



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

## TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES

### Min-hyeok Kim

*Ph.D Candidate in Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington*

#### **Moderator:**

*Kuangyu Zhao – Ph.D. student in Political Science, IU*

#### **Discussants:**

*Hussein Banai – Assistant Professor of International Studies, IU*

*Dongxian Jiang – Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Political Science, Stanford*



Friday, September 25, 2020: 1:30 – 3:00 pm EST

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)

## Reconceptualizing Liberty in the Time of Disorder: Maruyama Masao's Request for Responsible Liberty in Postwar Japan

The ongoing crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic raises a difficult question about the proper relationship between individual liberty and responsibility because irresponsible behaviors are conducted in the name of "individual liberty." Thus, one might ask why we should value individual liberty in the first place if it keeps silence on irresponsibility. This question is explored via a reading of the postwar Japanese thinker Maruyama Masao's redefinition of liberty as a notion that involves a high degree of sense of responsibility. Through the notion of responsible liberty, he tried to provide Japanese people with a new understanding of liberty that could produce active and responsible democratic citizenship in the midst of postwar disorder. At the same time, however, Maruyama's request for liberty left several crucial tensions. After examining these issues, I conclude with my thought on how these different understandings of liberty is affecting the different responses to the current public health crisis across the East and the West.

**Min-hyeok Kim** is PhD candidate of political science at Indiana University. His dissertation research focuses on the intellectual history of liberalism in postwar Japan.

*Cosponsors: Indiana University Department of Political Science, the Tocqueville Program, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy*

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*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Ostrom workshop presentations will be virtual until further notice. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon ([sturgeon@iu.edu](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu))*