korea

Political Economy of Communication (course assistant and seminar leader), 2014 – 2015 optional course for BAs at Communication School of Simon Fraser University, Canada

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

American Association of Geography (AAG); The Korean Association of Space and Environment Research (KASER); East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography (EARCAG)

LANGUAGES

English: Spoken: Fluent; Written: Fluent

Japanese: Spoken: Fluent; Written: Fluent

Mandarin Chinese: Spoken: Intermediate (completed the highest level of Chinese language course at Beijing Language and Culture University); Written: Basic

Korean: Mother Tongue