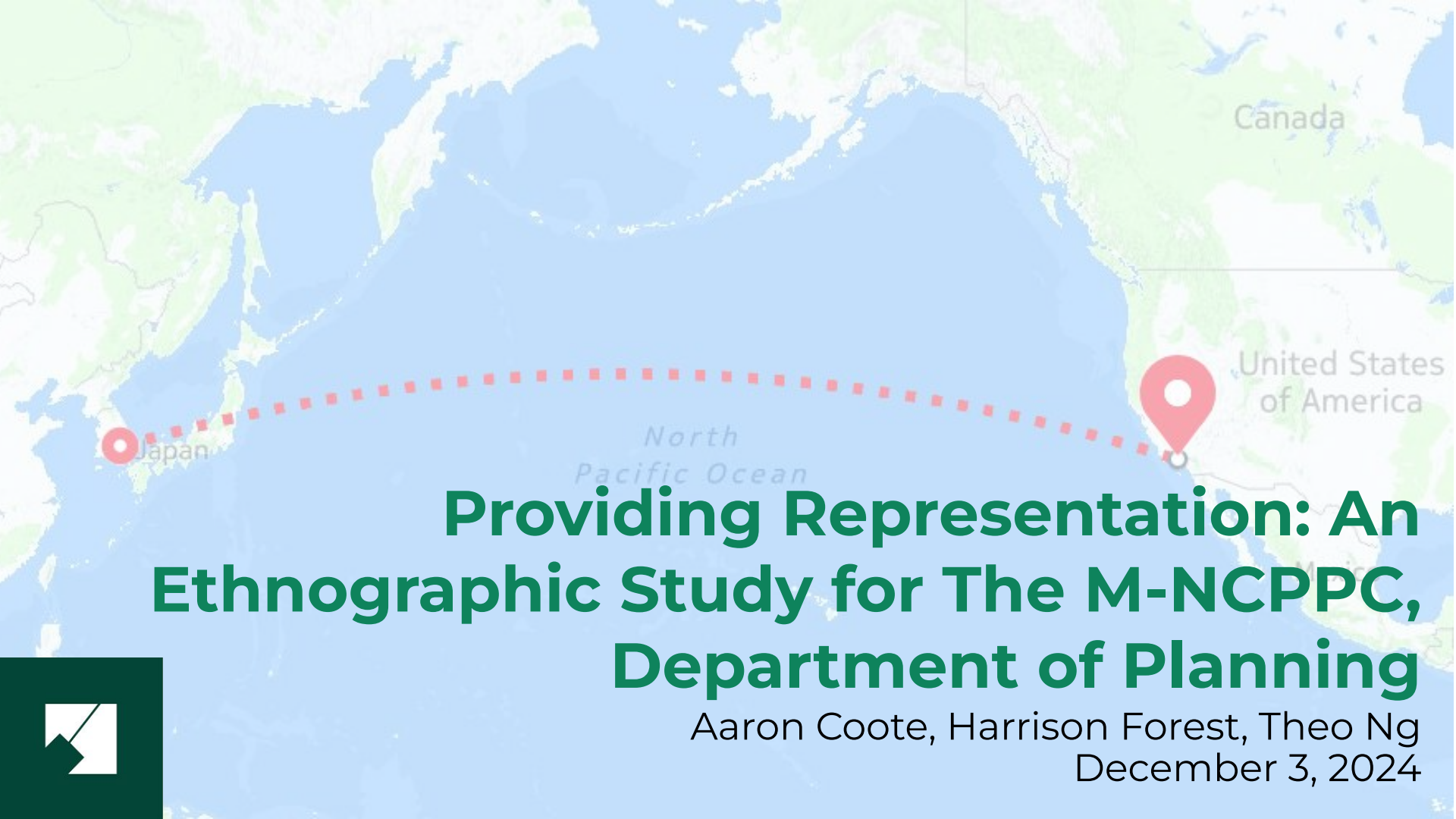

Providing Representation: An Ethnographic Study for The M-NCPPC, Department of Planning

