

# **Yumi Shimabukuro, Ph.D.**

School of International & Public Affairs  
Columbia University  
420 West 118th Street 901-D New York, NY 10027  
[yts2002@columbia.edu](mailto:yts2002@columbia.edu)

## **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

### **Columbia University**

Director, Urban and Social Policy Program, School of International & Public Affairs,  
Executive Master of Public Administration (2019-Present)

Co-Director, Global Leadership MPA, School of International and Public Affairs (2026-  
Present)

Acting Director, Urban & Social Policy and U.S. Specialization MIA/MPA, School of  
International & Public Affairs (2025-Present)

Co-Founder, Japanese Management Leadership Program, Center on Japanese Economy  
and Business, Columbia Business School (2020-Present)

Lecturer in the Discipline of Social Welfare Policy and Global Leadership; Faculty Lead of  
the Picker Center for Executive Education, School of International and Public Affairs  
(2017-Present)

## **EDUCATION**

### **Harvard University**

- Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations (2013)
- Research Associate, Reischauer Institute (2014-Present)

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

- Ph.D., Department of Political Science (2013)
- Fields: Political economy and comparative social welfare policy
- Dissertation: *Democratization and the Development of Japan's Uneven Welfare State*

### **Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs**

- Master of International Affairs (2003)
- Concentration: International Economic Policy, East Asia Regional Specialization

### **Lewis and Clark College**

- Bachelor of Arts (2000)
- Major: International Affairs Minor: Political Economy and East Asian Studies

## **RESEARCH**

***Misery Beneath the Miracle in East Asia*** (Cornell University Press 2024, Weatherhead East Asian Institute Asia Book Series, with AJ Lukauskas)

*Misery Beneath the Miracle* reveals an unsettling reality that challenges prevailing views of the East Asian miracle. Existing scholarship generally has overlooked the severity, persistence, and harmful consequences of the social welfare crises affecting the region; this volume fills this gap and puts a major asterisk on its economic record. Combining big-picture analysis, abundant data, a dynamic interdisciplinary framework, and powerful human stories, it sheds light on the social ills—from elderly poverty, working poverty, child maltreatment, to affordable housing crises—that governments have failed to address adequately. The book finds that one of the major forces behind the multidimensional welfare crises is the region’s productivist welfare strategy, which prioritizes economic growth while eschewing a robust social safety net, leaving the most vulnerable segments of society largely unprotected. The authors warn that the extreme imbalance between growth and social welfare not only has inflicted devastating human costs but also carries the potential to hurt their economic performance in the long run.

***Rising Above Inequality: Global Lessons from Japanese Women in Leadership*** (with Ryoko Ogino, under contract with Columbia University Press)

*Rising above Inequality* amplifies the voice of Japanese women in leadership positions who have been challenged by particularly acute and sustained gender inequality in the workplace. It explores how they have blossomed into business leaders, distills their lessons for a global audience, and engages with the broader conversations around improving diversity, equity, and inclusivity around the world. The book draws on a wealth of interviews of women business leaders across a wide range of traditionally male-dominated industries. It pairs their concrete narratives and pragmatic advice with statistics, workplace surveys, and academic research to produce a fine-grained yet generalizable understanding of the obstacles at hand and effective ways of overcoming them.

***Transferable Teaching Skills: The Science & Strategies for Increasing Adaptive Instructional Capacity in Higher Education*** (Under contract with Oxford University Press)

Your doctoral training was in political history in the United States, but now you’re teaching in a public policy school in Asia. You have a joint appointment in the business school and the department of psychology so you must teach the same subject matter to entirely different audiences and class sizes. Or perhaps you are a professor who has been teaching an undergraduate course but is now trying to figure out a way to compress the semester-long material into a three-day online certificate program. Let’s face it. Faculty in all career tracks increasingly find themselves overextended and asked to teach in unfamiliar, challenging terrains. This timely and practical book equips readers with highly portable instructional strategies and techniques that are easily transferable from one teaching activity to another.

“Shrinking East Asia needs a safety net.” *East Asia Forum*, December 17, 2025.

*Towards a Clean and Healthy Neighborhood: Reducing Street Litter in Central Harlem* (with Nilda Mesa and Debashree Poddar, a joint Columbia University and 125th BID project 2018).

