

The Civil Sphere in East Asia

Leading sociologists who live and work in East Asia examine their region's most dangerous and explosive social problems and some of its most stunning success stories from the viewpoint of civil sphere theory. This new and increasingly influential sociological understanding of democracy aims to describe and explain the moral codes and institutional foundations of democratic solidarity as it manifests itself within a distinct social sphere. Part of a multivolume project, this collection includes cases from Japan, mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea, bringing together efforts by sociologists based in East Asian academic institutions. Through an extraordinary blend of sophisticated social theory and path-breaking empirical research, *The Civil Sphere in East Asia* aims to advance civil sphere theory by globalizing and regionalizing it at the same time.

Jeffrey C. Alexander is the Lillian Chavenson Saden Professor of Sociology at Yale University, where he founded and codirects the Center for Cultural Sociology. He has authored and edited books in the areas of theory, politics, and culture and chaired the American Sociological Association's Theory and Culture sections. Alexander cofounded and chaired the International Sociological Association's Theory Research Committee and received the Foundation Mattei Dogan Prize in Sociology from that association in 2009.

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Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-42783-8 — The Civil Sphere in East Asia

Edited by Jeffrey C. Alexander , Agnes Shuk-mei Ku , Sunwoong Park , David A. Palmer
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Sociology and “How Multicultural Youths Become Koreans” (with Hyun Jeong Woo) in *Social Theory*.

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UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-42783-8 — The Civil Sphere in East Asia
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi - 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108427838

DOI: 10.1017/9781108698368

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First published 2019

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Alexander, Jeffrey C., 1947– editor.

TITLE: The civil sphere in East Asia / edited by Jeffrey Alexander, Agnes Ku, Sunwoong Park, David M. Palmer.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2019. | Includes bibliographical references.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2018042038 | ISBN 9781108427838 (hardback)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Civil society – East Asia. | Political participation – East Asia. | Democracy – East Asia. | East Asia – Politics and government – 21st century. | BISAC: SOCIAL SCIENCE / Sociology / General.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC JQ1499.A9I C58 2019 | DDC 300.95–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018042038>

ISBN 978-1-108-42783-8 Hardback

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978-1-108-42783-8 — The Civil Sphere in East Asia

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*For those who have struggled, theoretically and practically, for civil
repair in East Asia*

Cambridge University Press

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Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-42783-8 — The Civil Sphere in East Asia

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Preface and Acknowledgments

Jeffrey C. Alexander's intellectual interest in East Asian democracy began in China in 1989 when he lectured for a month at Tianjin University in the weeks before the historical protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. In the decade following, Agnes Shuk-mei Ku and Sunwoong Park worked with Alexander at UCLA, completing dissertations on civil society in Hong Kong and Korea, respectively. The idea for the present volume emerged from a conversation between Park and Alexander in Seoul in October 2015. Ku joined in the early planning stages, and David A. Palmer participated in the later ones. Palmer organized a conference bringing contributors together at Hong Kong University (HKU) in May 2017.

We thank HKU's Dean of Social Sciences, John Burns, the HKU Contemporary China Strategic Research Theme, as well as the Department of Sociology for grants that helped sponsor the conference and Kelly Lee and Martin Tse for their organizational assistance. The East Asian Council of Yale University's MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies contributed funds as well. Anne Marie Champagne coordinated the creation of this volume, as she did for the previous volume, and Bernadette Jaworsky provided skillful editing and manuscript preparation.

This book is the second in a series of volumes whose ambition is to globalize civil sphere theory by deprovincializing it. The first volume, *The Civil Sphere in Latin America*, edited by Jeffrey C. Alexander and Carlo Tognato, was published by Cambridge University Press earlier this year. The third volume, *Breaching the Civil Order: Radicalism and the Civil Sphere*, edited by Jeffrey C. Alexander with Trevor Stack and Farhad Khosrokhavar, will be published by Cambridge University Press in early 2019. Other volumes are also in the works, most imminently, *The Nordic Civil Sphere*, edited by Jeffrey C. Alexander with Anna Lund and Andrea Voyer.

Cambridge University Press

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