Jenna Gibson

jgibson6@nd.edu
http://www.jennargibson.com

Academic Appointments

University of Notre Dame
Assistant Director and Senior Research Fellow (2025-Present)
O'Brien Notre Dame International Security Center

Education

University of Chicago
Ph.D., Political Science (2025)
Fields: International Relations (*with Distinction*), American Politics
Dissertation: "Unpacking Diplospeak: Diplomatic Rhetoric and Communication in IR"
Committee: Drs. John Mearsheimer (Chair), Austin Carson, and Rochelle Terman

Georgetown University
M.S., Foreign Service (2015), *Academic Honors*

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
B.J., Journalism, French, & International Studies (2011), *Magna cum laude and Honors*

Research

Peer Reviewed

Gibson, J. & Istad, F. (2025). "Towards a Political Model of Soft Power: An Empirical Evaluation of South Korean Foreign Policy." *Asian Survey.* (Read Here)

Istad, F., **Gibson, J.**, & Curran, N. (2022). "More or Less a Foreigner: Domestic Reception of Multinational K-Pop Groups." *Asian Journal of Social Science* 50 (4): 268–75. (Read Here)

Curran, N. & **Gibson, J.** (equal authorship) (2019). "Conflict and Responsibility: Content Analysis of American News Media Organizations' Framing of North Korea." *Media, War & Conflict* (Read Here)

Other Academic Publications

Gibson, J. & Herman, Tamar. (2022). "Entertainment and Equity in the Era of 'Ontact.'" in *South Korean Popular Culture in the Global Context: Beyond the Fandom.* Sojin Lim, ed. (pp. 60-76). Routledge. (Read Here)

Gibson, J. & Curran, N. (2021). "Rocket Man and the Rocket Nation: Visual Portrayals of North Korea. in *Diplomatic and Mediated Arguments in the North Korean Crisis: Engaging the Hermit Kingdom.* Thomas Hollihan, ed., Palgrave Macmillan. (Read Here)

Gibson, J. (2020). "YouTube Diplomacy: A Sentiment Analysis of Global Reactions to the 2018 Concert in Pyongyang." in *Collection of Essays on Korea's Public Diplomacy: Possibilities and Future Outlook*. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Korea. (Read Here)

Gibson, J. (2019). "How K-pop Broke the West: An Analysis of Western Media Coverage from 2009 to 2019." *The International Journal of Korean Studies* 12 (2) 22-47. (Read Here)

Working Papers

Gibson, J. "Rookie Mistake? The Causes and Consequences of Diplomatic Gaffes." (R&R)

Gibson, J., Lee, S.Y., & James, S. "'Just buy a lightstick. You have to buy a lightstick': Fandom and Familiarity in Korean Protest Participation." (R&R)

Gibson, J. "Pulling Back the Curtain: Dramaturgical Analysis of a Diplomatic Gaffe." (R&R)

Gibson, J. "What's in a Name: Honorifics as Diplomatic Communication." (Under Review)

Baik, J. & **Gibson, J.** "Thou Shalt Not Interfere in Internal Affairs: China's Foreign Policy Rhetoric."

Fellowships and Awards

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
Selected as one of ten scholars for the 2026-7 U.S.-Korea NextGen Scholars Program

Academy of Korean Studies
Korean Studies Grant for Academic Research (2026, with Felicia Istad & Jongyoon Baik), $5,500

University of Chicago
Grodzins Prize Lectureship (2024-25), $5,000
Bienen Summer Research Award (2020), $1,000
Social Sciences Fellowship in Political Science (2018-2025), Full tuition & stipend coverage

Fulbright Program
Grantee, Open Study/Research (2022-23), $25,000

Academy of Korean Studies, Republic of Korea
Next Generation Korean Studies Scholar Paper Award (2022, with Felicia Istad)

University of Chicago Center for International Social Science Research
Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph Field Research Award (2022-2023), $2,500

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
2020 Korean Public Diplomacy Paper Contest Grand Prize (2020)

U.S. Department of Education/University of Chicago Center for East Asian Studies
Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) for Korean Language, Summer (2019), $3,714, & Academic Year (2018-19), $33,000

Service

Faculty Mentor, Women in International Security (Notre Dame Chapter), 2026-present

Faculty Coordinator, The Menard Family Seminar Series, ONDISC (Spring 2026)

Student Coordinator, Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago (2020-2022)

Member, Board of Directors, Friends of Korea (2016-Present)

Member, Fulbright Korea Alumni Fund Grant Review Board (2016-2019)

Reviewer, *International Security*, *Open Cultural Studies*, *International Journal of Korean Unification Studies*, *All Azimuth*, *Cogent Social Sciences*, *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, etc.

Conferences and Workshops

Participant, *Korean Political Science Colloquium*, 2024-25 and **Co-Convener**, 2025-26.

Participant, *5th Annual International Relations Theory Colloquium*, 2024-25.

Presenter, *Workshop on Diplomats & Bureaucrats in IR*, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University, 2024, Princeton, New Jersey.

Presenter, American Political Science Association Annual Conference: 2020, 2023, 2025-26

Presenter, International Studies Association Annual Conference: 2019-22, 2024-26

Presenter, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference: 2025-26

Presenter, World Congress for Korean Politics & Society Biannual Conference: 2017, 2019, 2023

University Teaching

University of Notre Dame
Embassy Country Team Operations: From Strategic Policy to Tactical Execution Across the Interagency (Fall 2026), Instructor of Record

University of Chicago
Grodzins Prize Lectureship, *Diplomacy and the Conduct of International Relations* (Winter 2025), Instructor of Record

Head Teaching Assistant, *American Grand Strategy* (Winter 2021)

Teaching Assistant, *Practice of Social Science Research* (Spring 2021)

Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to International Relations* (Fall Quarter 2020)

Teaching Assistant, *War and the Nation State* (Winter Quarter 2020)

Chicago Center for Teaching
Completed course *Fundamentals of Teaching in the Social Sciences* (Fall 2019)

Work Experience

University of Chicago
Research Assistant for Dr. Rochelle Terman (March-June 2019 & February-December 2020)

Korea Economic Institute
Director of Communications (2016-18)
Associate Director for Communication Technology and Programs (2015)

U.S. State Department
Intern, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (2014)

Reporters Without Borders
DC Director Assistant (2014)

Daily Nebraskan, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Reporter (2007-09), News Editor (2009-10), & Editor-in-Chief (2010-11)

Selected Public Scholarship

Gibson, J. "Persuasion and Its Limits: A Practical Guide to Soft Power." Paper for Congressional Affairs Roundtable, The National Bureau of Asian Research, February 24, 2025.

Gibson, J. "K-Diplomacy: Soft Power, Global Impact." Invited Talk, World Affairs Council of Dallas Fort Worth, October 12, 2023.

Gibson, J. "American Attitudes Towards the Korean Peninsula." Invited Talk, Korea Economic Institute, December 1, 2022.

Gibson, J. "A New Era for Cooperation? The U.S.-ROK Alliance After the Moon-Biden Summit." Invited Talk, Center for American Progress, May 26, 2021.

Gibson, J. "How South Korean Pop Culture Can Be a Source of Soft Power." Article. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, December 15, 2020.

Gibson, J. "Sudden Death Of A Young K-Pop Star Spurs Talk Of Action On Mental Health, Bullying." Article. NPR, October 16, 2019.

Gibson, J. "K-Pop's Sexual Assault Scandal Is the Tip of the Iceberg." Article. *Foreign Policy*, March 21, 2019.

Regular Contributor & Korea Columnist for *The Diplomat* (magazine), 2016-2021.

Selected Media Coverage

Mendelson, Allegra. "South Korea wins hearts and minds with KPop Demon Hunters." *The Telegraph*, Sept 21, 2025.

"War is ravaging Ukraine. What can we expect for the future of global diplomacy?." (Radio) *Disrupted, Connecticut Public Radio*, March 23, 2022.

"Expert's take on China's crackdown on S. Korean entertainers." (Video) *Arirang News*, Nov 30, 2021.

"Experts Explain How K-Pop Exploded in America — Expert Perspectives." (Video) *The New Yorker*, Dec 8, 2020.

Simon, Scott. "Two Stars' Suicides Draw Scrutiny To Pressures Of K-Pop Industry, Fans." (Radio) *NPR*, Nov 30, 2019.

Hu, Elise. "The Sex Scandals Shaking K-Pop And A Reckoning Over How South Korea Regards Women." *NPR*, March 15, 2019.

Pickles, Matt. "K-pop drives boom in Korean language lessons." *BBC News*, July 11, 2018.

Labott, Elise; McLaughlin, Jenna; Liptak, Kevin. "Sticking point on Trump-Kim talks: Location, location, location." *CNN*, April 19, 2018.

Skills

Data Analysis
LaTeX, R, Qualtrics

Languages
Korean: Advanced proficiency
French: Undergraduate major, intermediate proficiency
Japanese: Undergraduate minor, beginner proficiency

Multimedia Skills
Experience editing video and audio projects; extensive photography experience; comfortable with Adobe Suite to create infographics, photo books and flyers

References

John Mearsheimer
R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service
Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago
j-mearsheimer@uchicago.edu

Austin Carson
Associate Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago
acarson@uchicago.edu

Rochelle Terman
Assistant Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago
rterman@uchicago.edu