



Committee on Korean Studies *Newsletter*

Spring 2024

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개성 경천사지 십층석탑

Gaeseong Gyeongcheonsaji Sipcheung Seoktap

The Ten-Story Stone Pagoda from the Gyeongcheon Temple Site in Gaeseong

Completed in 1348, now at the National Museum of Korea

Photo by C. Harrison Kim, July 2023

The Chair's Message



Dear Members of the Committee on Korean Studies,

The Committee on Korean Studies (CKS) continues to play a critical role in supporting and advocating for Korean Studies within the AAS. We are proud to represent over 560 members and serve the expanding field through various programs and initiatives. This newsletter serves as a valuable resource to keep you informed about our members' ongoing research, conferences, and exciting opportunities worldwide. I extend my appreciation to Publication Director Harrison Kim for his dedicated work in creating and distributing this newsletter.

In 2023, we successfully launched an Online Forum (hosted on Google Groups, <https://groups.google.com/g/committee-korean-studies>) as a moderated email list server for the academic community focused on Korean Studies. Special thanks go to Vice-Chair Sixiang Wang who oversaw this transition and updated the CKS website accordingly. You can now easily post conference, publication, and job announcements, so please take full advantage of it!

Other plans faced setbacks. The CKS Board had planned a Research Ethics Roundtable for the 2024 AAS conference in Seattle in collaboration with NEAC, but after many rounds of discussion we have decided to reschedule it in light of ongoing developments related to the Tim Gitzen case. The CKS Board understands the vital importance of addressing sensitive research ethics topics, and LGBTQ+ rights remain a core value for us. Therefore, we are committed to hosting this roundtable at a more appropriate time. While the roundtable has been postponed, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering open and respectful dialogue on critical ethical issues within the Korean Studies community.

For those of you planning to attend the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in Seattle, please mark your calendar for our annual meeting on Saturday, March 16th from 12:15pm-1:45pm at the Sheraton Grand Seattle (4th Floor, Union Street Tower). Thanks to the collaborative efforts of NEAC Chair Sonja Kim, we are pleased to announce that we have secured sufficient funding this year to offer a lunch buffet that will provide an excellent opportunity for networking and camaraderie.

Warmly,

Maya Stiller

Chair, Committee on Korean Studies
Associate Professor, Korean art & visual culture, University of Kansas

Building on the success of the Korean Object Study Workshop (KOSW) at the Harvard Art Museums during the 2023 AAS in Boston, attended by over thirty AAS members, we have planned a KOSW for 2024 at the Seattle Art Museum on Wednesday, March 13. Feel free to join us for an exploration of rare treasures from the Three Kingdoms to Chosŏn period. Gain insights and maybe even spark new ideas for your teaching and research in a stimulating and informal setting. Registration is free but space is limited, so secure your spot at <https://koreanstudies.org/>.

I am also delighted to announce that our 2024 Korean Studies Mentorship Program will take place in a hybrid format, both preceding and during the AAS conference. This program is crucial to our mission of nurturing and guiding the next generation of scholars within the Korean Studies community. My sincere gratitude goes to Program Director Hwisang Cho and Vice-Program Director Michael Kim for dedicating their valuable time and effort to organizing this program. I would also like to thank the mentees who submitted applications and the mentors who volunteered to provide their invaluable guidance and insights.

Finally, thank you all for your active participation in the January 2024 elections for three new Board Members. Please join me in welcoming Pil Ho Kim (The Ohio State University), CedarBough Saeji (Busan National University), and Vladimir Tikhonov (Oslo University) to the Board! They will succeed outgoing members Hwisang Cho (Emory University) and C. Harrison Kim (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa), who served with remarkable dedication as Publication Director and Newsletter Editor, and myself.

As I step down as Chair, I extend my sincere gratitude to the board and all CKS members. It has been an honor leading such a passionate and committed group. With Sixiang Wang as the new Chair, I am confident that CKS will continue to thrive.

I look forward to seeing you in Seattle! Let's look ahead and work towards making this Year of the Dragon another fruitful year for the study of Korea

CKS Events During AAS 2024

Korean Object Study Workshop (KOSW) at Seattle Art Museum

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Meeting point: Seattle Art Museum, Staff entrance (2nd Avenue between University Street and Union Street)

The museum will be closed to the public. Museum staff will meet us at the staff entrance and guide us to the viewing room.

Are you looking to incorporate Korean visual culture into your teaching and research? This FREE workshop is your chance to explore rarely shown items from the Seattle Art Museum's collection. Participants will be able to view a variety of objects and materials that are currently not on view in the galleries, including Korean folding screens, ceramics, sculpture, gold items, and bronze mirrors, dating from the Three Kingdoms to Chosŏn periods. It will be a chance to exchange perspectives, gain insights, and maybe even spark new ideas for your teaching and research in a stimulating and informal setting. The workshop will be led by Maya Stiller, currently Chair of the Committee on Korean Studies and Associate Professor of Korean Art & Visual Culture at the University of Kansas.

Open to everyone attending the AAS! To participate in this workshop, please register at this [Google form](#). The number of participants is limited to 15. Registration will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

Annual Meeting of the Committee on Korean Studies

Date and Time: Saturday, March 16, 12:15pm-1:45pm

Venue: Sheraton Grand Seattle – 4th Floor, Union Street Tower

Meeting Agenda

12:15-12:45pm Opening of the buffet

12:45-12:55pm Greeting and introductions, including new members of the board

12:55pm-1:15pm News and feedback about programs and roundtables organized by CKS

1:15pm-1:30pm Ross King's report on the Inter-University Center for Korean Language Studies at Sungkyunkwan University

1:30-1:45pm Open floor and sharing of members' news

Mentoring Workshop

Continuing the success of mentoring programs in the past, CKS strives to support early-career scholars and graduate students in any Korea-related fields, both academically and professionally.

We will be supporting six scholars this year, from fields ranging from film studies to art history. They will be meeting their mentoring scholars either in person or virtually, depending on their preferences and schedules.

Mentors will listen to concerns and answer questions that their respective mentees bring while sharing their experiences in academia. Mentees also have an option to get feedback on their manuscripts. CKS is excited to be able to put together the Mentoring Workshop again this year and looking forward to hearing about the results of each mentoring session!

Select AAS Panels on Korea 2024

Ideological and Institutional Underpinnings of Contemporary Korean Democracy

Saturday, March 16, 2024, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM; Willow B (2nd Floor, Sheraton)

Organizer: Sungik Yang (Arizona State University)

Chair: Celeste Arrington (George Washington University)

Discussant: Erik Mobrand (Seoul National University)

Presenters: Joan Cho (Wesleyan University) and Aram Hur (Tufts University), Yoonkyung Lee (University of Toronto), Myungji Yang (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa), Sungik Yang (Arizona State University)

The democratic transition of 1987, while paving the way for South Korea's shift from authoritarianism, certainly has not closed the book on the country's ongoing process of democratic consolidation. While democratization did open the political arena to the Left, which has scored numerous electoral victories since 1987, this has also invited furious ideological battles over national identity and over even the meaning of concepts such as democracy itself. Moreover, conservatives, long associated with authoritarian politics, remain predominant in South Korean politics and society, and have wielded their power over the state and the media while continuing decades-long campaigns against Korea's raucous labor movement. This panel examines contemporary South Korean politics and democracy through an analysis of the Korean right wing, its ideology, and its exercise of political power. Joan Cho and Aram Hur investigate the centrality of national identity in the ideological divide between Left and Right in South Korea today. Yoonkyung Lee analyzes the right-wing backlash and union-busting activities against labor, which have pushed labor movements to resort to extreme protest repertoires. Myungji Yang examines how leftover organizational infrastructure from previous authoritarian regimes have persisted in Korea post-1987, sustaining conservative political power. Sungik Yang discusses the contemporary right wing's insistence on the term "liberal democracy" in light of past authoritarian regimes' explicitly illiberal and nationalist discourses of democracy. Overall, this panel seeks to answer the following question: Is right-wing politics compatible with South Korea's liberal democracy, or does it pose a threat to it and potentially cause democratic backsliding?

Power Dynamics Inscribed in Spatial Palimpsests in Seoul

Saturday, March 16, 2024, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM, Willow A (2nd Floor, Sheraton)

Organizer: Barbara Wall (University of Copenhagen)

Chair: Barbara Wall

Discussants: Dafna Zur (Stanford University) and Vladimir Tikhonov (University of Oslo)

Presenters: Soojin Kim (Sungkyunkwan University), Seongsil Kim (Cheonggyecheon Museum), Jong-Chol An (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), Byung-Sul Jung (Seoul National University) and Barbara Wall.