Aaron Coote, Harrison Forest, Theo Ng

December 3, 2024

Agenda

01 Literature Review

02 Findings

03 Recommendations

04 Closing Remarks/Q&A

Literature Review Summary

- Push factors & immigrant stories
- Examine communities like Annandale, VA
- Korean immigration trends since 1965
- Economic impact of Korean immigrants
- Religion & Civic Engagement

Data Collection Strategy Summary

- Interviews
- PG Historical Society site visit
- Literature Review
  - Articles comparing data to Beltsville
  - ~~Different migration waves, push/pull factors~~

Lack of Information

- Poor record-keeping (what do you mean by this)
  - Library lacked information on Beltsville
- Census inaccurately recorded Koreans
  - Aggregating Asian ethnicities, mislabeling

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Jane Choi Honored

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Choi, owners of Neil's Cleaners, travelled to Harvard University in June to attend the graduation of their daughter, Jane. Before enrolling in Harvard, Jane could often be seen filling in for her parents at the cleaners. At Harvard, she received a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture.

Jane was enrolled for three years in Harvard's Graduate School of Design, from which she was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architecture's Certificate of Honor and the Jacob Weidenman Prize—the highest student award for design. She has chosen to remain in Massachusetts, sharing her time between instructing at Harvard and doing "hands on" design for Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates—a landscape architecture firm in Boston.

Wildlife Ex

The National Wi
Center will feature a
wildlife artist Kevin S
ing the month of July.

Kevin's roots are in
county on Maryland
Shore where he deve
passion for studying and
indigenous flora and
acrylics and scratchboa
favorite subjects are gees
and songbirds. Mr. Sn
work has been exhibited
Easton Waterfowl Festival
was chosen to be Mary
Ducks Unlimited sponsor
artist for 1992-3.

The Visitor Center is
daily (except Christmas) fro
- 5:30. Due to construction
must access Powder Mill
from Route 197. For additi
information call 301-497-576

Example of an article on Korean owned dry cleaner in Beltsville

Push Factors

- Korean War
- Political Instability and Repression
  - People fled dictatorship
- Poor economic conditions
  - Low wages, few jobs, etc.

