

# Ekra Miezán

## U-PEACE STUDIES

Graduate School of International and Area Studies

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### Current Positions

- Full-time Professor

### Teaching and Research Fields

- Media, Conflicts and Peace Studies
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Research Methodologies
- Development and Global Studies

### Experience and Past Positions

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|--------------|---|
| 2009-Present | Professor, GSIAS, HUFS  |
| 2009-2009    | Lecturer/Assistant Professor, Clark University, Worcester, MA.    |
| 2007-2009    | Lecturer/Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts-Amherst |

### Education

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|-----------|---|
| 1994-2000 | Ph. D., University of Massachusetts-Amherst, USA            |
| 1991-1996 | M.A., University of Massachusetts-Amherst, USA              |
| 1987-1988 | Second B.A coursework, University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire |
| 1986-1987 | M.A/C2, University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire                |

1983-1986      B.A., University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

## Honors and Fellowships

2008-9              Nominated for the 2008-2009 Distinguished Teaching Award, University of Massachusetts.

2000:              Dissertation nominated and chosen by the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, for the Distinguished Dissertation Award of the Council of Graduate Schools (Sole nominee of the University).

1993-1996:        Several-time Recipient of the Outstanding Teaching and Course Evaluations in the Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

## Publications

### \* Book Chapter

- Sun, Chyng, Ekra Miezian, Rachel Liberman. "Model Minority/Honorable Eunuch: The Dual Image of Asian American Men in the Media and Everyday Perception." In D. Kellner & R. Hammer (Eds.), *Media/Cultural Studies: Critical Approaches*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing Group, 2009.

### \* Conference Presentations

- Globalization of Korean Public Administration: International Cooperation and Public Governance. Moderator, Section IV, "International Cooperation (ODA). Organized by SAPA (Seoul Association for Public Administration), October 25, 2013.

- Social Resilience and Biodiversity Protection: Challenges in Protecting a Biodiversity Hotspot in a Rural Area of the Developing World. Paper presented at the BIT's 1st Annual International Conference of Emerging Industry-2013, Shenzhen, China, November 6-7, 2013.

- Biodiversity Protection of the Taï National Park in Côte D'Ivoire: Management Policies and Challenges: Paper presented at the BIT's 2nd Annual World Congress of Biodiversity, Ecology, and Environment, Nanjing, China, April 25-27, 2013.
  
- Korea Global Leadership: Accomplishments and Challenges. Panelist, May 8, 2012. Organized by Korean Development Institute (KDI), Seoul, Korea.
  
- Industrialization of Africa and Partnership with Korea. Discussant, November 11, 2011. Organized by Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET), Seoul, Korea.
  
- Korean Foreign Aid and International Development. Organized by ODA Watch, Seoul, Korea, June 2010.
  
- "The Past, Present, and Future of Africa and African Women." Paper presented at the Cooperation Between Asia and Africa: In Search of a New Model of Development for Young Women." Organized by Duksung Women's University, August 26, 2011, Seoul, Korea.
  
- "The Propaganda Model Revisited." Paper presented at the 2010 Winter Conference of the International Society for Chomskyan Society, Kwangwoon University, Seoul, Korea, February 27, 2010.
  
- "Africans and African-Americans as Friends or Foes: Barack Obama's Burden." Paper presented at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Communication Association Philadelphia, PA. April 25, 2009: [http://associationdatabase.com/aws/ECA/asset\\_manager/get\\_file/6663](http://associationdatabase.com/aws/ECA/asset_manager/get_file/6663)

\* Peer-reviewed Journal

- Ekra Miezán, 2013. "Biodiversity Protection and Social Resilience: Case of the Taï National Park and Its Rural Communities in Côte D'Ivoire." *Journal of the Korean Association of African Studies*, 39, 219-242.

- Ekra Miezani. "Propaganda Model Revisited." *International Society of Chomskyan Studies*, Summer, 2010.

**Research statement:**

**Option 1:**

**Types of fathers**

**Changes of fatherhood in children's education achievements**

**Specific cases – what are the connective points of these 3 types of fatherhood**

**Socio-economic constraints forcing families separations in support of children's education. Case studies of families in Korea, Japan and Romania. (possible title).**

*The changing fatherhood has to do with temporary family separation / a necessary / forced family separation.*

**Research questions: up to 5, 3 is better.**

**Examples:**

- 1. How does fatherhood moving affect the children's education achievements in South Korea / Japan / Romania?**
- 2. What is the impact of fathers moving on the families' dynamics? / the cohesion of families in South Korea / Japan / Romania?**
- 3. What are the governments doing to keep families together in South Korea / Japan / Romania?**