The word palimpsest originally refers to writing material used one or more times after earlier writing has been erased. If the erasing process has not been completely effective, different layers of writing might be visible on one object. Applied to spaces, palimpsest theory can help to draw our attention to obscured traces and, by so doing, reveal power dynamics of the past and present. While our senses tend to be drawn to the most visible and dominant traces, our panel suggests paying close attention to the more obscured traces that are easily overlooked otherwise. We intend to read sites as polyphonic spaces and give each trace its own voice. The first two presenters respectively focus on one spatial palimpsest. While KIM Soojin, trained in Korean Art History, explores the diverse historical layers of the Stone Slope Pavilion, KIM Seongsil, PhD candidate in archaeology, examines the progressive utilization of the Ch'ŏnggye Stream. The second half of the panel is devoted to the area around Mount Namsan. The historian AN Jong-Chol focuses on post-war Korea to investigate how the power relations between state and religions are reflected in spatial palimpsests in the Namsan area. JUNG Byung-Sul and Barbara WALL, both narratologists by training, propose that Namsan Park should be treated as a synchronic spatial palimpsest to allow historical healing. Having invited Dafna Zur and Vladimir Tikhonov as discussants, we hope to spark a broad discussion on ways to shed new light on spatial palimpsests in Seoul and Korea from multidisciplinary perspectives.

Roundtable. Ending the Korean War Teaching Collective: Rethinking the Epistemologies & Pedagogies of Korean Studies

Friday, March 15, 2024, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Room 204 (Level 2, Convention Center)

Organizer: Cheehyung Harrison Kim (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

Chair: Christine Hong (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Discussants: Madeleine Han (Yale University), Jinah Kim (California State University Northridge), Cheehyung Harrison Kim, Christine Hong, Sung Eun Kim (George Washington University)

Organized by the Ending the Korean War (EKW) Teaching Collective, this roundtable seeks to mobilize scholars to play our part in ending the Korean War by organizing within the academy and developing public educational tools. While drawing from the 2010-13 Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea teaching initiative, which some of us were central to developing, EKW is distinctive in our emphasis on anti-imperialist feminist intersectional liberationist work. We encourage critical approaches to and collective inquiry about the ongoing Korean War, with a focus on the racial, sexual, gendered, colonial, and sub-imperial violence of U.S. war power as well as a commitment to peoples' struggles for decolonization. As scholar-activists obligated to analyze our own conditions of possibility, EKW further seeks to initiate critical reflection and collective action on academia's complicity with structures of imperialism, including the national security state and the military-industrial complex. As members of the militarized Korean diaspora whose strengths lie in the educational field, EKW builds on Korean people's struggles for liberation from imperial occupation, war, and militarism, and we organize in solidarity with other anti-base struggles throughout Asia and the Pacific. Our commitments stem, however, not from ethnonationalism, but from grappling with the fact that the Korean War has spawned and continues to fortify a globally far-reaching architecture of imperial violence that exceeds the Korean peninsula and impacts people the world over. By foregrounding the epistemological and pedagogical dimensions of the struggle to end the Korean War, this roundtable focuses on the centrality of sexual violence, anticommunism, and racism not only to U.S. military hegemony but also to the formation and reproduction of academic fields, including Korean studies. We inquire into the relationship of Korean studies to the irresolution of the Korean War, and here borrowing from Kuan-hsing Chen's provocation, we inquire into the possibility of the field being forged along decolonial, deimperializing, and de-Cold War lines. By introducing to AAS members our open-access syllabus, which we are rolling out module by module, we seek to underscore that political education has long been part of diasporic organizing within the belly of the beast.

Past Matters: Materiality and Nature in Korean History

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM, Columbia (4th Floor, Union St. Tower, Sheraton)

Organizer: Sujin E. Han (Harvard University)

Chair: Albert L. Park (Claremont McKenna College)

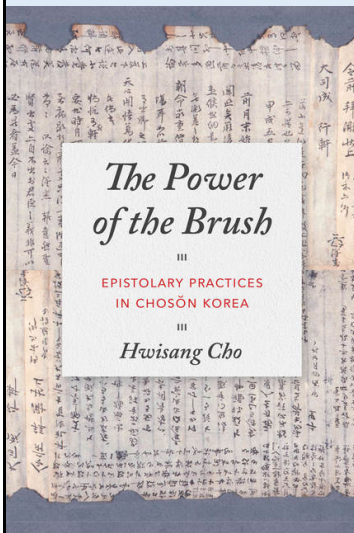
Discussant: June Hee Kwon (California State University, Sacramento)

Presenters: Anna Lee (Korea University), Sujin E. Han, Sulim Kim (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

This panel explores the vitality of matter and its relationship to human experiences to interpret Korea's past in a way that emphasizes connections, movements, and the tensions within and throughout. Drawing on the vibrant discussions about materialism and its varieties, the panel consists of four papers that investigate different material and natural elements to generate new questions about and fresh insights into gender, medicine, housing, and waste in Korea across the 1945 divide and 38th parallel. Anna Jungeun Lee examines the material, everyday social life practices of "New Women" to reveal how their identities were formed in relation to the evolving urban culture of colonial Korea. Moving forward in time, Sujin Elisa Han focuses on the influx and movement of pharmaceuticals in US-occupied Korea following Japan's surrender in 1945 to elucidate changes in the cultural economy of medicine and local treatment practices. Traveling up the peninsula, Sulim Kim delves into housing development in North Korea in the 1950s and 1960s to illuminate how diverse understandings of the human-environment relationship traveled across borders to shape the making of an ecological socialist agenda and residential space. Finally, moving down southward through time, Hyojin Pak analyzes the politics of waste management in South Korea during the 1970s and 1980s to shed light on the complex relationship between waste's materiality and sociality. As a whole, this panel aims to contribute to the ongoing material turn in history by thinking through the potential promises and challenges of integrating past matters into interpretations of Korean history.

Publication News

Monographs



Finalist of 2024 ACLS Open Access Book Prize

The Power of the Brush

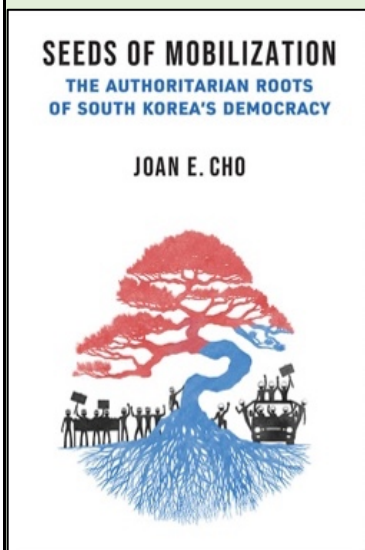
Epistolary Practices in Chosŏn Korea

University of Washington Press, 2020

Hwisang Cho

The invention of an easily learned Korean alphabet in the mid-fifteenth century sparked an “epistolary revolution” in the following century as letter writing became an indispensable daily practice for elite men and women alike. The amount of correspondence increased exponentially as new epistolary networks were built among scholars and within families, and written culture created room for appropriation and subversion by those who joined epistolary practices. Focusing on the ways that written culture interacts with philosophical, social, and political changes, *The Power of the Brush* examines the social effects of these changes and adds a Korean perspective to the evolving international discourse on the materiality of texts. It demonstrates how innovative uses of letters and the appropriation of letter-writing practices empowered elite cultural, social, and political minority groups: Confucians who did not have access to the advanced scholarship of China; women who were excluded from the male-dominated literary culture, which used Chinese script; and provincial literati, who were marginalized from court politics. New modes of reading and writing that were developed in letter writing precipitated changes in scholarly methodology, social interactions, and political mobilization. Even today, remnants of these traditional epistolary practices endure in media and political culture, reverberating in new communications technologies.

Hwisang Cho is associate professor of Korean history at Emory University.



Seeds of Mobilization

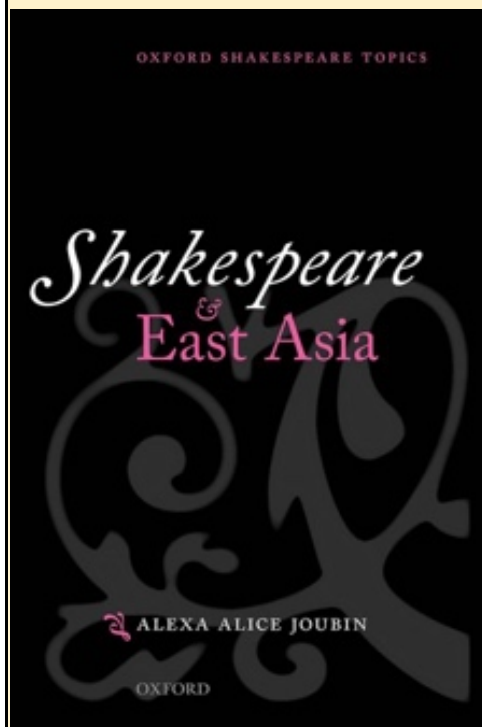
The Authoritarian Roots of South Korea's Democracy

University of Michigan Press, 2024

Joan E. Cho

South Korea is sometimes held as a dream case of modernization theory, a testament to how economic development leads to democracy. *Seeds of Mobilization* takes a closer look at the history of South Korea to show that Korea's advance to democracy was not linear. Instead, while Korea's national economy grew dramatically under the regimes of Park Chung Hee (1961–79) and Chun Doo Hwan (1980–88), the political system first became increasingly authoritarian. Because modernization was founded on industrial complexes and tertiary education, these structures initially helped bolster the authoritarian regimes. In the long run, however, these structures later facilitated the anti-regime protests by various social movement groups—most importantly, workers and students—that ultimately brought democracy to the country. By using original subnational protest event datasets, government publications, oral interviews, and publications from labor and student movement organizations, Joan E. Cho takes a long view of democratization that incorporates the decades before and after South Korea's democratic transition. She demonstrates that Korea's democratization resulted from a combination of factors from below and from above, and that authoritarian development itself was a hidden root cause of democratic development in South Korea. *Seeds of Mobilization* shows how socioeconomic development did not create a steady pressure toward democracy but acted as a “double-edged sword” that initially stabilized autocratic regimes before destabilizing them over time.