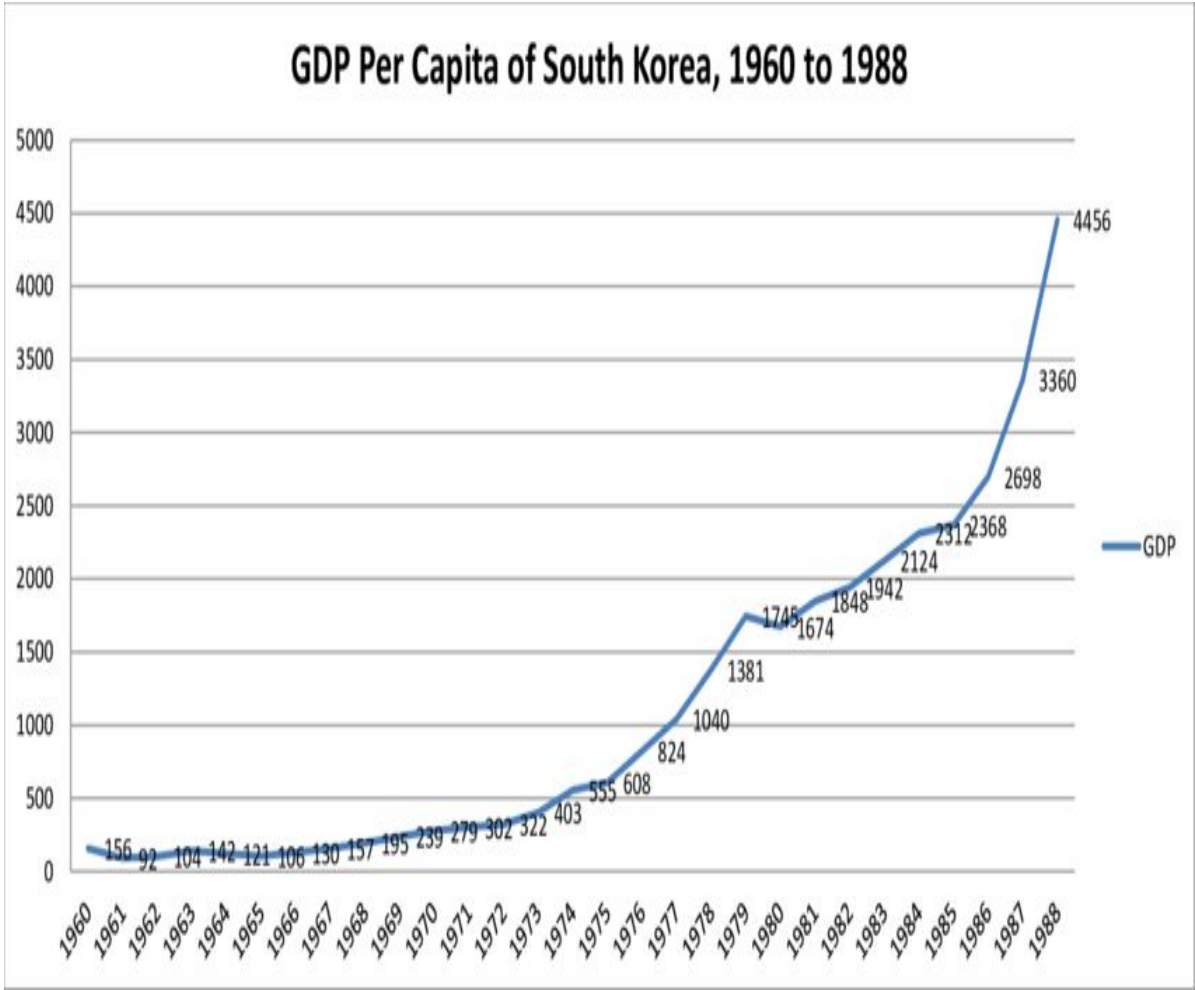
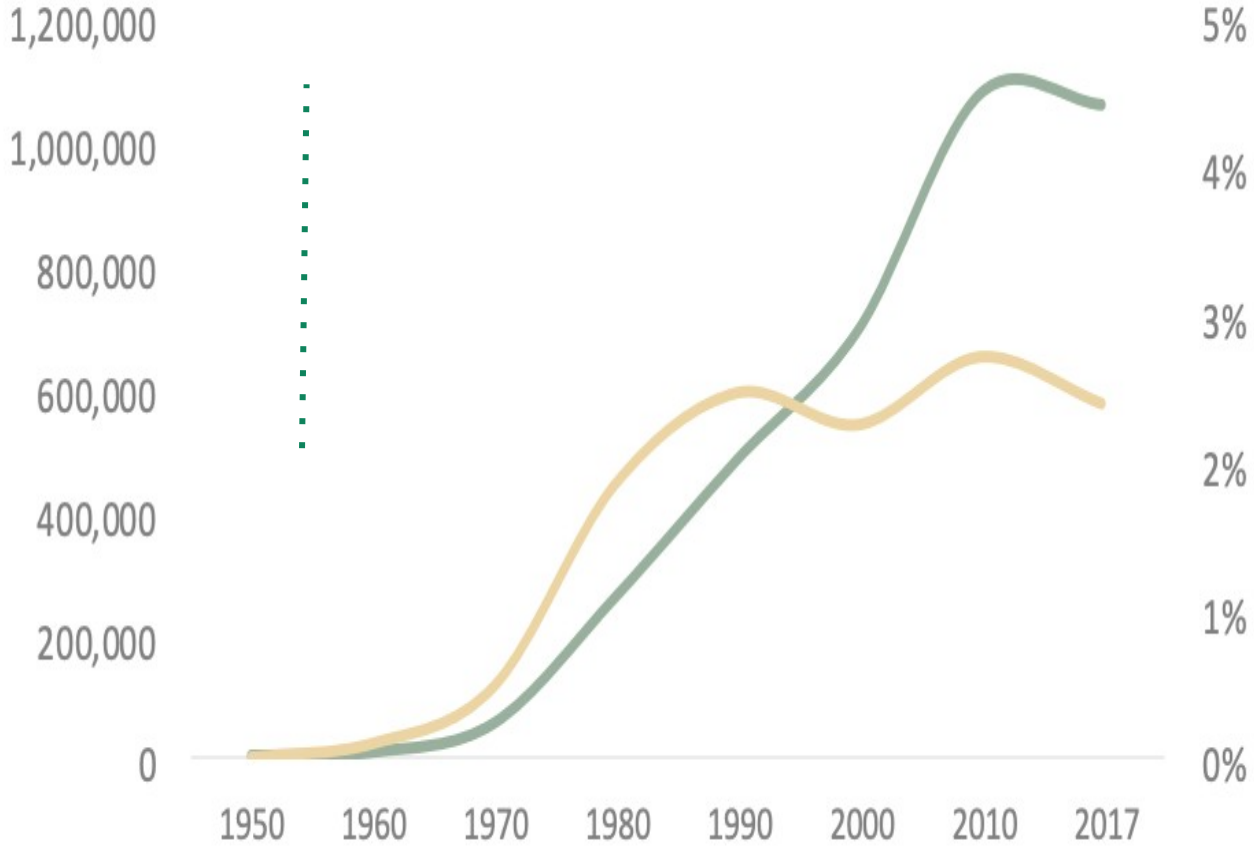