*Building an Inegalitarian Welfare State: The Impact of Dualistic Market Economy and Elite-Made Democracy in Japan* (with AJ Lukauskas, completed book manuscript, in the process of review)

“Varieties of Business and Labor Preferences towards Democratization and Redistribution: Explaining the Micro-Meso-Macro Process of Institutional Change” (working paper)

“How Neoliberal Policy Makes Citizens: Lone Mother Civic Activism and Social Policy Development in Japan” (Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Japanese Studies*)

“Building Democracy and the Welfare State without Labor: The Impact of Dualistic Coordinated Capitalism and Elite Competition in Japan” (Occasional Paper Series, Harvard University)

“Does Christianity Promote Liberal Democracy? Evidence from Japan” (working paper, with M. Ogawara)

“The Non-Linear Process of Institutional Change: The Bank of Japan Reform and Its Aftermath” (with A.J. Lukauskas), *Japanese Journal of Political Science* vol. 7 no. 2 (Summer, 2006): 1-26.

Sex and the Global City: Governing Fertility in Singapore (with A. Lukauskas)

Policy Impasse: Gender Inequality and Human Capital Investment in the Century of the Dragons (work in progress)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PUBLICATION**

***Dream Rut: Navigating Your Path Forward*** (WiseInk Publishing, May 2023).

\*\* Winner of the Grand Prize for the Chanticleer International Book Award 2024 Sharon E. Anderson Short Book & Story, IPPY Award, NYC Big Book Award, National Indie Excellence Award, and the Next Generation Book Award

*Dream Rut* reveals new insights into why people get stuck while chasing their dreams and how to move forward. For many of us, chasing our dreams is synonymous with getting stuck in a loop of doubts and downs. You may have fallen in and out of love with your dream, experienced defeat in your quest, or been unable to identify your dream. *Dream Rut* reframes this frustration into a forward-looking experience through powerful visual aids, eye-opening prompts, and whimsical writing. *Dream Rut* innovates our thinking on dreams and why we fall into a rut in the first place. It transforms how we reinvigorate and rediscover our dreams—not through something that feels like ripping off a bandage or running a strenuous marathon—but through a process that feels more like tending to a plant or relationship that requires constant care, understanding, and appreciation. With brilliant illustrations, fresh design, and uplifting writing, this original work will spark hope, excitement, and meaning.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Columbia University Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching (2025)  
School of International & Public Affairs Faculty Research Grant (2024, 2023)  
Center on Japanese Economy & Business Research Grant, Columbia Business School (2024, 2023)  
School of International & Public Affairs Top-5 Teaching Award, Columbia University (2019)  
Asia-Pacific Research Grant (2016-2017)  
School of International & Public Affairs Outstanding Teaching Award, Columbia University (2016)  
Derek C. Bok Harvard University Teaching Excellence Award (2013)  
Association for Asian Studies Northeast Asia Research Grant (2013)  
Advanced Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, Harvard University (2012)  
Center for Global Partnership Conference Grant (2011)  
Center for International Studies Research Grant (2008, 2010)  
Social Science Research Council Fellowship (2007)  
Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship, George Mason University (2007)  
MIT Graduate Fellowship (2005-2008)  
Columbia University Research Fellowship (2002-2003)

## TEACHING AT COLUMBIA AND HARVARD UNIVERSITY

- **PUAF U6228 Comparative Social Welfare Policy, 2016–2026.** This core course explores welfare systems from a comparative perspective and analyzes the political, economic, socio-cultural, and historical factors that shape and sustain them in advanced industrialized countries. It pays particular attention to the development of key national social welfare policies, such as social security, health care, unemployment insurance, social assistance, childcare, tax expenditure, and public employment and training, and emerging best practice in these areas.
- **IA 6000 Leadership and Global Policy Challenges, 2026.** The course provides students with an immersion into five Global Policy Challenges: Geopolitical Stability, Climate and Sustainable Development, Democratic Resilience, Inclusive Prosperity and Macroeconomic Stability, and Technology and Innovation.
- **EMPA U6230 Political Economy Graduate Seminar, 2015–2026.** This seminar surveys the defining political economy issues of our time. It explores the interplay between politics and economics in the substantive issue areas of trade, finance, investment, development, and redistribution. It utilizes the most provocative, influential contributions in multiple disciplines and incorporates a wide range of research methods.
- **PEPM U4050 Global Leadership Development 2020–2026.** This mid-career global leadership development course provides intensive, collaborative, and highly interactive hands-on instruction, constructive evaluation, and ample opportunities to transform theory into practice. Students will acquire a variety of leadership skills in global contexts, including cross-cultural negotiation strategies, consensus building, collaborative facilitation, persuasion, inclusionary leadership, design-thinking-based problem-solving techniques, and public speaking in knowledge-intensive industries.

- **PUIAF U6239 Comparative Urban Policy, 2016** Studying global developing cities, such as Rio De Janeiro, Johannesburg, Shanghai, or Mumbai, has never been more important. In spite of these cities' conspicuous differences, many of them share a set of challenges, including: sprawl, poor sanitation, poverty, inequality, pollution, corruption, crime, and demographic changes. This course helps one develop a keener understanding of these challenges and the governance strategies and innovative solutions to these problems.
- **PUIAF U6244 Urban Social Policy, 2017-2022.** This course surveys social policymaking processes and outcomes from the perspective of cities in various parts of the world. It offers students analytical and empirical tools to better understand urban social problems (e.g., slums, homelessness, youth unemployment, child abuse, health risks) and the corresponding policies that promote more affordable, productive, inclusive, and healthier cities amidst fiscal constraints and intense economic competition.
- **PEPM U6720 Social Investment & Economic Growth, 2015-2017.** This economic policy management course investigates the nexus between economic growth and social investment policies (e.g., education, housing, social assistance, labor market policies, and healthcare) and how a variety of factors, including political actors, processes, and institutions, influence the nature of the relationship.
- **EMPA U6233 International Political Economy, 2018.** This course surveys the politics of international economic relations. It examines the principal conceptual approaches in the field of international political economy and basic elements of several key substantive issue areas such as money, finance, trade, development, investment, and globalization.
- **EMPA U6510 Managing Social and Economic Risk, 2014-2017.** This graduate-level course examined when, how, and why governments play the roles of risk managers to reallocate or reduce socio-economic risks. It introduced students to the fundamental theories, methodological perspectives, and recent research in the field of political economy of redistribution and inequality.
- **PEPM U6710 Building Welfare States in East Asia, 2014.** This seminar offered a detailed examination of recent research on the political economy of redistribution in East Asian countries (China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore) and explored why they have shown markedly divergent responses.
- **Political Economy of Japan, Harvard University, 2013.** This course explored the interaction of political parties, the bureaucracy, interest groups, and the media, with an emphasis on the ongoing transformation of the Japanese political and economic systems. The class combined lectures, discussion, small group exercises, and case study presentations.
- **Senior Thesis Evaluation, the Department of Government at Harvard University, 2013.** Evaluated senior theses for the comparative politics section and provided students with suggestions for reading materials, appropriate methodologies, and the basic conceptualization of their research projects.

## **SELECTED EXECUTIVE EDUCATION (TEACHING AND/OR DIRECTING)**

**Richard Rockefeller Fellowship Program.** This program empowers social entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders from China dedicated to promoting sustainable development and addressing climate issues. It bridges academic thinking with practical action to help fellows scale impactful initiatives and create lasting positive change.

**The Police Management Institute.** PMI is an eight-month custom program for the New York City Police Department (NYPD) first launched by Columbia University in 1989. The program focuses on strategy, operations, leadership, and communications and is a foundational element for leaders of the NYPD.

**Mujeres por Africa.** The four-day executive training program, designed in partnership with Fundación Mujeres por Africa, seeks to empower participants to make a lasting impact in their individual fields. The program combined classroom lectures, engaging activities, and a visit to New York's City Hall to provide an immersive and enriching experience.

**Program in Governance, Sustainability, and Urban Renewal.** A 1-week program in partnership with the Taipei City Government focused on environmentally sustainable development, urban renewal and regeneration, social support, and good governance in the public sector.

**Practices in Economic Development.** "Managing for Social Progress" course designed for COMFAMA, one of Colombia's largest family equalization funds located in Medellin that provides health, education, credit, and recreation benefits to the more than 500,000 families that are affiliated with the organization.

**Managing Macroeconomic Risk in Emerging Markets, Brazilian Senior Executives Program.** In conjunction with BI International, this Picker Center program covers financial crises, policy responses to crises, macroeconomic policy trends in Latin America, developments in international trade, and the new international political economy.

**Fire Officers Management Institute Program.** Eight-week comprehensive, in-residence management curriculum for senior officers of the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) offered by the Picker Center and Columbia Business School's Institute for Nonprofit Management.

**Japanese Management Leadership Program, Columbia Business School.** This program offers customized leaders-in-learning workshops and research seminars for the Visiting Fellows of the Center on Japanese Economy and Business and Columbia Business School students throughout the year.

**Fostering Innovation Program, Korean University Graduate School of Management of Technology.** Intensive three-day program on human-centered design, collaborative global leadership development, and international affairs policy training.

**Australia & New Zealand School of Government's Public Leadership Masterclass Series.** This leadership program is for mid to senior-level leaders in various government positions and exposes them to fresh ideas, and provides an invaluable opportunity for self-reflection and professional growth.

**Managing Socio-Economic Risks, Externado University.** The SIPA-Externado partnership comprises a series of Master's degree and specialization programs at the Externado campus in Bogotá, Colombia. The curriculum included a number of different but related management, finance, and international affairs classes. Taught over 1,000 students in the course of over 5 years.

### SELECTED RECENT PRESENTATIONS

“Innovation & Leadership: Policing in an Aging Society” (April 2026, Columbia-PMI, Windrose on Hudson)

“AI-Powered Design Thinking & Public Policy Innovation” (March 2026, Sumitomo Scholarship Program)

“Overview of Global Trends in Grassroots Governance” (December 2025, Peking University Conference)

“The Quest for Shared Growth in East Asia” (Weatherhead East Asian Institute, February 2025)

“Human-Centered Design and Its Multiple Applications in Public Policy” (GE Learning Center, February 2025)

“Sumitomo Scholars Program: Dynamic Career Path Development” (Columbia Business School, March 2024).

“Creative Problem-Solving: Child Welfare and the Future of FDNY,” (GE Leadership Center, Crotonville, NY March 2024).

“Gender/DEI in Japan and Design Thinking for the Private and Public Sector” (Columbia Business School October 2023).

“How to Think Outside the Box” (ANZSOG, Online June and October 2023).

“Gender Inequality in Japan from a Career Development Perspective,” (CJEB Annual Conference & Workshop, Tokyo May 2023).

“Career Path Development and Visioning for Emerging Japanese Leaders” (Columbia Business School, April 2023).

“Democracy and Aging in Japanese Politics” (Columbia University, December 2022).

“Japan-Focused Design Thinking for the Private and Public Sector” (Columbia Business School Education, October 2022).

“Human-Centered Design, Child Welfare, and the Future of FDNY,” (GE Leadership Center, Crotonville, NY April 2022).

“Affordable Housing Crisis and Covid-19” (U.S. Department of State Speaker Series, November 2021)

“Design Thinking and the Practice of Ideation” (Columbia Business School, October 2021).

“Human-Centered Design and Its Multiple Applications in Public Policy” (Columbia University Executive Education, February 2021).

“Effective Knowledge Transfer and Data Visualization” (Columbia Business School, October, 2020).

“Bamboo Ceiling Research and Breakthrough Strategies” (Columbia University, May 2020).

“Covid-19: Economic Implications for Japan and the United States” (Columbia Business School, May 2020).

“Empowering Emerging Leaders in the Covid-Era” (Columbia Business School, April 2020).

“From Miracle to Misery: The Other Story of East Asia’s Economic Progress” (Columbia University, April 2020).

“Human-Centered Design, Child Welfare, and the Future of FDNY” (GE Leadership Center, Crotonville, NY February 2020).

“Human-Centered Design and Its Multiple Applications in Public Policy” (Columbia University, November 2019).

“Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: The Asian Leadership Gap” (Columbia University October 2019).

“Comparative Social Protection and Economic Development” (Externado University, Bogota, July 2019).

“Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: Statistical and Practical Lessons” (Columbia Business School, April 2019).

“The Affordable Housing Crisis in the U.S., Asia, and Latin America” (Columbia University Global Cities Initiative, November 2018).

“Greying of Society and Policy Solutions: Asia in Comparative Perspective” (Externado University, Bogota, August 2018).

“Comparative Inequality and Social Policy: United States, Europe, and Japan” (Columbia University, March 2018).

“Building an Inegalitarian Welfare State: The Impact of Dualistic Coordinated Market Economy” (Columbia University, September 2017)

“Global Social Policy Development and Innovation” (Externado Bogota University: June 2017)

“Global Inequality and Public and Private Initiatives” (Columbia University Executive Training: Spring 2017)

“Global Social Policy Innovation” (Columbia University Executive Training: November 2016)

“Gender Inequality and Leadership in Public Affairs” (Columbia University Executive Training: May 2016)

“Effective Knowledge Transfer for Women in Leadership” (Columbia University: March 2016)

“Digital India Panel: Technological Advancements and Social Innovation” (Columbia University: July 2015)

“Winner-Take-All Politics and Economics from a Global Perspective” (Externado Bogota University: July 2015)

“Comparative Social Policy and Growing Inequality” (Columbia University: May 2015)

“Effective Oral Presentation Workshop for Ethnic Minority Women in Leadership” (Columbia University: April 2015)

“The East Asian Miracle at Risk: Economic Growth, Social Investment, and Growing Inequality” (Harvard University: February 2015)

“Japan’s Inegalitarian Welfare State: The Political Economy of Poverty and Redistribution” (University of Toronto: February 2015)

“Effective Knowledge Transferring Workshop for Leaders in Public Affairs” (Columbia University: December 2014)

“The Impact of Christianity on Democratization in East Asia” (Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University: April 2014)

“East Asian Miracle at Risk: Is a Social Crisis Brewing?” (School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University: February 2014)

“The Missionary Roots of Democratic Failure in Japan” (Contemporary Politics Study Group, Harvard University: November 2013)

“Excluding the Poor: The Makings of Japan’s Inegalitarian Welfare State” (Weatherhead Center for Area Studies, Harvard University: September 2012)

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICES AND COMMITTEES**

- Acting Director, Urban & Social Policy Concentration (2017, 2021-2022, 2025-2026)
- Acting Director, US Specialization (2017, 2021-2022, 2025-2026)
- Founder, Global Leadership Development Initiative (now Leading with Impact & Inclusivity Series) (2018-2024)
- Member, Admissions Committee MIA/MPA/PEPM/EMPA (2018-Present)
- Member, Community, Engagement, Leadership Cabinet (2025-Present)
- Member, Belonging & Engagement Committee (2018-Present)
- Faculty Co-Chair, EMPA Diversity Executive Council (2020-2024)
- Member, Office of Career Services Steering Committee (2020-2024)

- Member, Committee on Instructions (2021-2022, 2025-2026)
- Member, EMPA Steering Committee (2019-2021)
- Inquiry Member, Standing Committee on the Conduct of Research, University Research Compliance (2019-2020)
- Member, AC4 Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee (2020-2021)
- Evaluator, Columbia Roosevelt Institute's Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Policy Hackathon (2020-2021)
- Member, Committee on Instructions (2017)
- Member, MARSEA MA Thesis Committee (2017-2018)

### **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING**

Faculty Director and Educational Consultant, USAID

Project: Improving Housing, Education, and Public Health Policy Development in the Republic of Georgia (2021-2025)

Educational Consultant, USAID

Project: Egyptian Administrative Control Authority Program on Gender and Anti-Corruption Training for Public Officials (2023-2024)

### **OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERIENCE**

Nomura Research Institute, Financial Associate

Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, Research Analyst

International Sustainable Development Foundation, Research Analyst

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, Research Analyst

Knowledge Link Cambridge, Consultant

The 125<sup>th</sup> Street Business Improvement District, Consultant

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

Member, Association of Asian Studies

Member, American Political Science Association

Journal Reviewer, *Comparative Politics* and *World Politics*

Book Reviewer, Routledge series on inclusivity and leadership development

Yoga Instructor, Kula for Karma Yoga for Homeless Veterans Initiative

Certified Yoga Instructor, National Yoga Alliance