

# Minseok Jang

Ph.D. Candidate | University at Albany, State University of New York

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## EDUCATION

2020 -            Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University at Albany.  
2025 (expected)      Committee: Kendra Smith-Howard (Chair), Michitake Aso, David  
                         Hochfelder, and Ryan Irwin.

2019            M.A., Department of History, Korea University.

2016            B.A., Department of History, Korea University.

## FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Environmental History, Business History, History of Technology, U.S. and the World.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Manuscript

*Trust on Fires: Kerosene, Standard Oil, and Anti-Monopoly, 1846–1911.*

The monograph revisits the rise and fall of Standard Oil through the lens of kerosene—the earliest petroleum product that democratized light in the late nineteenth century. By tracing kerosene’s material impacts across its global commodity chain, the study reveals the distinct dynamics driving Standard Oil’s vertical integration, global expansion, and eventual dissolution in 1911. Moving beyond conventional narratives focused on corporate executives and domestic opposition, his research highlights kerosene’s global environmental risks—particularly fire—as critical forces shaping modern corporate development and anti-monopoly politics. Ultimately, the study argues that global actors’ responses to kerosene fires played a decisive role in determining the fate of Standard Oil and its adversaries in the United States.

### Articles

Jang, Minseok. “Kerosene is King: Kerosene Consumers and the Antitrust Movement Against Standard Oil, 1859-1911,” *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 23, no. 2 (2024): 231–51. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537781423000518>.

Jang, Minseok. "Representing the Consumer's Republic: *McClure's Magazine* and the Antitrust Discourses in the Progressive Era," *Western History Review* 141, no. 0 (January 2019): 280-313. (in Korean)  
 - Awarded, *Best Master's Thesis of the Year*, The Korean Society for Western History.

### Work Under Review

"Flash and Fire: Measuring the Risk of Kerosene in the Anglo-American World, 1859-1906," *Technology and Culture*. (second round)  
 "Under the Light: Kerosene and the Home Economics Movement, 1846-1926" in *Material Histories of Home Economics*, eds. Marina Moskowitz and Sarah A. Carter. (contracted with University of Delaware Press)

### Reviews

Jang, Minseok. Review of *Pure and Modern Milk: An Environmental History since 1900*, by Kendra Smith-Howard. *The Korean Journal of American History* 51, no.2 (May 2020): 227-234. (written in Korean)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

(\*) indicates panel organizer

### Conferences

- 2025 "An Air Force Test Range in the Mudflats: Bombs, Wastes, and Roar, 1951-2004," Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, June, Washington D.C., USA.
- 2025 "Kerosene Fires and Global Resistance Against Standard Oil, 1861-1905," American Society of Environmental History, April, Pittsburg, PA, USA.
- 2025\* "Flashpoint Scandal": Kerosene, Standard Oil, and Free Trade in Britain, 1862-1906," Business History Conference, March, Atlanta, GA, USA.  
 - A panel with Jame Hudson, Murat Iplikci, Pål Thonstad Sandvik, Espen Storli, Dan Du, and Laura Phillips-Sawyer (co-organized with Espen Storli).
- 2025 Coordinator, Doctoral Colloquium, Business History Conference, March 13, Atlanta, GA, USA.
- 2024\* "The Transimperial Origins of the American Petroleum Industry," Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, June 12, Toronto, Canada.  
 - A panel with Elizabeth Chatterjee, Trish Kahle, Karine Walther, and Daniel Immerwahr.
- 2024\* "Firing Monopoly: Fire, Lightning, and the Business Power Game in the Pennsylvanian Oil Field, 1859-1899," American Society of Environmental History, April 6, Denver, CO, USA.

- A panel with Ashton Merck, Jessica Deaver, Cody Patton, Youjia Li, and Andrew Case.