Figure 10. Korean Immigrant Population in the United States, 1950-2017



Overview of Recommendations

Replicate:

- Montgomery County Study

Source information from Culturally Relevant Centers:

- Churches, language schools, restaurants, salons, associations etc.
- List examples of type of information you could get from these places

Best Practices: Interviewing people of Korean descent

1. Informed by local context studies
2. Trust & Rapport
3. Oral histories
    a. Complement to interviews
4. Pay researchers
5. Interviewer training
    a. Reliability, structure
    b. Best practices

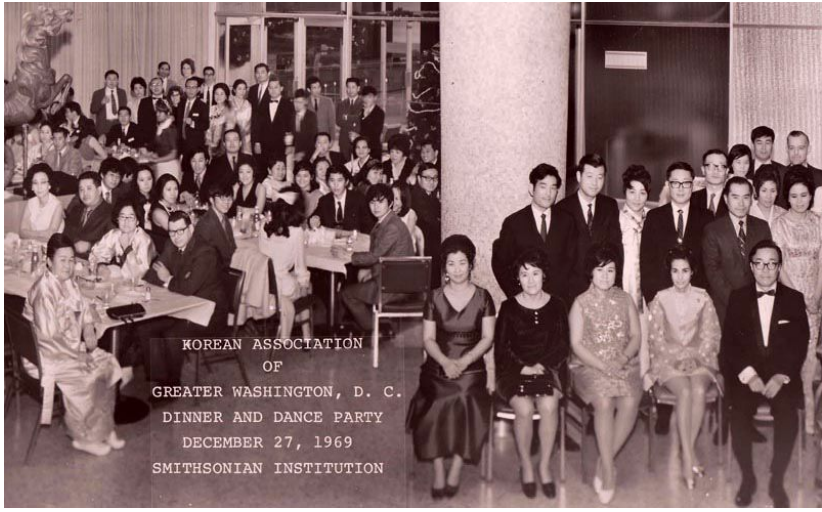


Photo from AAPI in DC Context Study: Korean Association of Greater Washington, D.C., Dinner and Dance Party, Smithsonian Institution, December 1969. (Detail from a panoramic photo.)

Widening our Focus Outside of the DMV

New York had significant information:

- Regarding social challenges with acculturation...→ LIST OUT

New York Metropolitan Area provided data:

- Knowledge closer to Beltsville → Virginia

Annandale, Virginia provided information regarding:

- Largest Local Korean Community (DMV)
- Significant Structures (ie Restaurants, Churches, and others) → Beltsville, MD

Questions for Us?