Joan E. Cho is Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies at Wesleyan University.



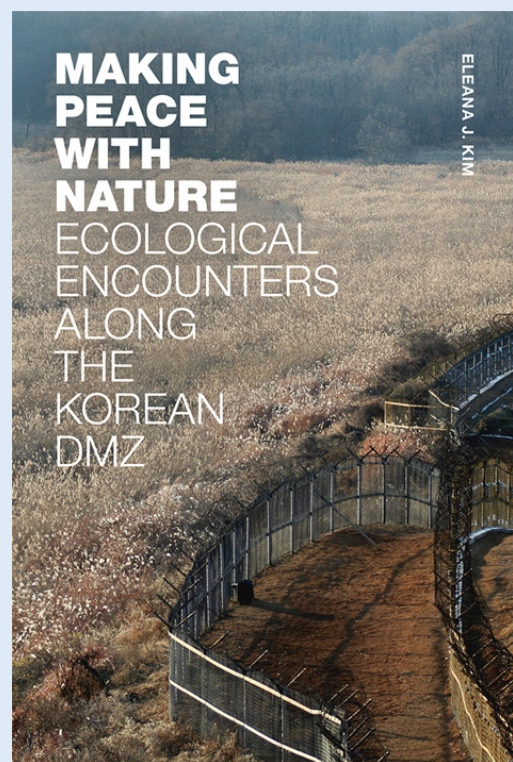
Shakespeare and East Asia

Oxford University Press, 2021

Alexa Alice Joubin

This book tells an incredible story of how, where, and when “Shakespeare” and Asian artists met on stage and on screen. It covers stage and film adaptations that reimagine racial and gender roles, disability, and multilingualism in Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Asian America, and the UK. How do actors reposition their racialized bodies on stage and on screen? How did Akira Kurosawa influence George Lucas’ Star Wars? Why do critics repeatedly use the adjective Shakespearean to describe Bong Joon-ho’s *Parasite* (2019)? How do East Asian cinema and theatre portray vocal disability? How do Korean transgender cinema and feminism transform gender identities in Shakespeare? Bringing film and theatre studies together, this book sheds new light on the two major genres in a comparative context and reveals deep connections among Asian and Anglophone performances. Four themes distinguish post-1950s East Asian cinemas and theaters from works in other parts of the world: Japanese innovations in sound and spectacle; Sinophone uses of Shakespeare for social reparation; the reception of South Korean presentations of gender identities in film and touring productions; and multilingual, disability, and racial discourses in cinema and diasporic theatre in Asian America, Singapore, and the UK.

Alexa Alice Joubin is Professor of English, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Theatre, East Asian Languages and Literatures, and International Affairs at George Washington University.



Winner of 2024 James B. Palais Book Prize

Making Peace with Nature

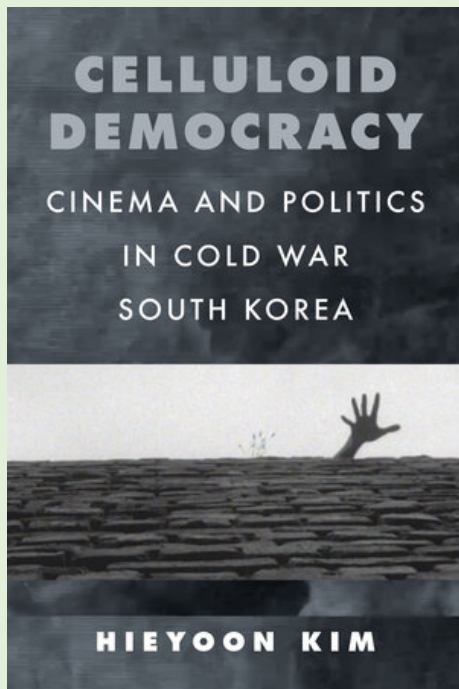
Ecological Encounters along the Korean DMZ

Duke University Press, 2022

Eleana J. Kim

The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) has been off-limits to human habitation for nearly seventy years, and in that time, biodiverse forms of life have flourished in and around the DMZ as beneficiaries of an unresolved war. In *Making Peace with Nature* Eleana J. Kim shows how a closer examination of the DMZ in South Korea reveals that the area’s biodiversity is inseparable from scientific practices and geopolitical, capitalist, and ecological dynamics. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with ecologists, scientists, and local residents, Kim focuses on irrigation ponds, migratory bird flyways, and land mines in the South Korean DMZ area, demonstrating how human and nonhuman ecologies interact and transform in spaces defined by war and militarization. In so doing, Kim reframes peace away from a human-oriented political or economic peace and toward a more-than-human, biological peace. Such a peace recognizes the reality of war while pointing to potential forms of human and nonhuman relations.

Eleana J. Kim is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Irvine



Celluloid Democracy

Cinema and Politics in Cold War South Korea

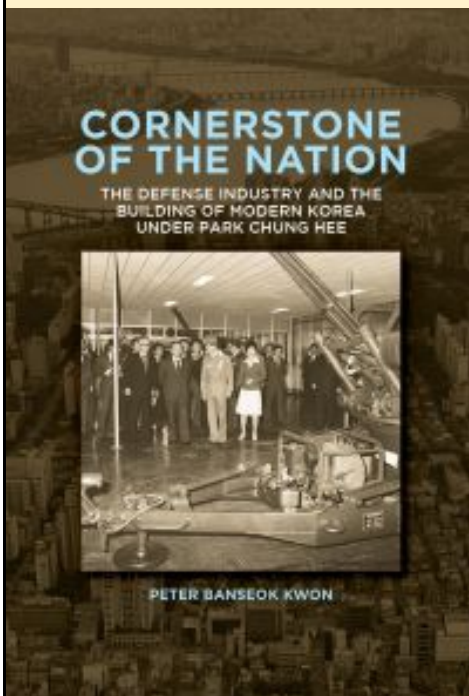
University of California Press, 2023

Hieyoon Kim

Celluloid Democracy tells the story of the Korean filmmakers, distributors, and exhibitors who reshaped cinema in radically empowering ways through the decades of authoritarian rule that followed Korea's liberation from Japanese occupation. Employing tactics that ranged from representing the dispossessed on the screen to redistributing state-controlled resources through bootlegging, these film workers explored ideas and practices that simultaneously challenged repressive rule and pushed the limits of the cinematic medium. Drawing on archival research, film analysis, and interviews, Hieyoon Kim examines how their work foregrounds a utopian vision of democracy where the ruled represent themselves and access resources free from state suppression. The first book to offer a history of film activism in post-1945 South Korea, *Celluloid Democracy* shows how Korean film workers during the Cold War reclaimed cinema as an ecology in which democratic discourses and practices could flourish.

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520394377/celluloid-democracy>

Hieyoon Kim is a scholar of dissident culture and media with a focus on Korea. She teaches in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.



Cornerstone of the Nation

The Defense Industry and the Building of Modern Korea under Park Chung Hee

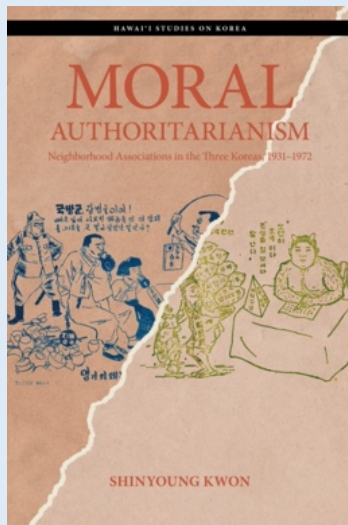
Harvard University Asia Center, 2024

Peter Banseok Kwon

Cornerstone of the Nation is the first historical account of the complex alliance of military and civilian forces that catapulted South Korea's conjoined militarization and industrialization under Park Chung Hee (1961–1979). Kwon reveals how Park's secret program to build an independent defense industry spurred a total mobilization of business, science, labor, and citizenry, all of which converged in military-civilian forces that propelled an unprecedented model of modernization in Korea. Drawing on largely untapped declassified materials from Korea and personal interviews with contemporaneous participants in the nascent defense industry, as well as declassified US documents and other external sources, Kwon weaves together oral histories and documentary evidence in an empirically rich narrative that details how militarization shaped the nation's rapid economic, technological, political, and social transformation. *Cornerstone of the Nation* makes the case that South Korea's arms development under Park may be

the most durable and yet least acknowledged factor behind the country's rise to economic prominence in the late twentieth century. Through an analysis that simultaneously engages some of the most contested issues in Korean historiography, development literature, contemporary politics, and military affairs, this book traces Korea's distinct pathway to becoming a global economic force.