**(Hypothesis is later)**

**Option 2:**

**Problems:**

- Unwed mothers face difficulties and discrimination in employment and education in South Korea**
- Children of South Korean unwed mothers face discrimination in education, employment and other life opportunities.**
- South Korean legislation (children bearing father's name and children's name written in the father's family book) causes issues for single mothers registering their children.**
- Both unwed mothers and their children have limited opportunities due to the social stigma that surrounds unwed motherhood.**

**Research questions:**

**How can unwed mothers in Korea achieve educational and employment freedom?**

**How can the children of unwed mothers in Korea achieve educational and employment success?**

**What public support exists for unwed mothers and their children in South Korea to achieve educational and employment freedom?**

**What are public and private institutions in Japan, Romania and Colombia doing to support unwed mothers to achieve educational and employment freedom / support?**

*Comparative policy analysis of unwed motherhood integration to create a more comprehensive policy of unwed motherhood integration?*

*Unwed motherhood and socio-economic integration.*

**Possible title: Unwed motherhood and socio-economic integration. Comparative analysis between South Korea, Japan, Romania and Colombia.**

<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/9/7/208/htm>

[https://books.google.co.kr/books?id=dLpOkMwsu-QC&pg=PA365&lpg=PA365&dq=research+on+east+asian+father&source=bl&ots=jsb8ZdIHxQ&sig=ACfU3U0OBKJv4oGVvFxIVgdDW5deidIJoA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiztv7O4KroAhUxGaYKHQN\\_AREQ6AEwCHoECAoQAO#v=onepage&q=research%20on%20east%20asian%20father&f=false](https://books.google.co.kr/books?id=dLpOkMwsu-QC&pg=PA365&lpg=PA365&dq=research+on+east+asian+father&source=bl&ots=jsb8ZdIHxQ&sig=ACfU3U0OBKJv4oGVvFxIVgdDW5deidIJoA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiztv7O4KroAhUxGaYKHQN_AREQ6AEwCHoECAoQAO#v=onepage&q=research%20on%20east%20asian%20father&f=false)

### **Option 1:**

#### **Research question:**

**How have the social, economic and political / policy changes of the 21st century modified the position and role of fathers in the family? Comparative study between South Korea, Japan and Romania.**

Although fathers are still considered world wide as the providers for their families, different types of fatherhood have developed in different countries, due to each country's economic level, social and cultural constructs and family related policies.

This research analyzes the way fatherhood has changed in South Korea, Japan and Romania in the 21st century, by emphasizing the differences related to the role and involvement of fathers in family life.

The hypothesis is that there are significant differences among the three countries, as follows: South Korea with high incidence of nonresident wives and children and penguin, eagle fathers, or other types of fathers from a distance; In the case of Japan, the tendency is for fathers to migrate for work related matters, leaving at home their children and wives; Finally, in Romania, there is a high number of migrant mothers to neighbouring countries in order to find better paid employment, leaving behind the husbands and children.

The purpose of this research is to analyze how the state is promoting fathers' involvement in family life through state policies and programs, how the level of economic

development influences fathers' presence at home and finally how the cultural and social constructs influence the role of fathers and their presence or absence in the family's matters.

The research will use a mixed methods approach: first, it will analyze the existing literature and policies, followed by interviews with fathers from the 3 countries to understand their own perspectives on fatherhood, their struggles and future perspectives.

## **Option 2:**

### **Research question:**

**How do public and private institutions in South Korea, Japan, Romania and Colombia protect and care for unwed mothers and their children, and what are the consequences on the development and success of those mothers and children?**

Social stigma forces unwed mothers all around the globe to either give up their children or to have a life full of struggles and hardships. However, in the last decades, many changes have been identified regarding the apparition of supportive policies, social support programs and allowances which encourage unwed mothers and their children to become active members in the economy and provides them better opportunities.

The investigation focuses on analyzing and comparing four countries with significant differences concerning the approach on unwed motherhood: South Korea with the strictest society, with weak policies and weak social support, Japan and its policies to invite unwed mothers to move to specific areas and cover employment in the country's struggling sector - elder's care, Romania and its extensive social protection for unwed mothers and their children and finally Colombia, with its especially high number of unwed mothers and unique support measures.

Each of the four countries have a particular way of addressing the matter and could definitely benefit from learning from each other's experiences.

The research will use a mixed methods approach, in the first it analyzes the existing literature on the matter for each country, with their own supportive policies and programs for unwed mothers. In the second part interviews with unwed mothers and support associations or programs in all 4 countries will be conducted, in order to understand better their situation, their struggles and the necessary improvements they require for a better future.

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-06-06/why-japan-paying-single-mothers-move-countryside>  
Romania, where a woman's marital status has little to say when getting a job. State support: <https://www.infomedica.ro/mama-singuratica-drepturile-si-privilegiile-mamei-singuratice-care-si-creste-copilul/>, and finally on Colombia, with its especially high number of unwed mothers; - Crepes and waffles restaurants chain - <https://news.trust.org/item/20140513102727-it76s/>