- 2024 "An American Oil Company in the British Empire: How Standard Oil Emerged as a Multinational Corporation, 1859-1905," Business History Conference, March 16, Providence, RI, USA.
- 2024 "Kerosene Anti-monopoly: An Environmental and Global History of the Antitrust Movement Against Standard Oil, 1846-1911," Doctoral Colloquium, Business History Conference, March 14, Providence, RI, USA.
- 2023 "Testing Fires: Fire Tests and the Early Petroleum Industry in the Anglo-American World, 1859-1914," Society for the History of Technology, October 27, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- 2022 "Oil for Every Purpose: The Material Culture of Kerosene and Home Economists," American Studies Association, November 6, New Orleans, LA, USA.
- 2019 "*McClure's Magazine* and Anti-monopoly Politics in the Progressive Era," Korean Society for American History, August 17, Seoul, South Korea.
- 2019 "Professional Ethics on Predatory Capitalism: Muckrakers and the Antitrust Movement," Korean Society for Western History, May 25, Seoul, South Korea.

### Workshops

- 2024 "Testing a New Energy Resource: Fire Tests and the Risk of Kerosene in the Anglo-American World, 1859-1911," Energy History Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine, March 8, virtual.
- 2024 "The 'Business-scape' of the Pennsylvania Oilfield and the Oilmen's Anti-monopoly Sentiments, 1859-1899," Environmental History Workshop, University at Albany, March 1, Albany, NY, USA.
- 2024 "Burning a Monopoly: Kerosene and Anti-monopoly Politics Against Standard Oil, 1848-1911," Research Fellow Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine, February 14, virtual.
- 2023 "Anti-monopoly from Below: Why Did Kerosene Consumers Oppose Standard Oil?," Histories of Capitalism from Below Workshop, University of Birmingham, September 13, Birmingham, UK.
- 2023 Chair, "International Political Economy," Harvard Conference on Natural Resources, Sovereignty and Markets: Revisiting Socio-Economic Histories of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, Weatherhead Initiative on Global History, June 15, virtual.
- 2023 "Firing a Monopoly: An Environmental History of Anti-monopoly Politics Against Standard Oil," Environmental History Workshop, University at Albany, March 1, Albany, NY, USA.
- 2022 "Kerosene Consumers and the Antitrust Movement Against Standard Oil," History of Capitalism Seminar, Newberry Library, February 11, virtual.

- 2022 “Oil for Professionals: Petroleum and Home Economics, 1859-1914,” Material Histories of Home Economics, A Center for Design and Material Culture Research Workshop at University of Wisconsin-Madison, January 26, virtual.
- 2018 “Making a National Consensus: The Transformation of American Public Sphere during the Progressive Era,” The 78th History Colloquium, Korea University History Department, October 20, Seoul, South Korea.
- 2018 “Representing the Consumer’s Republic: National Magazines and the Political-economic Discourses in the Progressive Era, 1893-1911,” YSI Economic History Workshop: New Approaches to Economic History, Institute for New Economic Thinking, July 29, Boston, MA, USA.

### Invited Talks

- 2023 “Kerosene Antimonopoly: Standard Oil & People Who Hated It,” Hagley Hangout Podcast, Hagley Museum and Library, June 12, virtual.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0huAXu8EsY>
- 2023 “Kerosene is King: Kerosene Consumers and the Antitrust Movement Against Standard Oil, 1859-1911,” Warren Roberts Symposium, University at Albany History Department, April 27, Albany, NY, USA.

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

### Research Funding

- 2025 *Early-Career Scholars Research Fund*, History of Economics Society. (\$1,500)
- 2024 – 2025 *Virtual Research Fellow*, Linda Hall Library. (\$9,000)
- 2024 – 2025 *Short-term Research Fellowship*, Huntington Library. (\$7,000)
- 2024 *Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grants*, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. (\$2,000)
- 2024 *Joseph E. Persico ’52 Fellowship*, History Department, University at Albany. (\$1,400)
- 2023 – 2024 *Research Fellow*, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine. (\$5,000)
- 2023 *Alfred D. Chandler Jr. Travel Fellowship*, Harvard Business School. (\$2,000)
- 2023 *H. B. du Pont Fellowship*, Hagley Museum and Library. (\$2,000)
- 2022 *Hagley Exploratory Grant*, Hagley Museum and Library. (\$500)
- 2022 *Joseph E. Persico ’52 Fellowship*, History Department, University at Albany. (\$3,000)
- 2020 – 2022 *Fulbright Graduate Study Award*, Fulbright Program. (\$70,000)
- 2018 – 2019 *Junior Fellow - Research Grant*, Graduate School, Korea University. (\$2,000)
- 2018 *Herald Yu Kim Scholarship*, Korea University. (\$1,500)