Peter Banseok Kwon is Assistant Professor of Korean Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York.



Moral Authoritarianism

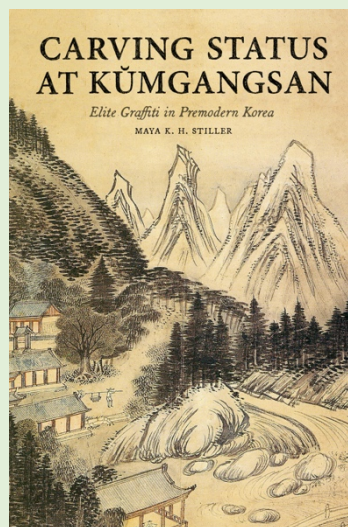
Neighborhood Associations in the Three Koreas, 1931-1972

University of Hawai'i Press, 2023

Sinyoung Kwon

Moral Authoritarianism offers a new perspective on the three modern Korean states—the Japanese colonial state, South Korea, and North Korea—by studying neighborhood associations during the four war decades (1930s–1960s). Neighborhood associations dated back to the premodern Chosŏn period (1392–1910), where they had been used to assist local governance. They faded in significance until the colonial government established “patriotic neighborhood associations” in 1938 for its war against China. Through analysis of government documents from the three Koreas and additional sources including diaries, leaflets, newspapers, and even fiction, *Moral Authoritarianism* explores neighborhood associations as a site of negotiation between families, local society, and the central government, exposing the moral authoritarian structure present in all three Koreas. Colonial neighborhood associations, tasked with the national mobilization of local Koreans, advanced programs of mass enlightenment that privileged state interests over individual rights, in the process blurring the line between morality and state authority and superimposing patriarchal familial dynamics on societal relations. Despite their different ideological orientations, the neighborhood associations of two postliberation Koreas shared the same enlightenment mission with their earlier forms, and this commonality is critical to understanding the authoritarian direction taken by South and North Korea. The neighborhood association entrusted each state with promoting community-based morality and spirit of voluntarism as an alternative to amoral laissez-faire capitalism and the individual right-based West. Consequently, the state retained its supremacy over the populace at the most basic level of community organization, and Koreans were encouraged to be active to state calls, culminating into two authoritarianisms of the 1970s—Korean style democracy and “our own style” socialism.

Shinyoung Kwon received a PhD in history from the University of Chicago and did postdoctoral research at the University of Cambridge.



Finalist of 2024 James B. Palais Book Prize

Carving Status at Kŭmgangsan

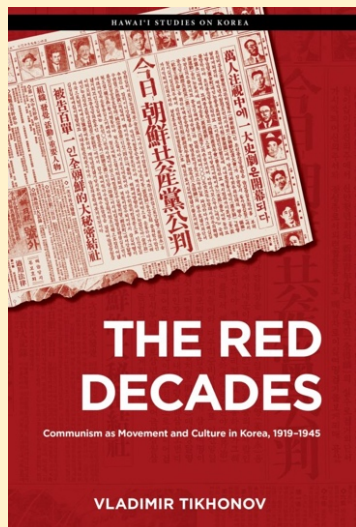
Elite Graffiti in Premodern Korea

University of Washington Press, 2021

Maya K. H. Stiller

North Korea's Kŭmgangsan is one of Asia's most celebrated sacred mountain ranges, comparable in fame to Mount Tai in China and Mount Fuji in Japan. *Carving Status at Kŭmgangsan* marks a paradigm shift in the research about East Asian mountains by introducing an entirely new field: autographic rock graffiti. The book details how late Chosŏn (ca. 1600–1900 CE) Korean elite travelers used Kŭmgangsan to demonstrate their high social status by carving inscriptions, naming sites, and joining the literary pedigree of visitors to renowned locales. Such travel practices show how social competition emerged in the spatial context of a landscape. Hence, *Carving Status at Kŭmgangsan* argues for an expansion of accepted historical narratives on travel and mountain space in premodern East Asia. Rather than interpreting pilgrimage routes as exclusively religious or tourist, in Kŭmgangsan's case they were also an important site of collective memory. A journey to Kŭmgangsan to view and contribute to its sites of memory was an endeavor that late Chosŏn Koreans hoped to achieve in their lives. Based on multidisciplinary research drawing on literary writings, court records, gazetteers, maps, songs, calligraphy, and paintings, *Carving Status at Kŭmgangsan* is the first historical study of this practice. It will appeal to scholars in fields ranging from East Asian history, literature, and geography, to pilgrimage studies and art history.

Maya K. H. Stiller is associate professor of Korean art and visual culture at the University of Kansas.



The Red Decades

Communism as Movement and Culture in Korea, 1919–1945

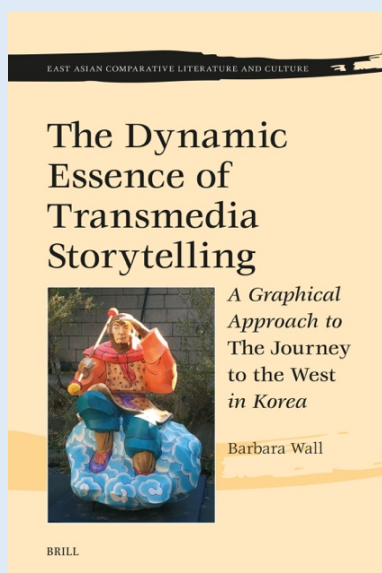
Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2023

Vladimir Tikhonov

Focusing on previously neglected cultural expressions of colonial-period Korean socialism such as Marxist philosophy, Marxist historiography, and travelogues by socialist writers, *The Red Decades* reveals Marxian socialism as a cultural phenomenon of colonial-age Korea. Providing an account of the social composition of the Communist milieu in 1920s and 1930s Korea and outlining the aims of the colonial-period Communist movement as formulated in programmatic documents, this text offers a rich, nuanced description of the microcosm of Korean Communism—a setting of factional alignments, pilgrimages to Moscow, extended stays of the Korean revolutionaries as exiles in China and the Soviet Union, and a polylingual environment with Chinese, Japanese, English, and Russian being equally important as the idioms of socialist propagation and international networking.

Placing the endeavors of colonial-age Communists within a global historical context allows for dissections of how Korean socialists' ideals interacted with the realities of the conservative turn taking place in the Soviet Union since the late 1920s, as well as considering the implication of Stalinism for Korean revolutionary culture. Yet this analysis also focuses on the individuals involved, especially on their persistent issue of factionalism in the Korean Communist movement and on the role of underground radicalism in shaping the subaltern subjectivities of the participants. *The Red Decades* discusses the world-historical place of “alternative modernity” that colonial-age socialists of Korea were pursuing. Based on a wealth of Japanese, Korean, Russian, and Chinese primary sources, including the Korea-related parts of the archives of Comintern, an under-utilized resource in Anglophone scholarship. The research also accommodates the achievements of the last decades, from South Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Anglophone and Russophone academic worlds. The breadth of this study situates the philosophical, historiographical, and political practices of Marxism of colonial Korea in the global historical perspective and simultaneously explores the long-lasting influences of the Communist movement in post-1945 North and South Korea.

Vladimir Tikhonov is professor of Korean and East Asian studies in the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, Oslo University, Norway.



The Dynamic Essence of Transmedia Storytelling

A Graphical Approach to The Journey to the West in Korea

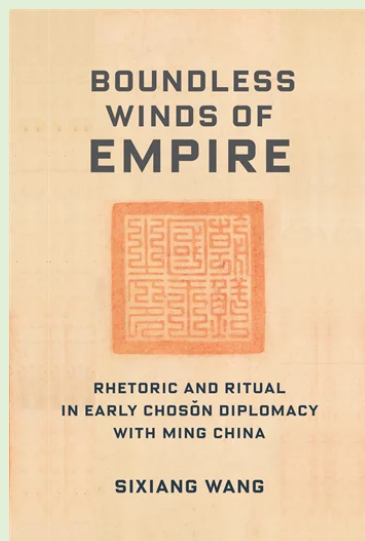
Brill, 2024 (forthcoming)

Barbara Wall

The Dynamic Essence of Transmedia Storytelling challenges many established truths about popular literary classics by presenting an analysis of sixty Korean variations of *The Journey to the West*, a set which includes novels and poems, as well as films, comics, paintings, and dance performances dating from the 14th century until today. In contrast to the typical assumption that literary classics like *The Journey to the West* are stable texts with a single original, Barbara Wall approaches *The Journey to the West* as a dynamic text comprised of all its variations. She argues that all the creators of such variations, from Korean scholars in the 14th century to “boy bands” like Seventeen in the 21st century, participate in the ongoing story world known as *The Journey to the West*. Wall employs literary and quantitative analysis, ample graphic visualizations, and in-depth descriptions of classroom games to find new ways to understand the dynamics

of transmedia storytelling and popular engagement with story worlds. Her approach opens new frontiers of intertextual analysis to literary scholars and teachers of literature who seek contemporary methods of introducing world literature to new generations of students.

Barbara Wall is Associate Professor of Korean Studies at the University of Copenhagen.



Boundless Winds of Empire

Rhetoric and Ritual in Early Chosŏn Diplomacy with Ming China

Columbia University Press, 2023

Sixiang Wang

For more than two hundred years after its establishment in 1392, the Chosŏn dynasty of Korea enjoyed generally peaceful and stable relations with neighboring Ming China, which dwarfed it in size, population, and power. This remarkably long period of sustained peace was not an inevitable consequence of Chinese cultural and political ascendancy. In this book, Sixiang Wang demonstrates how Chosŏn political actors strategically deployed cultural practices, values, and narratives to carve out a place for Korea within the Ming imperial order. *Boundless Winds of Empire* is a cultural history of diplomacy that traces Chosŏn's rhetorical and ritual engagement with China. Chosŏn drew on classical Chinese paradigms of statecraft, political legitimacy, and cultural achievement. It also paid regular tribute to the Ming court, where its envoys composed paeans to Ming imperial glory.

Wang argues these acts were not straightforward affirmations of Ming domination; instead, they concealed a subtle and sophisticated strategy of diplomatic and cultural negotiation. He shows how Korea's rulers and diplomats inserted Chosŏn into the Ming Empire's legitimating strategies and established Korea as a stakeholder in a shared imperial tradition. *Boundless Winds of Empire* recasts a critical period of Sino-Korean relations through the Korean perspective, emphasizing Korean agency in the making of East Asian international relations.

Sixiang Wang is assistant professor of Asian languages and cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Edited Volumes

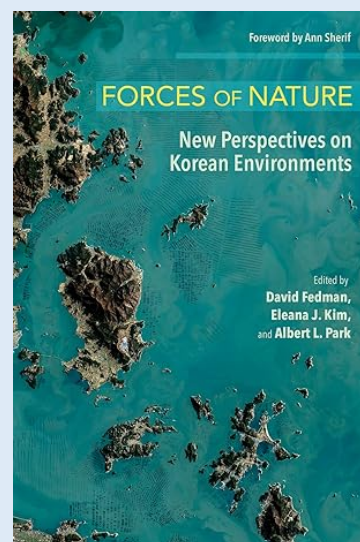
Forces of Nature

New Perspectives on Korean Environments

Cornell University Press, 2023 (Open Access)

Editors: David Fedman, Eleana J. Kim, and Albert L. Park

Bringing together a multidisciplinary conversation about the entanglement of nature and society in the Korean peninsula, *Forces of Nature* aims to define and develop the field of the Korean environmental humanities. At its core, the volume works to foreground non-human agents that have long been marginalized in Korean studies, placing flora, fauna, mineral deposits, and climatic conditions that have hitherto been confined to footnotes front and center. In the process, the authors blaze new trails through Korea's social and physical landscapes. What emerges is a deeper appreciation of the environmental conflicts that have animated life in Korea. The authors show how natural processes have continually shaped the course of events on the peninsula—how floods, droughts, famines, fires, and pests have inexorably impinged on human affairs—and how different forces have been mobilized by the state to variously, control, extract, modernize, and showcase the Korean landscape. *Forces of Nature* suggestively reveals Korea's physical landscape to be not so much a passive context to Korea's history, but an active agent in its transformation and reinvention across centuries. With support from the Henry Luce Foundation, our goal is to produce all titles in this series both in Open Access, for reasons of global accessibility and equity, as well as in print editions.



David Fedman is Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Irvine.

Eleana Kim is Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine.

Albert L. Park is the Bank of America Associate Professor of Pacific Basin Studies at Claremont McKenna College of The Claremont Colleges.

The Penguin Book of Korean Short Stories

Penguin UK, 2023

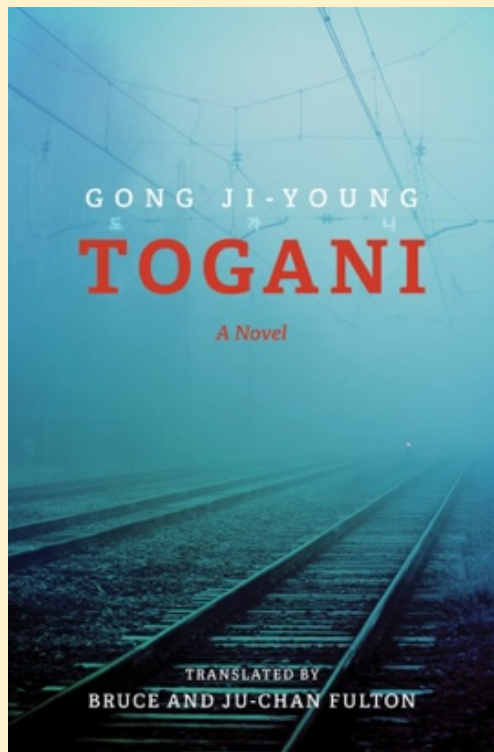
Editor: Bruce Fulton

This eclectic, moving and wonderfully enjoyable collection is the essential introduction to Korean literature. Journeying through Korea's dramatic twentieth century, from the Japanese occupation and colonial era to the devastating war between North and South and the rapid, disorienting urbanization of later decades, *The Penguin Book of Korean Short Stories* captures a hundred years of Korea's vibrant short-story tradition. Here are peddlers and donkeys travelling across moonlit fields; artists drinking and debating in the tea-houses of 1920s Seoul; soldiers fighting for survival; exiles from the war who can never go home again; and lonely men and women searching for connection in the dizzying modern city. The collection features stories by some of Korea's greatest writers, including Pak Wanso, O Chonghui and Cho Chongnae, as well as many brilliant contemporary voices, such as P'yon Hyeyong, Han Yujoo and Kim Aeran. Curated by Bruce Fulton, this is a volume that will surprise, unsettle and delight. Introduction by Kwon Youngmin

Bruce Fulton is associate professor in Korean literature and literary translation at the University of British Columbia.



Translations



***Togani* by Gong Ji-Young**

University of Hawai'i Press, 2023

Translated by Bruce and Ju-Chan Fulton

Atmospheric and fast-paced, this novel of manners set in a provincial South Korean city leads readers through the silent corridors of a school for hearing-impaired children and the city's foggy back streets and murky centers of power to a stirring courtroom climax. Gong Ji-young's *Togani* (The Crucible), published in Korean in 2009, is based on a historic case of child sexual abuse at a state-run institution. The novel went on to sell nearly a million copies and, along with a 2011 film adaptation directed by Hwang Dong-hyuk, prompted the South Korean National Assembly to pass the "Togani Laws" to provide greater legal protections for children and vulnerable adults under state care and harsher penalties for those convicted of their abuse. At a time when Korean popular culture drives cultural production worldwide, *Togani* reminds us of the power of fiction to effect meaningful societal change.

Bruce Fulton and Ju-Chan Fulton are literary scholars and pioneering translators of Korean fiction

DAWN OF LABOR



PARK NOHAЕ

Dawn of Labor by Park Nohae

University of Hawai'i Press, 2024

Translated by Brother Anthony and Cheehyung Harrison Kim

Park Nohae is South Korea's most acclaimed activist poet. *Dawn of Labor*, his first poetry collection, was published in 1984. Park Nohae wrote these poems in his twenties as a factory worker having come to Seoul from the countryside, as millions of others had done at the time. Throughout the 1980s, he was a revolutionary fighting against South Korea's military dictatorship, for which he was imprisoned in solitary confinement for seven years. Having vowed to "not live today by selling the past," he has forged his own path of activism. With the founding of the organization Nanum Munhwa (Culture of Sharing) in 2000, he has documented, with pen and camera, people living in places that do not appear on maps. The fearless critique and revolutionary vision of *Dawn of Labor* continue to resonate in all his works. With essays by Janet Poole and Brother Anthony.

Brother Anthony of Taizé, who also goes by his Korean name An Sonjae, is a literature scholar and translator and is professor emeritus of English language and literature at Sogang University in Seoul.

Cheehyung Harrison Kim is associate professor of Korean history at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



Minjung ūi sidae

Ch'ŏn'gubaek p'alsipnyŏndae hanguk munhwa tasi ssŭgi

Red Salt Press, 2023

Editor: Sunyoung Park

Translated into Korean by Jong Woo Park

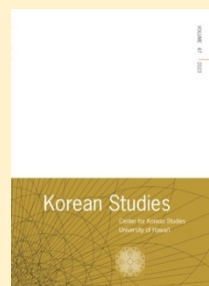
Revisiting Minjung: New Perspectives on the Cultural History of 1980s South Korea
The University of Michigan Press, 2019

An epoch-marking alliance of laborers, students, dissident intellectuals, and ordinary citizens was at the heart of South Korea's transformation from a dictatorship into a vibrant democracy during the 1980s. Collectively known as the *minjung* ("the people"), these agents of Korean democratization historically carved out an expanded role for civil society in the country's politics. In *Revisiting Minjung*, some of the foremost experts in 1980s Korean history, literature, film, art, and music provide new insights into one of the most crucial decades in South Korean history. Drawing

from the theoretical perspectives of transnationalism, post-Marxist studies, intersectional feminism, popular culture studies, and more, the volume demonstrates how an era that is often associated with radical politics was, in effect, the catalyst for the subsequent flourishing of democratic and liberal values in South Korea. *Revisiting Minjung* brings new themes, new subjectivities, and new theoretical perspectives to the study of the rich ecosystem of 1980s Korean culture. Treated here is a wide array of topics, including the origins of minjung ideology, its critique by the right wing, minjung art and music, workers' literary culture, women writers and the resurgence of feminism, erotic cinema, science fiction, transnational political travels, and the representations of race and queerness in 1980s popular culture. The book thus details the origins and development of some of the movements that shape cultural life in South Korea today, and it does so through analyses that engage some of the most pressing debates in current scholarship in Korea and abroad.

Sunyoung Park is Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Gender Studies at the University of Southern California.

Journal Special Issues

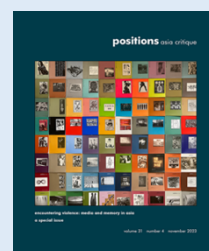


Digital Korean Studies

Korean Studies, Vol. 47 (2023)

Guest editors: Javier Cha and Barbara Wall

Contributors: Hyeok Hweon Kang, Michelle Suh, Jing Hu, Sol Jung, Shoufu Yin, Barbara Wall, Dong Myong Lee, Jamie Jungmin Yoo, Kiho Sung, Changhee Lee, Jacob Reidhead, Liora Sarfati, Guy Shababo, Benoit Berthelier, Javier Cha, Wayne de Fremery



Encountering Violence: Media and Memory in Asia

positions: asia critique 31:4 (2023)

Guest editors: Han Sang Kim and Sandeep Ray

Contributors: Juyeon Bae, Peter J. Bloom, Malinee Khumsupa, Chung-kang Kim, Han Sang Kim, Sudarat Musikawong, and Sandeep Ray



Rethinking the "Arts of the Contact Zone" after Thirty Years Korea between the Cold War and Decolonization

Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Journal, Volume 25, number 2 (2024)

Guest editors: Jina E. Kim and Woohyung Chon

Articles

Kwon, Peter Banseok. "Defender of the Nation, Champion of Science: The Agency for Defense Development as a Nexus for the Technological Transformation of South Korea," *Journal of Korean Studies* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2023): 59–90.

Jan Creutzenberg. "The Brecht-brand and German Theatre in South Korea." *Critical Stages* 27 (2023). <https://www.critical-stages.org/27/the-brecht-brand-and-german-theatre-in-south-korea/>

Istad, Felicia. "Rethinking Migrant Hierarchies: Non-Citizen Political Engagement and Policy Cycles in South Korea." *Korea Observer* 54, 1 (2023): 1–27.

Istad, Felicia. "Standing out and Fitting in: Korean Coffee Entrepreneurs' Strategies for Survival." *Food, Culture & Society* (2023): 1–20 (with Nathaniel Ming Curran and Michael Chesnut).

Bruce Fulton, "The Poetry of Synn Ilhi: An Appreciation," *Acta Koreana* 25, no. 2 (December 2022): 189-92.

Gooyong Kim. "BTS's Pandemic Hits and Their Implications: Discursive Re-vitalization of Neoliberal Hegemony in K-pop Industry." *International Journal of Communication*, 17 (2023): 7139-7160. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/viewFile/20320/4405>

Han Sang Kim. "Can the 'Comfort Women' Footage Speak? The Afterlives of Camera Images as Document and the Flow of Life." *positions: asia critique* 31:4(2023): 803-838.

Maya Stiller. "Monk Portraits in Late Chosŏn Korea: Exploring Social, Economic, and Gender Dynamics in Pre-modern Korean Buddhist Art." *Artibus Asiae* 83, no. 2 (2023): 171-197.

Balazs, Szalontai, and Yoo Jinil. "Maneuvering between Baghdad and Tehran: North Korea's Relations with Iraq and Iran during the Cold War." *Journal of Cold War Studies* Vol. 25, No. 2 (Spring 2023): 179–247.

Tikhonov, Vladimir. "Medicine meets red feminism: Yi Tögyo (1897–1932), a pioneering Korean feminist physician." *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*. 29,3 (2023): 319–343.

Tikhonov, Vladimir. "A Borderland Radical: The Life and Struggles of Heo Seongtaek (1908-?), a Korean Anti-Colonial Revolutionary." *Korea journal*. 63,2 (2023): 235–262.

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Wall, Barbara. "From Patriarchal Motherhood to Feminist Mothering?: The Depiction of the Single Mother Tongbaek in the K-drama *When the Camellia Blooms* (2019)." *Korean Studies*, Vol. 49 (forthcoming in 2024).

Wall, Barbara and Lee Dong Myong. "Stability in Variation: Visualizing the Actantial Core of *The Journey to the West*." *Korean Studies*, Vol. 47 (2023): 117-144. <https://doi.org/10.1353/ks.2023.a908620>

Yang, Sungik. "The South Korean Military Ideological Complex: Transcendent Nationalism in Military Moral Education." *Journal of Korean Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (2024): 61-88. (forthcoming)

Yang, Sungik. "Kim Chae-gyu Syndrome: South Korean Politics and Divergent Filmic Portrayals of the Assassination of Park Chung Hee." *International Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (2024): 30-45. Open access. doi: 10.1017/S1479591422000511

Yi, Joseph, Jiwon Shin, Anastasiya Buchok, and Sukhee Han. 2023 (October). "Student Research Participation in South Korea." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 56 (4), 449 - 454. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096523000203>

Yi, Joseph and Joe Phillips. 2023 (April 29). 'Low-Road' Liberalism: Censoring public discourses on communist North Korea and imperial Japan. *Society* 60(2), 212-223. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12115-023-00811-6>

Book Chapters

Jan Creutzenberg. "P'ansori in Germany: Korean Singing-Storytelling, from Representation of Culture to Creative Collaboration." In *Cross-border Interactions and Encounters between Germany and Korea*, edited by Yonson Ahn and Jihye Kim. Lanham: Lexington, 2023.

Istad, Felicia. "Towards a Multicultural Knowledge Economy? Emerging Issues in Tech Incubation for Immigrants in South Korea." In *Korea and the Global Society*, edited by Yonson Ahn. New York: Routledge, 2023.

Bruce Fulton (with Janet Poole, Kelly Y. Jeong, and Christopher P. Hanscom). "Developing and Managing a Successful Scholarly Project: Translations." In *Publishing and Scholarly Communications in the Humanities*, ed. Modern Language Association of America. New York: MLA, 2022. Available at: <https://outreach.mla.org/state-of-publishing/>

Bruce Fulton. "Every Translation Matters." In *K-munhak ūi T'ansaeng: Hanguk munhak ūl K-munhak ūro mandŭn pŏnyŏk iyagi* (The advent of K-literature: Talks on translation in making Korean literature into K-literature). Seoul: Kimyŏngsa, 2023.

Wall, Barbara. "Translation beyond the Written Word: Imagining the Transnational Spread of *The Journey to the West* in East Asia." In *Transnational East Asian Studies*, edited by Kevin Cawley and Julia Schneider. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2023. <https://academic.oup.com/liverpool-scholarship-online/book/46327?redirectedFrom=PDF>

Wall, Barbara. "Kim Sisŭp – the Ghost Story Teller: From Obscurity to the Screen." In *The Lives and Legacy of Kim Sisŭp (1435–1493)*, edited by Vladimir Glomb and Miriam Löwensteinová. Leiden: Brill, 2023.

Calls for Paper, Application, Proposal

Publication Workshop (Onsite)

Representation of Minoritized Groups in Korean Popular Culture

Dates: 21-22 June 2024, University of Copenhagen

Call for Papers

South Korean popular culture has taken the world by storm. International media celebrate the seven members of the K-pop group BTS as the most influential artists of the decade. The South Korean film *Parasite* (2019) was the first non-English language film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture. And the television series *Squid Game* (2021) became Netflix's most-watched series ever. These are just a few examples that mirror the global popularity of South Korean music, film, and TV series, which is also called the Korean Wave. Inasmuch as Korean popular culture entertains people around the globe, it also impacts consumers' ways of thinking and, in so doing, shapes the perception of the world. We know that homo narrans is less driven by pure observation or rational consideration than by stories and narrative logic. This also rings true for the perception of minoritized groups. How minoritized groups are perceived is less based on objective data, but rather on narratives circulating in the media. This workshop sets out to investigate how Korean popular culture represents minoritized groups and how it impacts the perception of minoritized groups.

The organizers envision a multidisciplinary workshop informed, for example, by minority or ethnic studies, gender and sexuality studies, disability studies, film and narrative studies. We invite studies on the representation of minoritized groups in various media and genres, including but not limited to TV series, films, pop songs, documentaries, newspapers and literature from all time periods. We welcome submissions of both theoretical and empirical papers that examine contemporary issues and trace historical trends in the portrayal of minoritized groups in Korean popular culture. This workshop is open to scholars of all stages in their career. Each invited participant is expected to turn their conference paper into a finished paper for possible inclusion in a future issue with an academic journal that is SSCI/AHCI indexed.

Use this form for submission: <https://forms.office.com/r/PuhPgEQrVvk>

Timeline

Jan 25: CFP circulation

Feb 25: Submission of proposals, including: abstracts (max. 500 words), bibliographies (min. 10 sources; engagement with academic sources in Korean highly recommended), bios (100 words).

March 1: Acceptance notice

May 10: Submission of presentation papers (min. 4000 words)

May 15-June 15: Circulation of papers among the participants (every participant reads every paper and gives feedback)

June 20: Participants arrive in Copenhagen

June 21/22: Workshop

Fall 2024: Submission of articles for a journal special issue (max. 7000 words)

Financial support

Travel costs will be reimbursed up to a certain maximum depending on the region the participant is based in. Up to three nights of accommodation will be covered by the host. Only those who follow all pre-workshop deadlines and participate in all activities related to the workshop will be reimbursed for their travel expenses. This workshop is supported by the 2024 Korean Studies Grant Program of the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS-2024-C-021).

Workshop organizers

Barbara Wall: barbara.wall@hum.ku.dk / Younghan Cho: choy@hufs.ac.kr

Please contact the organizers with any questions.

Call for Paper: MLA 2025 East Asia Forum

1. Literary and Cultural Translation in Premodern East Asia

Although there exists an extensive body of research on the history of translation in East Asia, attention has been weighted overwhelmingly toward the literary output of the modern era and carried out largely within the framework of national languages and contemporary political borders. This panel attempts to decouple translation from the process of nation-building and the

formation of modern subjectivities by examining its role in a variety of premodern (pre-19th c.) East Asian contexts. Potential issues to be considered include translation's role in the emergence of local and regional identities, the relationship between vernacular and cosmopolitan registers, and the impact of translation on emergent ideas about literary genre. Papers that examine intra-Asian contact and connections between Chinese, Japanese, and Korean and other languages are especially welcome. Please submit your abstract (250-300 words) and a short CV to William Hedberg, Arizona State University, william.hedberg@asu.edu by March 15, 2024.

2. Depicting Violence in East Asia across Time and Space

Violence is as old as humankind, and depictions of violence in the arts have never ceased. Yet the preponderance and heightened visceral representations of violence in contemporary literature and media beg us to reconsider the subject. We invite scholars to contribute to an interdisciplinary exploration of the complex portrayals of violence in East Asian literature and media to foster a deeper understanding of the dynamics of violence as related to its aesthetics, forms, modes, and politics. The panel is interested in exploring violence through both premodern forms, such as traditional poetry, fiction, and art, as well as contemporary mediums like film, television, and digital media. We aim to investigate the multifaceted representations of violence and their sociocultural implications. We are also interested in textual and media representations' active participation in constructing new social realities and imaginaries.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Historical perspectives on violence in East Asian literature.
- The role of violence in shaping cultural identity.
- Gendered violence and its portrayal in East Asian media.
- Comparative analyses of violence in traditional versus contemporary forms of storytelling.
- The impact of censorship on the representation of violence in East Asian media.
- The intersection of political, social, and economic factors in portraying violence.
- The relationship between form & representations of violence or tension between textual representation and contextual realities.
- The relationship between the senses (visual, sonic, haptic, etc.) and violence in literature and media.
- The production of violence in the logic of genre-making (e.g., detective fiction, true crime documentaries, apocalyptic narratives, etc.).

We welcome contributions from scholars in literature, media studies, cultural studies, history, and related fields. Submissions should engage critically with the cultural, historical, and aesthetic dimensions of representations of violence in East Asian literature and media. Please submit your abstract (250-300 words) and a short CV to Jina Kim, University of Oregon, jinak@uoregon.edu, by March 15, 2024.

3. Digital Labor and East Asian Cultural Production

The rapid growth of digital technologies in various different cultural fields has brought many benefits, significantly increasing efficiency in many areas and enabling types of cultural production that previously would have been effectively impossible, it has also created a broad range of new challenges—displacing existing workers, creating entire new fields of low-wage labor, blurring the boundary between work and recreation, underscoring the status of attention as a form of labor, and troubling working understandings of intellectual property protections and workable “fair use” exceptions. This panel will examine these topics as they relate to East Asian cultural production, including both labor practices based relating to East Asian communities and labor practices that pertain to cultural formations associated with East Asia. We are also interested in how digital labor itself is represented within East Asian cultural products. If interested in joining the panel, please submit a 250-300 word abstract and short CV to Carlos Rojas, Duke University, c.rojas@duke.edu by March 15, 2024.

4. Representing East Asian Indigenous Identities, Minority Nationalities, and Marginal Ethnicities

This session highlights the literary and/or cinematic representation of indigenous peoples / minorities nationalities / aboriginal groups in East Asia. We hope it will work to disaggregate the notion of monolithic East Asian identity and identities that neatly fall into the traditional CJK divisions. There is much literary and cinematic production on the non-Han peoples of SW and Western China (eg. Tibetan, Yi, Uighur), Taiwan (various Austronesian Aboriginal writers and filmmakers), writers and filmmakers from Okinawa and Hokkaido, as well as among the Korean and Manchu minority groups of northeast China. This collaborative session between the LLC Forum on East Asian Literatures and the TC Race and Ethnicity Forum envisions a session with presentations on an array of experiences on the margins of East Asia societies. We seek papers that investigate the literary and/or cinematic representation of indigenous identities, minority nationalities, and/or marginal ethnicities in East Asia. Send 300-word abstracts and 250-word biographies to Christopher Lupke <lupke@ualberta.ca> by March 15, 2024.

5. "Trigger Warning" and Teaching East Asian Literature: A Roundtable

Amid growing concerns for the well-being of students, teaching East Asian literature with potentially triggering content presents a challenge for teachers. How can instructors navigate the teaching of controversial topics and events? The dilemma lies in creating safe spaces for potentially traumatizing subject matter while encouraging students not to shy away from ideas and perspectives conflicting with their own. What constitutes the boundary of our commitment to academic freedom? This roundtable offers a platform to share experiences and articulate effective strategies in teaching East Asian literature. It aims to foster discussions on striking a balance between academic exploration and ensuring the well-being of student throughout the teaching process. Please submit one-paragraph proposal and a short CV to Suyoung Son, Cornell University, ss994@cornell.edu, by March 15, 2024.

Call for Applications

The Korea Society's Sherman Family Korea Emerging Scholar Lecture Award

The Korea Society is now accepting applications through April 20, 2024 for the eighth annual Sherman Family Korea Emerging Scholar Lecture Award. Established in 2017 through the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Sherman and family, the Award encourages and contributes to the advancement of thought leadership for a new generation of Korea scholars and professionals. Each year The Korea Society recognizes an emerging expert and provides the awardee with an opportunity to share their expertise with a broad general audience.

The Society seeks applications from scholars, researchers and specialists representative of a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds. Prior awardees have explored topics in the arts, architecture, political science and technology and have included Ph.D. candidates, junior professors, researchers and professionals. Former applicants have hailed from colleges and universities, research institutions and non-profit organizations in the U.S.

Program Benefits for the awardee include the opportunity to conduct a public, in-person lecture at The Korea Society in early fall 2024—the lecture is live-streamed and also recorded to allow ongoing access on the Society's website and YouTube channel; roundtrip air travel to New York City and hotel accommodations and incidentals for two-nights; a \$2,500 honorarium; and the opportunity to gain wider visibility for one's work and to become part of a group of distinguished alumni.

Process

By April 20, 2024, applicants submit the application which includes a CV, a writing sample, and a lecture proposal

By May 3, 2024, ensure two letters of recommendation from senior scholars or professionals have been submitted

A review committee of experts in the field reviews short-listed applications in May 2024.

Awardee is announced by early June.

Public lecture at The Korea Society is held in early fall 2024 at a time mutually convenient for the awardee and the Society.

For further information and to access the application, just visit our application site.

Questions can be sent to linda.tobash@koreasociety.org. Please indicate Sherman Family Lecture in the Subject line.

Call for Proposals: Research Articles for the Routledge Handbook of Korean Religions

Editors: Sean Kim and Liora Sarfati

Scholarship on Korea has recently proliferated, in part influenced by South Korea's economic rise and the popularity of K-pop. The study of Korean religions has been part of this trend, but there is currently no comprehensive reference for the rich and diverse Korean spiritual landscape. The Routledge Handbook on Korean Religions would fill that lacuna.

Korea has been a unique place for the development of religions. It has been pluralistic in the attitudes toward the vernacular worshippers and the elites, even when some religious practices had been persecuted or removed from the centralized mechanisms of the state. As a consequence, throughout the history of Korea's religious sphere the indigenous religious beliefs and practices co-existed and sometimes syncretized with imported ideas and doctrines.

We are soliciting research articles for The Routledge Handbook on Korean Religions, in which each religious trend will be addressed through innovative research in disciplines, including history, anthropology, philosophy, sociology, media studies, and religious studies. The articles can focus on pre-modern, modern, or contemporary religious phenomena related to vernacular

religions (ancestor worship, pilgrimage, divination, shamanism), Buddhism, Confucianism, Neo-Confucianism, Christianity, new religions, and civil religions. Possible angles for discussion include the history of religious groups, sacred and important sites, influential religious texts, central religious leaders, transformations, debates, and specific practices. The proposals cannot include work published elsewhere or similar to previous publications. We encourage scholars in all stages of their academic path to submit a proposal, as long as it includes new data and firmly structured analysis.

Submission Information

Proposals for chapters, including a short and a long abstract (200 and 1,000 words) will be accepted for initial consideration on a rolling basis from now until March 30, 2024. Proposals should be sent to ckim@ucmo.edu and lsarfati@tauex.tau.ac.il. The full papers (7,000-8,000 words including references and bibliography) must be submitted by August 30 2024, and will undergo anonymous peer-review. Please consult the Routledge website for publishing guidelines: <https://www.routledge.com/our-customers/authors/publishing-guidelines>

The editors hope to conduct a workshop for the chapter contributors in the summer of 2024, pending funding. In this workshop, the contributors will learn about each other's work in order to create links and cross references between the handbook's chapters through discussion and reflections. For further inquiries, please contact us, Sean Kim, Professor of History at the University of Central Missouri ckim@ucmo.edu, and Liora Sarfati, senior lecturer and the chair of the East Asian Studies department at Tel Aviv University lsarfati@tauex.tau.ac.il.

Conference and Institutional Reports

Report on the KLA Annual Meeting

Submitted by Sunyoung Park, KLA President

The Korean Literature Association held its 2023 annual meeting, "The Posthuman, the Human, and the Non-Human: New Narratives and Critical Perspectives in Korean Studies," at the University of Southern California on November 10-11. The conference attracted about fifty participants aside from thirty presenters. Most of them were graduate, postgraduate, and professorial researchers in Korean literature and culture, and they were joined by a small group of undergraduate students and independent researchers. The full program of the conference and photos from the occasion have been archived and are accessible at the KLA website <https://koreanlit.org/previous-meetings/>

The conference's accomplishments can be summarized into three points. First, it allowed panelists to share their latest research on the conference theme with the audience as well as with each other and receive peer feedback for the future improvement of their projects. In this regard, the book manuscript workshop for Peter Moody's *Mobilizing Musicians and the Making of North Korea (1945-1991)* was a highlight of the KLA's communitarian and mentoring spirit. Second, the keynote speech by Sherryl Vint and the capstone panel by Bora Chung, Sungwook Hong, and Albert Park provided much intellectual stimuli and a space of collaborative learning. Finally, the conference offered every attendant an opportunity for professional networking across disciplinary and national borders. The conference program also included a tour of USC's Korean Heritage Library and the exhibition, "Sixty Years of South Korean Science Fiction," which was held at the East Asian Library. This exhibition was a follow-up physical event of USC Libraries' digital exhibition "Science Fiction in Korea: Between History, Genre, and Politics."

The 2024 annual meeting will be hosted by Ohio State University on the theme of "Act! Performativity of Korean Literature." It will be organized by the KLA Executive Committee, which currently consists of Hwisang Cho, Jae Won Edward Chung, Jina Kim, Pil Ho Kim, and Sunyoung Park.

Please see the CFP here <https://koreanlit.org/upcoming-meeting/>. We hope to see many members of the Korean studies community at the next year's meeting.



Annual Report on the IUC at SKKU

Advanced proficiency in academic Korean is an absolute but elusive requirement for researchers in Korean Studies at the highest level, but neither Korean language programs at standard 어학당 in Korean universities nor Korean language programs at universities outside Korea are capable of providing this kind of specialized language training for researchers—hence the essential role that an institution like the IUC (<https://iuc.skku.edu/iuc/index.do>) should play for the field. This same role has been played for 60 years already in Chinese and Japanese Studies by the sister IUCs in China and Japan.

Despite the IUC's anemic fellowship funding and unnecessarily intrusive conditions set by the Korea Foundation on the IUC's admissions decisions, the IUC continues to punch about its weight in terms of its impact. Moreover, our experience to date shows that, with more scholarship funding, more students could easily be accommodated—the IUC is turning away students, despite the uncompetitive and unattractive fellowship funding it currently has.

For Korean Studies to achieve the same prestige in global East Asian Studies academia as Japanese Studies and Chinese Studies, it is essential that Korean Studies thrive at the world's very best universities before it thrives anywhere else. Here too the IUC is successful, despite its weak funding. Students in the past two years have hailed from Oxford, Stanford, Columbia, UCLA, Yale, University of Michigan, Northwestern, and George Washington Universities, among others, and many continue to pursue advanced degrees in Korean Studies at these same institutions at the time of reporting. Of the 17 IUC graduates for 2023, 12 are currently active as researchers in Korean Studies, either as graduate students or professional researchers. Another, Aleksandra Bykova from Russia who completed her MA at Yonsei, has since published her second popular book about Korea back in Russia. Considering the usual high attrition rates in tertiary education, and the meagre financial incentives currently available for the IUC, this is rather astonishing. In the meantime, former IUC attendees Daniel Pieper (PhD, UBC) and Sungik Yang (PhD, Harvard) have both achieved tenure-track academic positions at Monash University (Australia) and Arizona State University (USA), respectively.

The only conclusion that one can reach on the basis of the IUC's performance to date is this—if it can produce such a handsome return on investment for a fraction of the investment that Japanese Studies students at the IUC in Yokohama receive, imagine how much more it could achieve and how much better it could perform if the fellowships were competitive with those offered by the IUC in Yokohama, and if admissions decisions were entirely in the hands of the academic Korean Studies professionals at the IUC, without the burden of unhelpful and counterproductive attention to geographic quotas! I join my colleagues from the IUC member institutions in urging colleagues to dedicate resources to sending more excellent students to the IUC as we continue to strive to do for Korean Studies what our sister IUCs in Japan and China have done for their fields of study.

Ross King
University of British Columbia and Co-Chair
UC Overseas Management Committee



Spring 2023 IUC Graduate

Upcoming Events

Korea Colloquium Series at the Harvard Korea Institute

US Archives, Asian Scholars, and the Problems of the 'Cultural Cold War' Framework
Han Sang Kim

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. ET, Harvard University

Heterodox Academy Spring Forums on Controversial Topics

1. Academic Freedom in Hong Kong/China and among Overseas Chinese students
April 4 Thurs 6pm PDT; April 5 Friday 10am KT/JT

2. Engaging North Korea
May 2 Thurs 9pm ET, 6pm PDT; May 3 Fri 10am Korea

3. (Post) Affirmative Action & Asian-Americans.
May 23 Thurs 9pm ET, 6pm PDT; May 24 Fri 10am Korea

4. Comfort Women Scholarship Controversies and Trials
June 13 Thurs 9pm EDT; June 14 Fri 10am Korea/Japan

We invite various academic perspectives, from left, right, and center. Ideally, we can learn from diverse exchange and come to consensus on certain issues and values. If interested in speaking (or just participating), please email: joyichicago@yahoo.com (Speakers shall receive honoraria.)

2024 Book Talk Series at the International Institute of Korean Studies (IKSU) University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)

Edited by Dr Sojin Lim: 'Politics, International Relations and Diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula'. This book will appeal to scholars and students of politics, international relations, diplomacy, and Korean Studies. The session will take place on 21 February 2024 (Wed), from 2PM - 4PM (UK time).

Prof. David Hundt: 'South Koreans and the Politics of Immigration in Contemporary Australia'. Drawing upon a study of the 'new generation' of young Korean migrants in Melbourne, this book will be of interest to scholars of multiculturalism and immigration history in Australia, citizenship and migration, and Korean studies. The session will take place on 8 March 2024 (Fri), from 10AM – 12PM (UK time).

Dr Sojin Lim: 'International Aid and Sustainable Development in North Korea: A Country Left Behind with Cloaked Society'. This book will appeal to students of Korean Studies, Development Studies, Asian Politics and International Relations. The session will take place on 20 March 2024 (Wed), from 2PM – 4PM (UK time).

Attendees are welcomed to join the sessions either online (via MS Teams) or in-person (ABLT5, UCLan). Please see the attached files for more details and registration links.

Details of the books can be also found here:

<https://www.routledge.com/Politics-International-Relations-and-Diplomacy-on-the-Korean-Peninsula/Lim/p/book/9781032491929>

<https://www.routledge.com/South-Koreans-and-the-Politics-of-Immigration-in-Contemporary-Australia/Hundt/p/book/9781032188966>

<https://www.routledge.com/International-Aid-and-Sustainable-Development-in-North-Korea-A-Country/Lim/p/book/9781032486895>

Group Exhibition: *Untimely Resonance*

Song, singing, and storytelling as sonic historiography, with artists from Korea, Germany, and France

Curated by Jan Creutzenberg, in collaboration with pink factory
Opens summer/fall 2024 at Alternative Space LOOP, Seoul.