

The 134th GIST Seminar

Startup Capitalism: New approaches to innovation strategies in East Asia

Speaker:

Prof. Ramon Pacheco Pardo

Professor of International Relations at King's College London and the KF-VUB Korea Chair at the Brussels School of Governance of Vrije Universiteit Brussel

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Vice Dean, Global Engagement, and Reader in Political Economy and Entrepreneurship at King's Business School, King's College London



- ◆ **Date and Time:** 13:30-14:30, Apr 18 Fri, 2025
(Doors open at 14:00)
- ◆ **Venue:** 4th Floor, Research Meeting Room 4A, GRIPS and Online
7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
<http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/about/access/>
- ◆ **Organizer:** GRIPS Innovation, Science and Technology Policy Program (GIST)
- ◆ **Language:** English (No Japanese translation)
- ◆ **Outline:**

The last few decades have seen East Asian governments provide increasing support for startups—new, high-growth, technologically oriented firms. Yet such initiatives do not necessarily benefit the growth of startups as challengers to large, established firms. Rather, they often enable startups to function as boosters for the competitiveness of these firms. Startups, in short, are both disruptors to and resources for big businesses. Klingler-Vidra and Pacheco Pardo demonstrate this dual role by examining the evolution of startup-centric policies in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and China. They show that in the region, what they call startup capitalism—an economic and political system in which startups contribute to employment, innovation, and growth—can take multiple forms. Rich with empirical detail, Klingler-Vidra and Pacheco Pardo reveal how and why startups can end up working with—or even for—large firms to drive a country's technological capabilities. In their recent book *Startup Capitalism*, Robyn Klingler-Vidra and Ramon Pacheco Pardo explore the place of startups in contemporary East Asian economies.

◆ **Speaker's bio**

Prof. Ramon Pacheco Pardo is Professor of International Relations at King's College London and the KF-VUB Korea Chair at the Brussels School of Governance of Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He is also King's Regional Envoy for East and Southeast Asia, helping to shape and implement the university's strategy for the region. His publications include the books *North Korea: Survival of a Political Dynasty* (Agenda Publishing, 2024), *Korea: A New History of South & North* (Yale University Press, 2023; with Victor Cha), *South Korea's Grand Strategy: Making Its Own Destiny* (Columbia University Press, 2023), *Shrimp to Whale: South Korea from the Forgotten War to K-Pop* (Hurst and Oxford University Press, 2022) and *North Korea-US Relations from Kim Jong Il to Kim Jong Un* (Routledge, 2019). Prof. Pacheco Pardo has participated in track 1.5 and 2 dialogues with China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and the United States. He has testified before the European Parliament and consulted and advised NATO, the OECD and the governments of Canada, the EU, South Korea, Spain, the UK and the United States as well as several private firms, among others. Prof Pacheco Pardo is a regular columnist with JoongAng Ilbo. He is also a frequent media commentator on Northeast Asian and affairs and Europe-East Asia and Europe-Indo-Pacific relations. <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/ramon-pacheco-pardo>

Dr. Robyn Klingler-Vidra is Vice Dean, Global Engagement, and Reader in Political Economy and Entrepreneurship at King's Business School, King's College London. She is the author of *The Venture Capital State: The Silicon Valley Model in East Asia* (Cornell University Press, 2018) and *Startup Capitalism: New Approaches to Innovation Strategies in East Asia* (with Ramon Pacheco Pardo, Cornell University Press, 2025). Her research focuses on entrepreneurship, innovation, and venture capital and has been published in leading peer-reviewed journals, including *International Affairs*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *New Political Economy*, *Regulation & Governance*, *Socio-Economic Review*, and *World Development*. Robyn obtained her BA in Political Science at the University of Michigan and her MSc and PhD in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

◆ **Moderator:**

Michiko Iizuka, Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

◆ **Warnings:**

This is an in person and online seminar.

The number of seats onsite is limited to 40 (First-come, first served basis). In the case of over-capacity, we may ask you to participate online.

Zoom link will be sent by the day before the seminar via e-mail.

◆ **Registration:**

Please register at this registration form (<https://forms.gle/hdnAzdu2Q44fDw7N7>) by 17:00, Apr 16 Wed. If you cannot open the form, please send email to GIST Secretariat, gist-ml@grips.ac.jp. Registration email must include: 1) your name, 2) institution, 3) position, and 4) e-mail address.