- 2016 – 2018 *College of Humanities' Research Scholarship*, Korean Ministry of Education. (\$14,000)
- 2016 *Research Grant*, Jung-am Foundation. (\$1,500)

#### Conference and Workshop Travel Funding

- 2025 *Divine Travel Grant*, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.
- 2025 *Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. Travel Grants*, Business History Conference.
- 2025 *ASEH Travel Grant*, American Society of Environmental History.
- 2024 *Honorarium for the Doctoral Colloquium*, Business History Conference.
- 2024 *Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. Travel Grants*, Business History Conference.
- 2023 *SHOT-NSF Travel Grant*, Society for the History of Technology.
- 2023 *Travel Grant*, British Academy.
- 2023 *Travel Grant for the CHESS 2023 Workshop*, Western University.
- 2022 *Annette K. Baxter Travel Grant*, American Studies Association.
- 2018 *Travel Grant*, Institute for New Economic Thinking.

### **AWARDS**

- 2022 *Arthur A. Ekirch, Jr. Prize*, History Department, University at Albany.  
- Best research paper on American history.
- 2019 *Best Master's Thesis of the Year*, The Korean Society for Western History.
- 2018 *Best Teaching Fellow of the Semester*, General Education Center, Korea University.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCES**

- 2022 - 2023 Teaching Assistant, History Department, University at Albany.  
- *AHIS100 American Political and Social History I*: Instructed 3 discussion sections, mentored during office hours, and graded mid-terms and papers.  
- *HIS 131 History of European Civilization II*: Developed course materials and lectured for three weeks, graded biweekly writing assignments.
- 2020 Course Designer, *Western History Kindergarten*, Artha (a Korean adult-education company).  
- Wrote a textbook on western history since ancient Rome to present.
- 2019 - 2020 Organizer, Global History Seminar, Graduate School, Korea University.  
- Led a one-year reading seminar with junior graduate students.
- 2018 - 2019 Organizer, History of Capitalism Seminar, Graduate School, Korea University.  
- Led a one-year reading seminar with junior graduate students.

- 2017 - 2018 Teaching Fellow, General Education Center, Korea University.  
 - Instructed 13 discussion sections, mentored during office hours.  
 Awarded as the *Best Teaching Fellow* in Spring 2018.
- 2017 - 2018 Teaching Assistant, Department of History, Korea University.  
 - Graded writing assignments and midterms.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

- 2019 Assistant Researcher, *Developing the Online Modules for Democratic Civic Education*, Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education.  
 - A government project to develop online-education units for high school students.
- 2019 Assistant Researcher, *Conceptualizing the Online Platform for Democratic Civic Education*, Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education.
- 2017 - 2018 Research Assistant, Department of History, Korea University.
- 2012 - 2013 Recovery Team, Agency for KIA (killed in action) Recovery and Identification, Republic of Korea Army.  
 - Collected oral histories from war veterans who experienced the Korean War (1950 – 1953). Mandatory military service.

## SERVICE

- 2020 Communication Staff, 7<sup>th</sup> *Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network*, “*Borderland Futures: Technologies, Zones, Co-Existence*,” Reconciliation and Coexistence in Contact Zones, Chung-Ang University (postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak).  
 - Communicated with conference participants and sponsors.
- 2017 - 2019 Associate Editor, *Sa Chong (Historical Journal)*, The Institute of the Study of History, Korea University.  
 - Communicated with reviewers and authors, managed administrative processes.
- 2014 - 2015 Archivist, Korea University Student Library.  
 - Built an archival system to keep documents produced by student organizations.

## OTHER EXPERIENCES

- 2020 Translator, *Daily Report on New Knowledge of Covid-19*, Gyeonggi Infectious Control Center.  
 - Translated 84 academic articles and government documents to provide public health officials with the newest knowledge during the pandemic.

- 2020 Translator, *Infection Prevention Update*, Infection Control Consulting Network.
- 2014 - 2017 Reporter, *Korea University Business Alumni Quarterly*.  
 - Wrote feature articles and interviews of businesspeople in South Korea.
- 2011 Organizer, *Reducing Carbon in the Campus*  
 - A voluntary environmental campaign.

## **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS**

American Society for Environmental History

Business History Conference

Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era

Society for the History of Technology

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations