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AAS 2026 in Vancouver, Canada

- Words from the **AAS President Nancy Peluso** in the Conference Program

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the AAS 2026 Annual Conference in Vancouver, Canada! I also want to acknowledge the many colleagues, students, and AAS members who cannot attend this year's conference due to deeply troubling geopolitical circumstances. Our academic freedom is under threat more than ever before. As a result, the Association for Asian Studies has been working to facilitate remote participation at our conferences in order to hear the voices, experiences, and concerns of those who cannot participate in person.

...

Our international collaborators in particular are highlighting research and both policy and activist engagements with people and places allegedly "on the margins"—often working far from capital cities and other financial and governing centers—where conflicts, environmental change, and globalization's effects are affecting and being affected by everyday life. I hope research on these critical environments will become increasingly represented in our North American meetings. The mission of the AAS needs to be realized globally as well as locally.



Message from the Chair

- By **Sixiang Wang**, Chair, Committee on Korean Studies
Associate Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures, UCLA

Dear Committee on Korean Studies' Members,

It has been an eventful year. As we mentioned last year, the CKS is in transition, and the current Executive Board has been reinvigorating the CKS as the only cross-disciplinary organization representing Korean Studies as an area field at AAS. During the first year of my term as chair (2024-2025), we focused primarily on community building and improving the organization's communication infrastructure. We moved to an online forum, refreshed our website, and began fundraising for CKS-led initiatives, including raising money for a new book prize in Korean studies at the AAS. We have also co-sponsored a 2026 AAS Pre-Conference Meeting that brings together scholars across disciplines in Korean Studies. This year's conference, Popular Culture in the 1990s is hosted at Simon Fraser University and is organized by Dal Yong Jin and Cedarbough Saeji (CKS Vice-Chair). I hope CKS can continue to support such initiatives in the coming years.

These efforts required significant behind-the-scenes work. With the new [revised by-laws](#), we are now authorized to fundraise and [collect membership dues as a AAS Sponsored Group](#). We are now tracking biannual dues (\$20 for 2 years) and managing voting eligibility for elections on this basis. In addition, we moved our website to a new hosting platform. All in all, I believe these are significant improvements to CKS's operation and will enable future communication within the Korean Studies community and manage its new digital and community assets. For these reasons, it is important for CKS membership to think carefully about the organization's future leadership.

My term as chair is ending, as is my time on the CKS Board. I am happy to announce that CedarBough Saeji, current Vice-Chair, will step in as Chair for the remainder of her elected term (April 2026–March 2028). Michael Kim, who has served on the Board since 2022, will also be stepping down. I am grateful to Michael Kim for his service to the CKS over the past few years.

In the meantime, CKS will be administering its 2026 election vote from April 3rd to April 15. Please ensure your voting eligibility by keeping up with membership dues, and take your time to get acquainted with this year's candidates. After the AAS concludes, we will send ballots to current members for the election. Please vote!

Sincerely yours,

Sixiang Wang

Chair

Committee on Korean Studies

2026 Committee on Korean Studies Election

Candidate Information

As per our new [revised by-laws](#), members elected to the board will now serve a 4-year term. For the 2026 election, two positions are currently open.

- Executive Committee Member, 4-year term:
April 2026–March 2030 (Represents CKS for 2027 AAS, 2028 AAS, 2029 AAS, 2030 AAS)
to replace Sixiang Wang, whose term concludes by the 2026 AAS meeting.
- Executive Committee Member, 4-year term:
April 2026–March 2030 (Represents CKS for 2027 AAS, 2028 AAS, 2029 AAS, 2030 AAS)
to replace Michael Kim, whose term concludes by the 2026 AAS meeting.

Candidate 1

Su Yun Kim, Associate Professor, University of Hong Kong



Biography

Su Yun Kim is the Director of the Korean Studies Programme and Associate Professor in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Hong Kong. She received her Ph.D. in Literature from UC San Diego. Before arriving at HKU, she taught at Hamilton College and was a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow at Doshisha University. She is a specialist in modern Korean literature and culture. Her broader research interests include imperialism and colonialism in East Asia, gender and sexuality, race, popular literature (middlebrow and lowbrow literature), and transwar/transnational Korean cinema. Kim is the author of *Imperial Romance: Fictions of Colonial Intimacy in Korea, 1905-1945* (2020) and the co-editor of *East Asian Transwar Popular Culture: Literature and Film from Taiwan and Korea* (2019). She is currently working on two book projects, tentatively titled "Middlebrow Literature and

Feminist Imagination: Towards a New Genealogy of the Novel in Korea, 1930-1960" and "Writing Mobility: Literature of Border-Crossing, Migration, and Travel in Mid-Century Korea."

Candidate Statement

As an expert in modern Korean literature and culture and as a mid-career scholar, I am committed to bridging Korean literary and cultural studies across various platforms. I'd be honored to collaborate with the members of the CKS and contribute to initiatives in the field, bringing in my experience in building the Korean Studies major at the University of Hong Kong and creating synergies with other disciplines and area studies at my institution. I would be thrilled to organize a career development workshop for graduate students and early-career colleagues, focusing on teaching and research in Korean Studies outside of Korea. I would also plan to update the syllabi data on the CKS website, thus contributing to the innovation of Korean Studies courses.

Candidate 2

Si Nae Park, Associate Professor, Harvard University



Biography

Si Nae Park is Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University. She received her Ph.D. in Asian Studies from the University of British Columbia. As a specialist in the literature and literary culture of Chosŏn Korea (1392-1910), she is interested in the conditions of literary creativity and textual practices in premodern Korea and the broader context of the Sinographic Cosmopolis. She has written on the inscriptional ecology, materiality of texts, and history of the book in Korea, with a growing interest in pre-Chosŏn textual practices, paradigms of literary history and the formation of Korean literature as a field of study, and digital philology. She is the author of *The Korean Vernacular Story: Telling Tales of*

Contemporary Chosŏn in Sinographic Writing (Columbia University Press, 2020) and co-editor of *Score One for the Dancing Girl and Other Selections from the Kimun Ch'onghwa: A Story Collection from Nineteenth-Century Korea* (University of Toronto Press, 2016). Her second co-edited volume *Materialities of the Book in Korea: Technologies, Inscriptions, and Reading Ecologies* is forthcoming with the Harvard University Asia Center Publications Program. Currently, Park is completing a new book on sound and the culture of reading in Chosŏn Korea entitled *The Life of Writing as Utterance: Reading Aloud and Literary Imagination in Chosŏn Korea*.

Candidate Statement

As a specialist of premodern Korea, I am committed to raising the profile of premodern Korean humanities panels at the annual AAS conference. Toward fostering the next-generation scholars of Korean studies and community building in the field, I want to organize teaching workshops to explore assignment design, teaching with objects, and cross-subfield/cross-period conversations.

Candidate 3

Marjorie Burge, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado, Boulder



Biography

Marjorie Burge is Assistant Professor in Asian Languages & Civilizations at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on early writing in the Korean kingdoms of Paekche and Silla, and in early Japan, from the sixth through eighth centuries. Her broader research interests include poetic practice in both vernacular languages and Literary Sinitic, the development of literary conventions, and the impact of peninsular immigrants on the society and culture of early Japan.

Candidate Statement

As one of the few active scholars of early Korea working in North America, I would like to support the growth and visibility of early Korean studies and premodern Korean studies more broadly. I believe we are at an important moment for the growth of the Korean Studies field which will necessitate increased attention to premodern studies, and as a CKS board member, I would like to help facilitate conversations and collaborations between those working on modern/contemporary topics and those focused on pre-20th century Korea concerning approaches to teaching and curriculum development. I am also eager to help expand CKS' presence at AAS by increasing outreach to graduate students and other early-career researchers and connecting them with fellow researchers at various career stages.



**CKS-Pre Conference
Association of Asian Studies 2026**

NOSTALGIA OR RENAISSANCE of Popular Culture in the 1990s

- **DATE: MARCH 11, 2026**
- **VENUE: SFU HARBOUR CENTRE 2270**

9:30 Welcome Reception

9:50 Opening Remarks

10:00 - 11:40 Nostalgia, Fashion, and PC communication of the 1990s

- Chair: Dal Yong Jin (Simon Fraser U.)
 - Chung Kang Kim (Hanyang U.) "Chatting about Movies: PC communication, Movie Quiz, and the Formation of 'Taste.'"
 - Ju Oak Kim (Texas A&M International U.) "Baekdu Daegan: Art Film Movements in Korea."
 - So-Rim Lee (U Penn) "Nan Naya: Girl Power and the Aesthetics of Gen-X Self-Fashioning in the 1990s."
 - Jahyon Park (Wesleyan U.) "Animating Nostalgia, Animating Failure: Revisiting Exorcism Chronicles in the Era of the Korean Wave."

11:40 - 12:50 Lunch

12:50 - 14:15 K-pop's Roots in the 1990s

- Chair: CedarBough Saeji (Busan U.)
 - Pil Ho Kim, (Ohio State U.) "Revolutionary Songs Will Be Televised: Nochatsa, Kim Kwangsök, Chong T'aech'un, and the Rise of Protest Folk in 1990s' Mainstream Korean Pop."
 - Areum Jeong (Arizona State U.) "K-pop Fan Fiction: The Deokhu Archive, Gendered Narratives, and Transmedia Platforms."
 - Donna Kwon (U of Kentucky) "Analyzing the Implications of K-pop's Multivocal Roots in the 1990s."

14:15 - 14:30 Break

14:30-16:10 Reflection of the 1990s - Screen Media towards Global

- Chair: Pil Ho Kim (Ohio State U.)
 - Young A Jung (George Mason U.) "The Transformation of Mobile Communications and Dating Customs in the 1990s: Ppippi and Yeonae in the Reply Series."
 - Seongbin Hwang (Rikkyo U.) "Nostalgia and the Digital Shift: The Selective Memory of Narrative and Music in 1990s-set "Newtro" Dramas."
 - Taeyoung Kim (Loughborough U.) "Streaming Media's Commodification of the Korean Past: A Case Study of When Life Gives Tangerine."
 - Dahye Kim (Northwestern U.) "Non-Western Media Theory amid the Global-Local Dialectic: The South Korean 1990s."

16:10-17:45 Roundtable: Korean Cinema in Transition

- Chair: Chung Kang Kim (Hanyang U.)
 - "What comes after New Korean Cinema? A Conversation on Periodization"
 - Participants:
 - Ji-yoon An (UBC)
 - Joseph Jeon (UC Irvine)
 - Hee Seung Irene Lee (U of Auckland)
 - Nam Lee (Chapman U.)

**Program Supporters**

- Committee on Korean Studies at the Association of Asian Studies
- Transnational Popular Culture and Digital Technology Lab, Simon Fraser University
- David Lam Centre, Simon Fraser University

Annual Meeting of the Committee on Korean Studies

Date and Time: 12:15-1:45pm, Saturday, March 14, 2026

Venue: Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, Waterfront Ballroom A, Lobby Level

AAS Special Events, Awards, Meetings

OPENING CEREMONY AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Thursday, March 11, 5:00PM

Vancouver Convention Centre, Ballroom C, Level 1

Join us as we officially kick off the AAS 2026 Annual Conference with a special welcome from Vancouver's Host Nations and the AAS Executive Director, Hilary Finchum-Sung.

The Keynote Address will immediately follow the Opening Ceremony and will begin at approximately 5:30pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: HYUN MEE KIM, YONSEI UNIVERSITY *A Feminist Redefining of Democracy in Post-Developmental South Korea*

This keynote examines how South Korea offers a critical vantage point for understanding not only the democratic crisis unfolding in the post-developmental era, but also for envisioning alternative democratic futures grounded in care, social reproduction, and relational interdependence. The once-celebrated alignment among economic development, democratic legitimacy, and demographic sustainability—the “3D nexus” that powered rapid industrialization and modernization—has fractured. Its unraveling coincides with a profound crisis of social reproduction. At the same time, underdeveloped welfare protections, dependence on undervalued care labor, and deepening precarity expose the limits of growth-centered statecraft. Declining fertility and intensifying intergenerational inequalities further reveal how gender, class, and age continue to structure access to full civic membership.

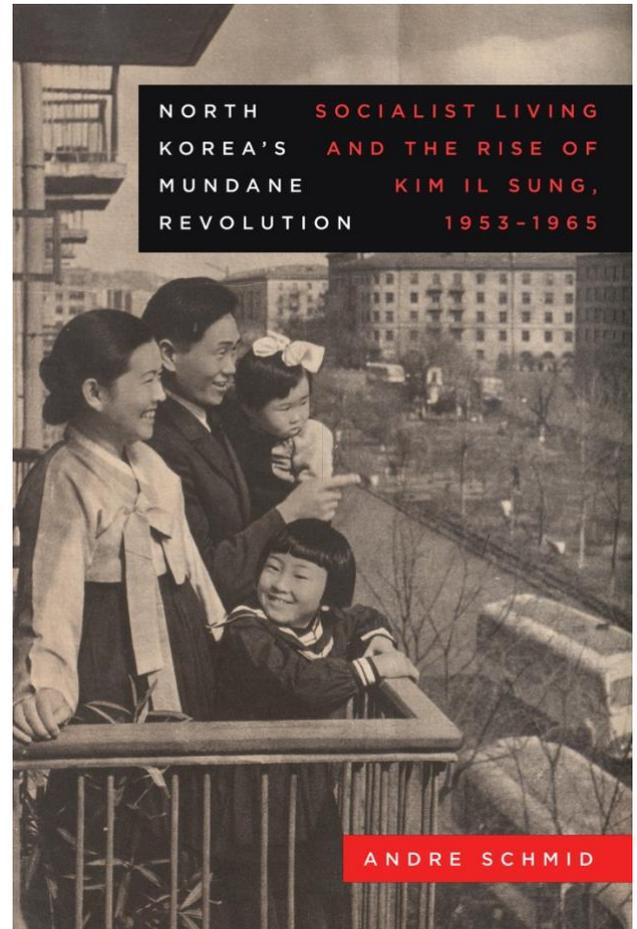
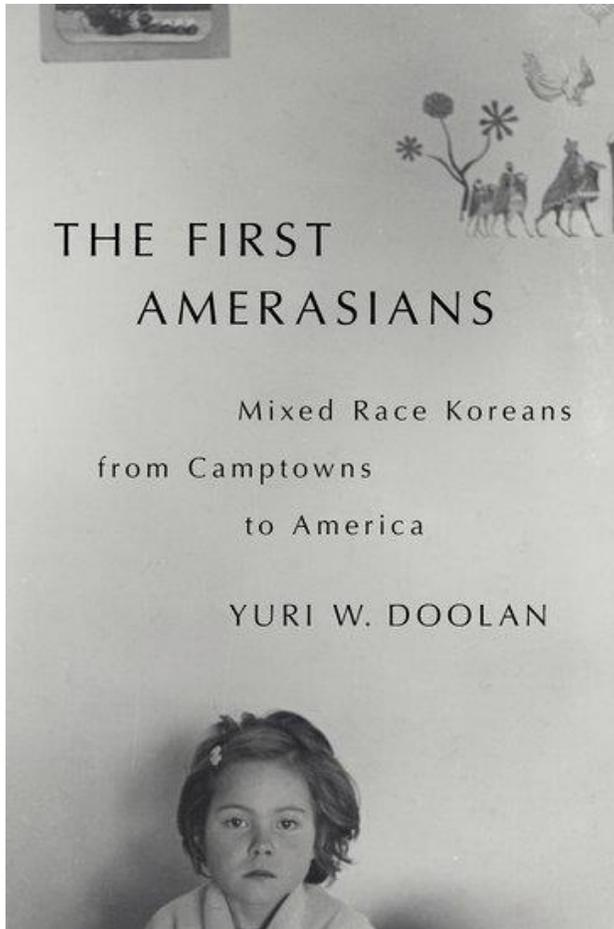


Hyun Mee Kim

Many Asian societies confront similar dilemmas—aging populations, care deficits, precarious labor markets, and hierarchical political cultures—albeit following divergent historical trajectories. This keynote argues that a feminist reframing of democracy, grounded in social reproduction and interdependence, offers a promising pathway toward more inclusive, sustainable, and justice-oriented democratic futures in South Korea and across Asia.

Biography of Hyun Mee Kim

Hyun Mee Kim (김현미, 金賢美) is a feminist cultural anthropologist and engaged activist-scholar whose work bridges academia with feminist, queer, migrant- and refugee-rights, and environmental justice movements across South Korea and Asia. A professor in the Department of Cultural Anthropology at Yonsei University, her research explores the political economy of gender and labor, transnational migration, refugee politics, and ecological futures, grounded in sustained ethnographic engagement with marginalized communities. She is the author of *Cultural Translation in a Global Era* (2005), *We Always Leave Home* (2014; Chinese edition, 2019), *Feminist Lifestyle* (2021), and *A Society of Flawless Fragments* (2023), and the co-editor of *Multiculturalism in East Asia* (2016).



James B. Palais Book Prize

Winner:

Yuri W. Doolan, [The First Amerasians: Mixed Race Koreans from Camptowns to America](#) (Oxford University Press, 2024)

Honorable mention:

Andre Schmid, [North Korea's Mundane Revolution: Socialist Living and the Rise of Kim Il Sung, 1953-1965](#) (University of California Press, 2024)

Early Korean Studies Working Group Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 8:00-9:30pm, Princess Louisa Suite, Fairmont Waterfront

Please join us for the second annual gathering of the Early Korean Studies Working Group. This year, our meeting will feature a discussion on "Approaches to Teaching Early Korea." We invite any and all scholars with an interest in Early Korea to join us for a lively conversation. Contact Marjorie Burge (marjorie.burge@colorado.edu) with any questions.

Korea Foundation Reception

Friday, March 13, 2026, 7:30-9:30pm, Fairmont Waterfront, Waterfront Ballroom C, Lobby Level

AAS Panels and Roundtables on Korea

An Ideal Refuge? A Critical Examination of the South Korean Refugee

7:00-8:30pm, Thursday, March 12

VCC, Room 221

Organizer: Angela McClean; Chair: Nora Kim; Discussants: Petrice Flowers, Ken Silverman
Presenters: Angela McClean, Nora Kim, Yura Hyeon, Kate Klemm-Szeto

"Where else could an asylum seeker find refuge when they flee to Asia?" asked a prominent human rights lawyer and refugee rights advocate in 2016 at a conference commemorating the three-year anniversary of the enactment of the 2013 South Korean Refugee Act—the first of its kind in Asia. The lawyer expressed confidence that South Korea had established generous refugee policies, at least relative to those of other Asian countries. However, despite this optimism, South Korea's refugee recognition rate remains extremely low. Is South Korea an exemplary refugee-hosting country within Asia? What insights does the South Korean case offer into the broader refugee landscape in and beyond the Asia-Pacific region? This panel critically examines South Korea's refugee system. The panel delves into the bureaucratic process of South Korea's refugee status determination regime and the lived experiences of asylum seekers, including North Koreans, Yemenis, Palestinians, and Ethiopians, as they navigate South Korea's refugee landscape. Bringing ethnographic, sociological, and legal perspectives into conversation, the presenters collectively highlight the resilience of asylum-seekers as well as violence of state power in deciding who deserves refuge. The international refugee regime has faced ongoing crises since the end of the Cold War. Today, the Asia-Pacific region hosts more than 17 million refugees and displaced persons, yet refugee-hosting countries in Asia receive relatively little attention. Using South Korea as a case study, the presenters highlight challenges asylum-seekers face and reflect on how to make South Korea a more welcoming place for those in need of protection.

Choreographing Diplomacy: Formal Structures and Informal Acts in Nineteenth-Century Chosŏn Korea

7:00-8:30pm, Thursday, March 12

VCC, Room 214

Organizer: Jinsung Kim; Chair: George Kallander; Discussant: Adam Bohnet
Presenters: Kevin Wang, Jinsung Kim, Sujin Cheon, Chanhee Lee

In the nineteenth century, Chosŏn Korea navigated a rapidly shifting diplomatic landscape. This panel challenges prevailing perspectives that reduce Korean diplomacy to reactions to external pressures or interpret regional relations through narrow frameworks. The four papers illuminate how diplomatic transitions unfolded during this pivotal period, examining shifts in governance, evolving relations with neighboring countries, and the emotional dimensions of these changes. Kevin Wang examines a series of Qing vessel incursions on Chosŏn's northwestern islands between 1864 and 1894. His paper complicates prevailing narratives of Korea's "opening" by highlighting how these encounters reshaped Qing-Chosŏn relations prior to the treaty-based diplomatic framework. Jinsung Kim explores shifting relations between Chosŏn and Japan in the early 1880s through the lens of military exchanges, demonstrating how the military, typically seen as a source of conflict, was employed as a diplomatic tool to advance bilateral relations. Sujin Cheon analyzes the formation of Chosŏn's modern foreign ministry in the mid-1890s, tracing its transformation from a Sinocentric tributary order to a treaty-based diplomatic system. Her study contributes to a comprehensive understanding of Chosŏn and the Korean Empire's diplomatic practices. Chanhee Lee investigates records from Korean envoys to Russia (1896) and Britain (1897), foregrounding their experiences and emotional responses to modern military displays as both a way of sensing Korea's diplomatic transition and a critical lens for revisiting diplomatic history. Collectively, this panel highlights the multifaceted and negotiated nature of Chosŏn diplomacy during a transitional period, contributing to broader debates on how non-Western states navigated shifting geopolitical pressures.

Remembrance, Redress, and Reconciliation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Comfort Women Reparations Movement in the 21st Century

7:00-8:30pm, Thursday, March 12

VCC, Room 207

Organizer and Chair: Timothy Webster; Discussant: Alexis Dudden

Presenters: Timothy Webster, Peipei Qiu, Alexis Dudden, Tae-Ung Baik

This panel explores legal, technological and social struggles for remembrance, redress, and reconciliation for "comfort women:" the women and minor children pressed into sexual servitude by the Japanese government in the 1930s and 1940s. The redress movement has transformed from a bilateral dispute between Tokyo and Seoul to a global campaign to seek compensation, resolution, and a permanent place for this history as a crime against humanity and war crime and – most critical to the future – to educate and connect with ongoing instances of sexual violence around the world. Speakers will explore ways and sites that survivors and their supporters demand redress: transnational litigation in various jurisdictions, petitions before international organizations, challenges against historical denialism, and the preservation of memory and experience through Artificial Intelligence.

Traversing the Ruptures of Empire and Cold War: Korean Diasporic Communities in (North)East Asia

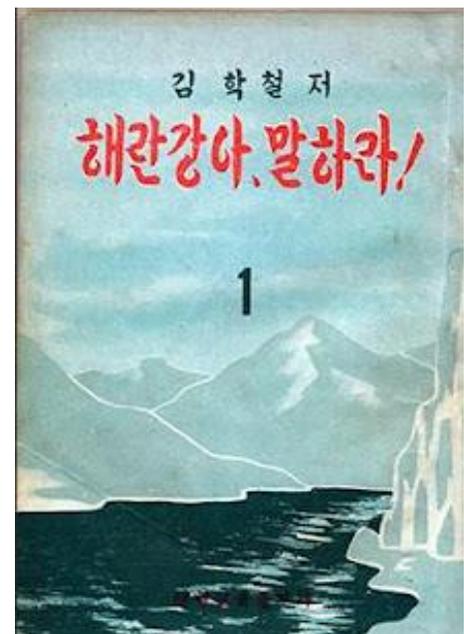
7:00-8:30pm, Thursday, March 12

VCC, Room 209

Organizer and Chair: Kim Lacey; Discussant: Suzy Kim

Presenters: Sophie Lee, Peter Moody, Kim Lacey, We Jung Yi

By the time Korea gained independence from Japan in August 1945, there were roughly four million Koreans living outside the peninsula. With the ensuing Cold War manifested through the Korean War, many found themselves caught in the middle of opposing political ideologies. This panel explores the complex entanglements of transnational mobility in (North)East Asia during the early Cold War period. We highlight how individuals and groups navigated competing state interests, forged diasporic solidarities, and reconfigured boundaries of identity, ideology, and belonging across borders through four different studies: the fate of ethnic Koreans stranded on Sakhalin island after Japan's surrender; the role of various Soviet Koreans in founding the DPRK; cultural exchanges through music involving Korean diaspora communities; and the transborder anticolonial struggle through the life of Kim Hakch'öl. These papers illuminate the local consequences of global ideological struggles and reveal the agency of diasporic communities caught between overlapping empires and national projects. While the Cold War is often framed as a contest between superpowers, our panel foregrounds the lived experiences of border crossers, mediators, and dissenters who complicated state narratives. We aim to generate discussion on methodological approaches to transnational research in Asian studies, including the use of multilingual sources, cross-border (oral) histories, and analyses of literary and musical sources. In doing so, the panel contributes to emerging scholarship that rethinks Cold War (North)East Asia as not merely a passive arena of ideological struggle, but as a dynamic zone of interaction, contestation, and negotiation shaped by a multitude of actors.



Return of Women Ghosts, Women Monsters, and Women Demons: Dangerous Women in the Late 20th Century and Contemporary Korean Visual Culture

7:00-8:30pm, Thursday, March 12

VCC, Room 110

Organizer: Young A Jung; Chair: Paul Cha; Discussant: Ji-yoon An

Presenters: Young A Jung, Sung Un Gang, So Hye Kim



In late 20th-century and contemporary Korean visual culture, women are represented as dangerous, from ghosts and monsters to demons. The horror films featuring female ghosts in the 1960s, for instance, were a reflection of the patriarchal anxiety that Korean men in the industrialized era felt about women entering the workforce. The representation of monster mothers and zombie women in the 2000s and beyond, on the other hand, is symptomatic of the changing gender roles in contemporary Korean society. This panel delves into the depiction of dangerous women in the late 20th-century and contemporary Korean visual culture, which mirrors the transformative women's roles in Korea's transition period. Engaging with gendered monstrosity from television dramas, horror films, and animation, this panel examines the intricate interplay between media representation, gender roles and expectations, and social anxieties toward transformative images of girls and women. The female ghosts, monsters, and

demons analyzed in the four papers represent the desires of various voices that have been forced into silence under the oppressive system of patriarchy, which is losing its foundation amid the rapid transition to a post-industrial society under neoliberalism. At the same time, they articulate historical guilt and national belonging as well as represent the tension and fragmentation of existence experienced by idols, who are torn between their public and private selves. The panel highlights both the representational transformation of gendered monstrosity and the hopeful possibility of women's monstrosity.

Between Leviathan and Paper Tiger: New Perspectives on State-Market Relations in North Korea

9:00-10:30am, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 113

Organizer: Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein; Chair and Discussant: Ria Roi

Presenters: Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, Seol Choi, Justin Hastings

Despite being a self-described communist society, a significant share of the economy today operates on market principles. Over 75 percent of the public are estimated to rely on public markets for daily necessities and consumer goods. North Korea has undergone a rapid and uneven process of marketization in key sectors since the collapse of the state-run economy in the early 1990s, resulting in a famine estimated to have killed up to 1 million people. Because the state had provided for almost all the citizen's needs prior to the famine, the economic collapse and subsequent marketization changed relations between the state and society in fundamental ways. But even in the present, more than two decades after the economy collapsed, it remains unclear precisely what the implications are of this process. While the state has formalized and legalized a significant share of the semi-private market system, it has also taken measures to co-opt and exercise stronger administrative control over it.

This panel explores different aspects of state-society relations under marketization, from a wide variety of methodological focuses. The presentations use data and direct testimonies from people who recently left North Korea to examine state-market interdependence on the fuel market, the role of corruption in the market system, and interpersonal relationships between market traders. Together, they survey a complex development that is crucial for understanding the past, present and future of North Korean society beyond the state.

Reframing the Science-Environment Nexus: The Korean Case

9:00-10:30am, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 222

Organizer and Chair: Sunyoung Park; Discussant: Chihyung Jeon
Presenters: Sang-Hyun Kim, Juwon Lee, Sunyoung Park, Albert Park

The Environmental Humanities and Science and Technology Studies (STS) have recently emerged as two rapidly expanding fields within Korean Studies. Yet they have been largely developing along separate tracks. This panel presents four papers that traverse both domains with the aim of stimulating interdisciplinary dialogues. Sang-Hyun Kim examines how the mnemonic politics of industrial pasts in Japan and South Korea erase the history of socio-ecological violence rooted in technocratic capitalist industrialization. Juwon Lee presents an ethnographic study of “stream activists”—environmental women activists and self-identified citizen scientists—arguing that the affective dimensions of their practices reveal the broader social value of citizen science beyond its utility to professional research. Reviewing shifting tropes of the environment in science fiction from 1960 through 2021, Sunyoung Park argues that the genre has long been a vital medium for articulating ecological critique in South Korea and merits greater recognition. Finally, Albert L. Park examines the evolving meanings of the future as an influential temporal concept in modern and contemporary Korean architecture, focusing on how architects employed technology to make alternate ecological arrangements of their sites in order to project specific visions of the future. Together, these presentations reveal the previously overlooked entanglements between scientific practice and environmental concern in domains that have been usually associated with scientific inquiry—the history of industrialization, the citizen science movement, science fiction, and architectural engineering. In doing so, they underscore the value of interdisciplinary thinking and call for a recalibration of prevailing epistemological frameworks.

Religion, Culture, and Media in Korea

9:00-10:30am, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 301

Organizer: John Grisafi; Chair: Gloria I-Ling Chien
Presenters: John Grisafi, Yeonwoo Joh, Yunshu Hu, Jeremiah Magoncia

Contemporary South Korean media—including cultural products made for entertainment such as films, dramas, and webcomics—is a major vector for influencing popular understandings of religion and culture. This organized panel analyzes religious content from such media and addresses the discursive framing of religion(s) and how media narratives reflect social realities and anxieties in Korea. Yeonwoo Joh examines the content of the webcomic *Along with the Gods* and controversy over whether it represents Buddhist religious beliefs or Korean traditional beliefs. Through it, she investigates the strategic use of “culture” and “tradition” to reframe religion for popular consumption. John Grisafi examines the legacies of Japanese colonialist narratives toward Korean religion in contemporary Korean entertainment, exemplified by the film *Exhuma* and drama series *Save Me*. He argues that vilification of colonialism ironically coexists with the echoes of colonialist polemics that marginalize Korean religion. Jeremiah Estela Magoncia analyzes the content of the drama series *Hellbound* for its portrayal of religious institutions and beliefs systems, with attention to that associated with organized religion and moral absolutism. He reveals how *Hellbound* reflects social anxieties regarding religion as a potential tool of oppression and the ethical challenge of blind faith in spiritual authority. Yunshu Hu examines the entanglement of Protestant religious discourse with patriarchal value systems in Korean society as seen in Lee Chang-dong’s films *Secret Sunshine* and *Poetry*. She argues that Christian and Confucian patriarchal traditions reinforce one another in Korean culture, such that the Protestant religious system both empowers and subjugates women in Korea. Liara Sarfati will lead discussion on religion, culture, and media in Korea with response to the four presentations.

"I See Beauty in a Million Pieces of Glass": Affective Strategies, Performing Bodies, Hybrid Identities, and Imagined Geographies in KPop Demon Hunters

9:00-10:30am, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 304

Organizer and Chair: Kyu Hyun Kim; Discussant: Gyu Tag Lee
Presenters: Kyu Hyun Kim, Mayako Shibagaki-Liu, Mia Yun

Kpop Demon Hunters, released in June 20, 2025, through Netflix, has rapidly become a global cultural phenomenon of a kind. While it has received its share of dismissals and criticisms, the animated feature, notably not a product of South Korean film or animation industry, has emerged as a site in which various strands and trajectories of dissemination, production and consumption of the globalized Korean popular culture intersect with one another. Far from a quick cash-in designed to profit from a niche market devoted to K-pop music, KDH is proving itself to be an emblematic example of the dominant modes of "Korean cultural expression" and simultaneously a substantial critique of and challenge to these modes. In this panel, we have four papers that examine and critically reflect on the appeals and meanings of KDH as a remarkable, of-the-moment transcultural text, from diverse but complementary angles: cultural history, comparative media studies/literature, performance studies and ethnomusicology. Yoo Sang Keun investigates how KDH's conceptualization of "Korean-ness" challenges its dominant iterations in the Korean SF-fantasy genre. Kyu Hyun Kim focuses on the film's conceptualization of "Honmoon" as a topographical imaginary, self-reflexively critiquing the foundational narrative of Korean nationalism. Mia Yun analyzes the affective strategies towards empowerment, resisting subordination to the narrative imperatives, of the K-pop songs "Golden" and "What It Sounds Like" in KDH. Finally, Mayako Shibagaki-Liu explores KDH's character dynamics illustrating corporeal and performative articulations of the subjectivities of the K-pop artists.



Beyond the Marginal: Zainichi Koreans in Literary, Economic, and Political Dynamics of Postwar Japan

11:00am-12:30pm, Friday, March 13

Pan Pacific Hotel, Oceanview Suite 6

Organizer: Seung-Mi Han; Chair: Ji-Hyun Lim; Discussant: Liting Lin
Presenters: Seung-Mi Han, Maya Hamada, Jaehyang Han

This paper puts together different aspects of the structural realities that ethnic Koreans have been facing so far in postwar Japan by calling on a literary analyst, an economic historian, and anthropologist. They will respectively examine the issue through the literary representations of ethnic Koreans in contemporary Japanese novels of 2020, through the entrepreneurial efforts of ethnic Koreans to carve out business opportunities in recycling industries and yakiniku restaurants respectively, and the ethnic Koreans' diverging experiences of the Korean War either as militant activists of Japan Communist Party or as voluntary soldiers of the US forces dispatched for the Korean Peninsula. Combined together this panel will shed a new light on the hitherto unexplored aspects of zainichi life in postwar Japan.

Crossing Boundaries, Imagining Otherwise: Youth Practices of Escape, Care, and Creation in Urban South Korea

11:00am-12:30pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 203

Organizer: Sungmin Kim; Chair and Discussant: Sungi Kim

Presenters: Sungmin Kim, Hyejin Jo, Jung Eun Kwon

Korea's urban environment, shaped by the dominance of the Seoul metropolitan megacity and other major cities, creates an unusually intense setting for young lives. These urban centers are marked by extreme density, fierce competition, long working hours, elevated burnout rates, and poor health among young people. While Seoul often serves as a symbolic center, it is not the starting point for all youth in South Korea. However, it remains a site at which generational discourses erupt with striking force, turning the city into a crucible for contesting dominant norms and experimenting with alternative ways of living. This panel examines how young people in South Korea respond to these conditions through practices that cross spatial, social, and symbolic boundaries. Sungmin Kim proposes a conceptual framework of place, boundary, and territory to analyze how the youth create spaces of belonging, from neglected neighborhoods to digital and subcultural zones. Hyejin Jo explores how discourses of the 4B movement and TaJo ("escaping Joseon") circulate in urban digital environments, enabling young women to refuse normative life scripts and imagine transnational futures. Jung Eun Kwon examines how young Korean women who have experienced suicidality creatively transform their suffering into expansive (self-)care practices that envision alternative futures and more livable societies. Together, these studies highlight how youths in urban South Korea are not only shaped by structural conditions but also actively remake their worlds through practices of escape, care, and creation. The panel invites dialogue on how everyday youth practices signal broader possibilities for social transformation.

Revolutionary Replays: Cold War Legacies and Transnational Media Aesthetics in North Korean Contexts

11:00am-12:30pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 120

Organizer and Chair: Gabor Sebo; Discussant: Hyangjin Lee

Presenters: Gabor Sebo, Iuliia Glushneva, Roman Husarski, Qingyang Freya Zhou

This panel examines the shifting visual cultures and ideological paradigms of North Korean and broader socialist screen media across both Cold War and post-socialist contexts. The four papers investigate how cinema, television, and literature function not only as tools of propaganda but also as complex aesthetic and social texts that reflect changing technological capacities and transnational imaginaries. Gabor Sebo examines the aesthetic and technical modernization of North Korean cinema during the Kim Jong Un era, demonstrating how new formats—from espionage thrillers to large-scale war dramas—continue to reinforce the state's ideological framework, repackaged through contemporary cinematic techniques. Iuliia Glushneva explores the transnational politics of martial arts cinema and its entanglement with socialist internationalism in the Second World, particularly through the circulation of North Korean and Soviet video media. Roman Husarski traces the production and reception of DPRK "legends" and mythic storytelling, unpacking the interplay between religious belief, magical realism, and political charisma in North Korean literary culture. Qingyang Freya Zhou offers a queer-feminist interpretation of East German-North Korean cultural imaginaries by analyzing the contemporary German novel *A Love Affair in Pyongyang* (2022) as a vehicle for envisioning a transnational socialist sisterhood that challenges masculinist mythologies associated with Mount Paektu. Together, the panel interrogates how media technologies, political mythologies, and memory practices intersect across socialist and post-socialist formations. By drawing from film, video, literature, and archival sources, the panel proposes new frameworks for understanding ideological continuity and cultural innovation in authoritarian and post-authoritarian regimes.

Still Relevant or a Relic? The Quest for Social and Economic Well-being in Early North Korean Socialism

11:00am-12:30pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 110

Organizer: Suhyun Choi; Chair: Suzi Kim; Discussant: Elli Kim
Presenters: Jun Hee Lee, Hetty Ye-Jae Lee, Suhyun Choi

Amid the rise of economic nationalism and deepening inequality rooted in neoliberal legacies, this panel reconsiders the relevance of socialist practice through a reexamination of North Korean socialism in the 1950s–60s. While recognizing previous scholarship on the mixed nature of North Korean socialism—shaped by colonial modernity and traditional continuities—this panel shifts the focus from hybridity as a means of regime consolidation to hybridity as a mode of pragmatic governance rooted in the state’s emphasis on “minsaeng” (the improvement of people’s livelihood). This panel argues that, while formally adhering to Marxism-Leninism, North Korea exercised strategic flexibility and localized adaptation to secure a basic standard of living for the people, which it regarded as fundamental to the socialist ideal of economic fairness. The three panelists examine North Korea’s pursuit of livelihood stabilization through flexible policies and its discursive strategies in the realms of economy, medicine, and art. Specifically, the presentations address the state’s mobilization of capitalist merchants, its institutional incorporation of traditional Korean medicine into public health care, and the development of socialist aesthetic forms designed to meet the cultural needs of the people. Early North Korean socialism navigated rigid ideological boundaries in prioritizing social and economic fairness and wellbeing. Rather than dismissing its hybrid features as merely “deviation” from Marxism-Leninism, this panel seeks to recognize them as context-driven adaptations and, in doing so, reassess the continued relevance of socialism through flexible, pragmatic applications to today’s social and economic challenges.

Reframing and Remembering the Past: State Diplomacy, Private Donations, and UNESCO Disputes in Japan–Korea Cultural Heritage Relations

11:00am-12:30pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 204

Organizer: Yuko Nagasawa; Chair: Toyomi Asano; Discussant: Elif Kalaycioglu
Presenters: Yuko Nagasawa, Keitoku Ikegami, Jihon Kim

How can a divided history be remembered differently and reconciled through cultural heritage? This panel explores how unresolved historical tensions between Japan and Korea are expressed, contested, and potentially reconciled through cultural heritage. During Japan’s colonial rule (1910–1945), sacred Korean heritage—including royal relics—were removed by colonial authorities and private collectors, reframed as imperial trophies. In contrast, these objects are now seen in Korea as powerful symbols of a stolen past—deeply tied to collective memory, identity, and justice. Marking the 80th anniversary of Korea’s liberation, the panel addresses how debates over cultural heritage unfold across three levels: diplomatic negotiations, civil society initiatives, and multilateral frameworks such as UNESCO. A notable example is the lesser-known 1995 restitution of colonial-era Korean heritage by Japanese businessperson Hachiuma Tadasu, which occurred alongside the demolition of the former Government-General building in Seoul. This juxtaposition—of private restitution amid official acts of erasure—raises questions about the limits of state-led memory politics. Comparative analysis of Japanese and Korean media coverage reveals that heritage disputes are not simply legal contests, but emotionally charged public debates shaped by nationalism, historical consciousness, and competing narratives of justice. Controversies over Japan’s UNESCO World Heritage inscriptions—such as the Meiji Industrial Sites and Sado Mines—underscore how heritage can be mobilized to conceal colonial violence and selectively glorify modern progress. The panel argues that cultural heritage operates as a contested site of historical responsibility, where the meanings of reconciliation, loss, and repair are continuously renegotiated across borders.

Intermedial Performances of Gender in Modern Korea and China

1:30-3:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 305

Organizer: Hyun Suk Park; Chair and Discussant: Tarryn Chun

Presenters: Hyun Suk Park, Peng Xu, Hyunjeong Lee, Ivanna Yi

This panel explores how intermedial practices reshaped gender performance across the historical transitions from the premodern to the modern in Korea and China. As traditional genres of performances began to be reconfigured in the modern media of Korea and China, they created a space in which the inherited attributes of gender could be contested and reassembled. Presentations in this panel focus on female performers transplanted from traditional stages into modern media and examine how their gendered performances shaped new genres in modern media and how modern media transformed the political, historical, and cultural implications of the performers' gender. Hyun Suk Park explores how cross-dressing performances of female performers theatricalized royal sovereignty in the military ceremony imported from a local sword-dance performance into the royal ceremony of Chosŏn Korea in the late nineteenth century. Peng Xu examines how male impersonations of female performers in "little kitten opera" contested the hegemonic configuration of masculinity in fin-de-siècle Shanghai especially through their particular vocal, sartorial, and dramaturgical strategies. Hyun-jeong Lee turns to a modern Chinese film, *Stage Sisters* (1964), to argue that the restoration of sisterly bond between two female performers of the *yueju* opera through performances on an "open stage" points to the potential establishment of socialist aesthetics. Lastly, Ivanna Yi follows the journey of a Korean female shaman, Pari, from the verse for shaman rites to the poetry of contemporary woman writer, Hyesoon Kim, to examine how shamanic chants generate a new mode of mourning for the traumatic events in modern Korea.

Seoul Mates: Transformations of Gender and Intimacy in Contemporary South Korea

1:30-3:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 208

Organizer: Alex Nelson, Seung-kyung Kim; Chair: Alex Nelson

Presenters: Alex Nelson, Seung-kyung Kim, John Cho, Meera Choi

South Korea has accumulated several infamous distinctions in recent decades as the nation with the world's lowest fertility rate and the OECD's highest suicide rate and gender wage gap. Within the lifetimes of Korea's eldest generation, the country has gone from one of the poorest countries in the world to one of the richest. Korea has even become a force in popular culture, successfully exporting studio-produced media (K-pop, K-Drama) to global audiences, often centered on the themes of love and romance. Yet, as the above-mentioned distinctions suggest, Koreans are grappling with economic and social transformations that leave many of its residents feeling alone and discontented with the state of gender relations in the country. Understanding the forces shaping Koreans' pursuits of intimacy have never been more needed or politicized. The papers of this panel draw on mixed social science methods (surveys, interviews, & ethnographic fieldwork) to explore and theorize transformations in romantic relationships in contemporary South Korea. The papers cover a wide range of sexual and relationship orientations, from heterosexual courtship to web-app-facilitated casual sexual relationships, cis-gay men's romantic and sexual pursuits, and growing



movement of women's "heterosexual refusal", the explicit avoidance and denial of heterosexual intimacy adopted to protest, if not transform, Korean gender relations. To understand the forces shaping these transformations in intimacy, the presenters adopt critical feminist theoretical analyses that aim to make sense of their interlocutors' struggles with shifting gender ideals, sexual scripts and stigmas, the diversification of intimate relationship formations and challenges to heteronormativity.

Shifting Modes of Subjectivity in North Korea: From Socialist Heroes to Aspiring Individuals, 1960s-present

1:30-3:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 209

Organizer: Gae-hwa Bae; Chair: Young-a Park; Discussant: Gabor Sebo
Presenters: Sunghee Kim, Gae-hwa Bae, Young-a Park

This panel explores the mechanisms of subject formation and modes of subjectivity manifested by North Koreans from the 1960s—when the country’s socialist system became consolidated—to the present, a period shaped by the nation’s transition toward market socialism. From a Western viewpoint, North Koreans may appear as “mechanical humans,” brainwashed by state propaganda. Indeed, North Korean media often portrays people as labor resources serving the national economy, promoting productivity and praising those who achieve high output or technological innovation as “Heroes of Labor.” When competence aligns with political loyalty, individuals may transcend the rigid caste system of core, basic, and complex classes. This meritocratic mechanism encourages aspirations for upward mobility and voluntary engagement. However, after Kim Il Sung’s death in 1994 and the collapse of the public distribution system, survival increasingly depended on informal market activity. Today, state wages make up only a fraction of the average citizen’s livelihood, highlighting the state’s weakened influence over economic life. Consequently, people no longer seek advancement through party loyalty but strive to succeed in the marketplace. North Koreans increasingly view themselves not as parts of a socialist machine, but as individuals pursuing self-interest. This transformation marks a shift in subjectivity—from collectivist laborers shaped by ideology to autonomous actors navigating market dynamics. The panelists will investigate how evolving popular aspirations have shaped North Koreans’ subjectivity and the mechanisms underlying this transformation in North Korea by analyzing their expressions in literature, film, and fashion during the nation’s protracted move from classical to market socialism.

Staging the Frontier: Jeju Island as a Site of Development Experiments

1:30-3:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 211

Organizers: Youjeong Oh, Hae Seo Kim; Chair: June Hee Kwon; Discussant: Kyoim Yun
Presenters: Sungjo Kim, June Hee Kwon, Youjeong Oh, Hae Seo Kim

Dominant paradigms of East Asian development have long emphasized the role of the developmental state—focusing on industrialization, export-led growth, centralized governance, and mass mobilization. While analytically productive, such frameworks often obscure the experimental, uneven, and exceptional nature of developmental processes. This panel examines Jeju Island as a critical and ironic frontier within the nation—one that extends the reach of national development while simultaneously generating global entanglements and reinforcing Jeju’s marginality and isolation. Owing to its geographic and symbolic distance from the mainland, Jeju has become a space where new experiments have been repeatedly piloted under the banner of national and transnational innovation.

From citrus farming enabled by diasporic gifts, to Saemaeul rural utopianism, to for-profit education, healthcare, aerospace initiatives, and speculative real estate backed by foreign capital, Jeju has served as a crucible for intersecting state and market experiments. These ventures are propelled by diverse actors: state planners, local farmers, diasporic subjects, scientists, investors, protestors, and more-than-human agents—trees, soil, and land—as living infrastructures shaping the temporalities of labor, value, and transformation.

Rather than viewing the frontier solely as a colonial space of expansion and extraction, this panel theorizes it as a dynamic zone of experimentation—where multiple futures are staged, suspended between promise and precarity. By analyzing Jeju as a site of exceptional governance, ecological reconfiguration, and contested transformation, this panel rethinks the spatial and temporal logics of East Asian development beyond dominant state-capital-centered paradigms.

Korean Racial Imaginary

1:30-3:00pm, Friday, March 13

Pan Pacific Hotel, Oceanview Suite 1

Organizer and Chair: Susanna Lim; Discussant: Susanna Lim

Presenters: Joowon Yuk, Han Sang Kim, Sunhye Kim

This panel explores how race in South Korea is actively produced and negotiated in everyday life through gendered, intimate, and media-mediated encounters. While Korea is commonly seen as a monoethnic nation, both its history and contemporary society have been deeply shaped by colonialism, migration, and global forces—making it impossible to separate the national from the global in understanding modern Korea. Building on the *Journal of Asian Studies* 2024 Special Forum, “Racing the Korean Imaginary,” we extend the conversation by foregrounding three empirical sites: assisted reproductive technologies, anti-Muslim activism, and media representations of foreign men.

Papers trace how racial difference is negotiated in relation to dominant notions of Korean identity—how difference is concealed, revealed, or made acceptable through strategies that reinforce cultural sameness and normative belonging. One examines how Korean heterosexual couples conceal the use of Asian egg donors to preserve kinship “purity,” while single women openly use Western sperm donors, embracing visible racial difference. Another investigates Islamophobia through the Daegu mosque controversy, showing how global discourses, Christian nationalism, and local grievances converge to racialize Muslims as threatening others. A third analyzes the media personas of two foreign men—one Black, one white—whose popularity rests on their fluent Korean and non-assertive masculinity, revealing how the racial other is made palatable through gendered softness.

Bringing together sociology, feminist theory, media analysis, and cultural studies, this panel asks how social relations, gender, and media help manage racial difference in South Korea today.

Haunting Japanese Colonial Legacies: Gender, Sexuality, and Transnational Decolonization in Postwar South Korea and Japan

1:30-3:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 304

Organizers: Sangmi Bae; Chair: Samuel Perry; Discussant: Yoko Hayashi

Presenters: Sangmi Bae, Izumi Nakaya, Katherine Hye-Ryun Yang, Mairead Cecille Hynes

This panel explores the persistent legacies of Japanese colonialism in postwar South Korea and Japan, focusing on how they shaped gender and sexuality during the complex processes of decolonization. In both regions, the remnants of Japanese colonialism mediated by gender and sexuality, such as sex industry only for US soldiers and Kisaeng tourism, had left although various groups cooperated to dismantle. This panel examines how the legacies of Japanese colonialism have persisted and reemerged at critical historical junctures—including the U.S. occupation, the Japan–South Korea Normalization, the Vietnam War, and the rise of sex tourism—through media representations, literary texts, and magazine articles, from transnational perspectives.

Izumi Nakaya examines the continued presence of Japanese military ‘comfort women’ system among Japanese repatriates in Korea after the Pacific War through the intersection of gender and militarism in Matsumoto Seicho’s “The Red Lottery.” Sangmi Bae sheds light on the portrayals of missing *Teishintai* women—mobilized laborers in military supply or “comfort women”—in Ha Kunch’an’s literature as the beings who awaken Japan’s war responsibility and challenge the Japan–South Korea Normalization. Using Cold War geopolitics, Confucian patriarchy, and postcolonial nationalism as analytical frames, Katherine Hye-Ryun Yang examines how South Korean media applied a double standard to two kinds of “local wives”: Korean women for Japanese men and Vietnamese women for Korean men. Mairead Cecille Hynes critically revisits Japanese feminist movements against Japanese men’s sex tourism to South Korea, emphasizing their ambivalent stance—denouncing colonialism while reproducing biased views of Korean sex workers.

Visions of Decolonization in Colonial Korea, 1920s-1940s: Yun Ch'i-ho, Yŏ Un-hyŏng, and O Yŏng-jin

1:30-3:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 210

Organizers: Irhe Sohn, Chung-Hee Ryu; Chair and Discussant: Kyeong-Hee Choi

Presenters: Irhe Sohn, Chung-Hee Ryu, Jong-wook Hong

This panel examines the diverse visions and complex intellectual discourses of decolonization in colonial Korea through three figures: Yun Ch'i-ho, Yŏ Un-hyŏng, and O Yŏng-jin. From the late 1910s to Korea's liberation in 1945, colonial Korea was shaped by intersecting trajectories of decolonization amid global decolonial currents and imperial war: namely, independence, autonomy, and assimilation. Japan's "cultural rule" of Korea after the March First Movement allowed limited space for public discourse and ideological experimentation, prompting new imaginations of Korea's future. During the 1920s and 1930s, Korea was transformed with the diversified intellectual landscapes through nationalist and socialist movements. Since the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937, however, these imaginations came under political pressure through Japan's imperialization and assimilation policies. Focusing on figures often labeled "right-wing" across ideological, political, and cultural spheres, this panel shows how decolonial thought extended beyond the conventional narrative of resistance. Ryu Chung-Hee explores how conservative nationalist Yun Ch'i-ho engaged with socialist ideas, reworking them within a framework of self-strengthening. Hong Jong-Wook traces Yŏ Un-hyŏng's pursuit of autonomy or independence through both resistance and negotiation with Japanese leaders, revealing a pragmatic approach to decolonization. Irhe Sohn examines how O Yŏng-jin's theory of film realism reveals the medium-specific capacity of the cinematic camera to redeem colonial Korea's reality—activating both decolonial and colonial imaginations at once. Together covering the fields of colonial, cinematic, and historical studies, this panel illuminates the contested and multilayered nature of decolonial imagination in colonial Korea.



Gendered Economies: Women, Money, and Marriage in South Korea, 1960s-1980s

3:30-5:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 121

Organizer: Jihyun Shin; Chair: Susan Hwang; Discussant: Pil Ho Kim

Presenters: Eunhee Park, Tanner Rogers, Jihyun Shin, Eunyoung Song

This session examines how women in South Korea navigated the intersecting realms of money, marriage, and gender during the country's rapid industrialization from the 1960s to the 1980s. While the period is often narrated through the lens of the "Miracle on the Han River," emphasizing the role of the state, military, and male labor, this panel foregrounds the affective and moral economies that shaped women's everyday financial lives. Focusing on gender as a contested site, the panel explores how women made strategic choices under layered constraints of patriarchy, family, and capitalist development in pursuit of autonomy and economic security. Drawing on literature, media, film, and ethnography, the papers trace how women formed their economic subjectivities through labor, courtship, informal tactics, and everyday resistance. Park examines the lived experiences of housewives as they exercised discretionary power over household finances outside the purview of their husbands and the state. Rogers offers a close reading of Pak Wan-sŏ's *A Faltering Afternoon* (1977), revealing the tension middle-class women faced between the autonomy and financial dependence through marriage. Shin examines how popular weekly magazines' idealization of husbands as wealthy businessmen and wives as dutiful homemakers renounced women's economic agency in courtship. Song analyzes films that either condemn or valorize women's pursuit of income, highlighting the double burden placed on working-class women under patriarchy and economic precarity. By examining how gendered logics of value, work, and marriage operated across domains from domestic life to cinema, this panel challenges the gender ideologies embedded in Cold War developmentalism.

Guns and Butter: The Legacies of Militarism in South Korean Society and Culture

3:30-5:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 218

Organizer and Chair: Howard Kahm; Discussant: Peter Kwon

Presenters: Howard Kahm, Sinwoo Lee, Yu Jung Lee, Sang Mee Oh

Although militarized authoritarian rule has given way to democracy in contemporary South Korea, militarism has maintained undeniable influence as shown in the December 2024 martial law attempt by former president Yoon Suk Yeol (Yun Sökyöŏl). The connection between the military and South Korea's socioeconomic development is deeply rooted in the country's postwar history. Following the devastation of the Korean War (1950-1953), the country's transformation into an advanced economy in the late 20th century is linked not only to rapid industrialization but also to militarization, authoritarian leadership, and Cold War influences. This panel seeks to focus on the legacy of militarization in South Korean society after the Korean War and the 1961 coup by General Park Chung Hee, but to move beyond the commonly understood role of military influence. Instead, this panel seeks to understand how militarized modernization permeated South Korean society through centralized and hierarchical systems of national development through important but less well understood structures, systems, and practices, such as urban structures, media, and memorials. Consequently, the legacy of militarism continues to manifest across a wide range of social, political, and cultural realms to shape Korean society today.

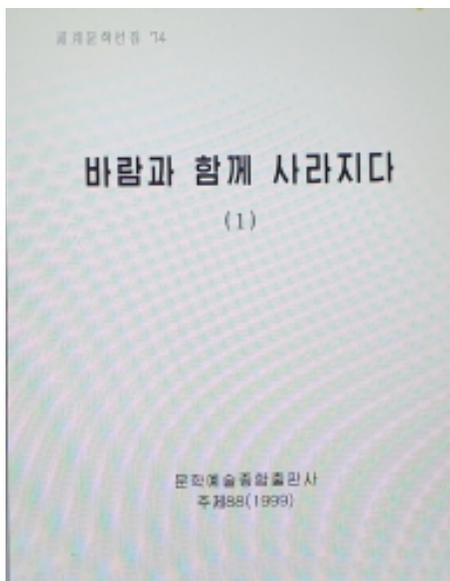
The American Century and the Korean Peninsula: Critical Perspectives on the U.S. Empire from Colonial Korea and North and South Korea

3:30-5:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 118

Organizer and Chair: Jin-kyung Lee; Discussant: Naoki Watanabe

Presenters: Janet Poole, Jae-Yong Kim, Sang-Kyung Lee, Moon-seok Jang



This panel explores the ways in which literary and literary-critical works of colonial Korea and postcolonial North and South Korea understood and experienced the United States as the regional and global hegemon from the 1940s to the 1970s. The first paper by Janet Poole, "From Japanese Empire to Pax Americana: Ch'oe Chaesö's Spectral Order of Literary Theory," investigates the postcolonial career of a collaborationist, Ch'oe Chaesö, tracing the idea of "order" that appears in his writings from the wartime as well as from the US-dominated South Korea. The second paper by Jae-Yong Kim, "From a Liberator to an Oppressor: The United States in Post-Liberation South Korea," analyzes Yöm Sangsöp's short story, "A Western Cookie Box," one of the most important works that captures this fluid and complex transitional moment from one empire to another with nuance, subtlety, and perspicacity. The third paper by Moon-seok Jang, "Hell and Peace: North Korean Readings of American Literature, 1950-1990," examines North Korean interpretations of American literature, ranging from Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* to Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*. The paper argues that diverse readings have existed among scholarly communities and ordinary readers despite the state-

imposed Juche Ideology. The last paper, "Gender and Nationalism in the Kim Chöngghan's 'A Letter from Okinawa'" by Sang-Kyung Lee, delves into the story's intersecting of anti-imperial nationalism and feminism by exploring Japan's conscription of military sexual slaves and other forced laborers, South Korea's migrant workers in Okinawa, and Okinawans' resistance to the US's militarization of their island.

The Enduring Legacies of Empire in Diaspora: Zainichi Koreans and Taiwanese in Cold War Japan

3:30-5:00pm, Friday, March 13

VCC, Room 301

Organizer: Seiji Shirane; Chair and Discussant: Andre Schmid

Presenters: Sharon Yoon, Ryuta Itagaki, Brian Park, Seiji Shirane

This panel explores how the intersecting legacies of empire, diasporic networks, and Cold War geopolitics shaped the experiences of resident Koreans and Taiwanese in postwar Japan. By bringing together three case studies analyzing the continuities of empire from a transnational lens, the panel collectively showcases how minoritized actors in Japan navigated both imperial afterlives and Cold War realignments. Specifically, the papers investigate how postcolonial communities navigated ethnic discrimination, diasporic memory politics, and diplomatic configurations across Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Sharon Yoon and Ryuta Itagaki trace the colonial roots of anti-Korean hate speech in postwar Japan by examining the chant "Kaere!" [Go back!] as an expression of ritualized hate speech. They argue that such acts were not spontaneous eruptions of xenophobia but state-scripted performances rooted in colonial infrastructures of racial governance and affect. Brian Park investigates the rise of ethnic Korean credit unions and their entanglement with the South Korean government under Syngman Rhee. By analyzing how Zainichi Koreans affiliated with the pro-South faction (Mindan) built financial institutions amid systemic exclusion from Japanese capital, the paper highlights the significance of ethnic finance as a node of inter-Asian Cold War politics. Seiji Shirane traces the formation of Taiwan studies in postwar Japan through the pioneering work of resident Taiwanese historian Tai Kuo-hui (1931-2001). Tai rejected both Chinese Nationalist authoritarianism and Taiwanese independence, advocating instead for a reckoning with Japan's imperial past that could bridge the shared historical traumas of Japan, Taiwan, and China.

Dual(ing) Literacies and Complementary Poetics in Early and Medieval Northeast Asia

8:30-10:00am, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 115

Organizer: Marjorie Burge; Chair: Dario Minguzzi; Discussant: Gustav Heldt

Presenters: Marjorie Burge, Dario Minguzzi, Loren Waller

Literary Sinitic poetry was universally esteemed in premodern East Asia as a suitable mode for elite literary expression. As Literary Sinitic poetry took root in elite circles throughout the early kingdoms of Korea and in Japan, it was variously transformed by the local contexts in which it thrived, while vernacular poetic forms developed as complementary modes of composition. Inevitably, the act of translation—from one language to another, from one poetic form to another, from one performative context to another—structured the dynamic relationship between Literary Sinitic and vernacular poetry in each context. The papers in this panel consider the evolving poetic landscapes in early and medieval Korea and Japan, with a focus on the pivotal role played by Literary Sinitic poetry in shaping adjacent vernacular poetic practice. Marjorie Burge spotlights a mokkan [inscribed wooden slip] from Unified Silla (668-935) featuring a poem in Literary Sinitic and contextualizes this piece within the larger category of "poetry mokkan" discovered from other Korean kingdoms and Japan, emphasizing the plasticity of Literary Sinitic poetry within "vernacular" spaces. Dario Minguzzi traces the continued presence of the vernacular poetic form *hyangga* alongside Literary Sinitic poetry in early Koryŏ (918-1392), arguing the two poetic registers constituted complementary modalities within the evolving literary landscape of the court. Loren Waller demonstrates the volatility of poetic topoi as they traverse the frontiers of the Sinographic cosmopolis through a case study of the *mugunghwa* (*Hibiscus syriacus*) as found in poetry composed in medieval Korea and Japan.



Gender and Genre in Korean Women's Writing

8:30-10:00am, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 222

Organizer and Chair: Hannah Kwak; Discussant: Sunyoung Park

Presenters: Hannah Kwak, Sophie Bowman, Hayun Cho, Yoon Sun Yang



As suggested by the etymological root of “gender,” which derives from the Old French genre (“kind, sort”), both gender and genre fundamentally depend on acts of classification. Studies of women’s literature often focus on how authors challenge gender norms and conventions through their writerly practices. But if the conventional is thus frequently regarded with suspicion, as allied with tradition and the dominant culture, it is equally true that many women writers have found subversive potential in working within certain genre conventions. Under what conditions might adherence to conventions be counter-hegemonic?

This panel explores the nexus between gender and genre in Korean women’s writing, each paper examining how women writers appropriate, rethink, or challenge genre conventions for political ends. Hannah Kwak begins by comparing two colonial women writers, Na Hye-sök and Kang Kyöng-ae, whose “antimarrriage plots” reimagine selfhood outside the social and legal institution of marriage. Sophie Bowman then considers the affordances of life writing, examining how Ch’oi Hŭi-suk’s *Sadness Like River Water* (1959) capitalizes on the genre’s global popularity to articulate a subversive sexual politics. Focusing on Ch’oe Yun’s “The Gray Snowman” (1992), Hayun Cho continues the panel by showing how women’s huiltam literature spotlights women’s subjectivities marginalized in heteropatriarchal leftist cultures. Finally, Yoon Sun Yang demonstrates how contemporary South Korean women writers (P’yön Hye-yöng, Han Kang, Kim Sak-wa) appropriate the body gothic genre to interrogate the roots of violence and to imagine a new world. Together, the papers explore genre as a strategic site for feminist intervention.

Speculative Politics in South Korea: From Financial Populism to Climate Activism

8:30-10:00am, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 118

Organizer: Bohyeong Kim; Chair: Seung Cheol Lee; Discussant: Sun-ha Hong

Presenters: Bohyeong Kim, Seung Cheol Lee, Kyungmo Chun, Minseo Cho

South Korea's recent political upheaval—from Yoon's martial law declaration to the ensuing democratic resistance—has brought renewed attention to the country's evolving political landscape. However, existing analyses have largely overlooked how speculative financial logics have fundamentally reshaped political imagination and mobilization in contemporary South Korea. This panel argues that the convergence of financialization, digital platforms, and speculative investment cultures has created new forms of political subjectivity that operate through market-mediated temporalities and risk calculations.

From post-IMF minority shareholder activism to today's crypto enthusiasts and climate divestment campaigns, South Korean politics increasingly unfolds through speculative practices—where political actors bet on uncertain futures while simultaneously attempting to construct them. These practices blur traditional boundaries between economic and political action, creating hybrid spaces where market speculation becomes a form of political engagement, and political mobilization adopts financial rationalities.

The panel examines four key sites where this speculative politics manifests: YouTube's monetization of far-right extremism through Super Chat donations; crypto investment communities that performatively construct market futures while building political solidarity; Tesla investment groups that develop quasi-religious meaning-making strategies to navigate market volatility; and climate activists who deploy financial speculation against fossil capital. Together, these cases reveal how contemporary South Korean politics operates through—and is shaped by—the temporal logics, risk calculations, and performative practices of financialized speculation.

With Homeland in their Hearts—Korean Overseas Diasporas' Manifold Influences on Korea Proper

8:30-10:00am, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 305

Organizer: Vladimir Tikhonov; Chair: Myungho Hyun; Discussant: June Hee Kwon
Presenters: Vladimir Tikhonov, Kyunghwa Lim, Mikyong Kim

The relationship between diasporas and their homelands has been the subject of an extensive body of scholarship in recent decades. Much of this literature has focused on long-distance nationalism and the flow of remittances from diaspora communities to their countries of origin. This panel, however, seeks to foreground less commonly explored dimensions of diaspora-homeland interconnectedness—specifically, technological and political engagements—using the experiences of twentieth-century Korean diasporas in Japan, the United States, and the Soviet Union as case studies. As the panel presentations will demonstrate, the dissemination of technology is closely entwined with political processes, particularly in the Korean context, where the post-1945 division of the peninsula has shaped the contours of both technological transfer and political agency. The panelists will employ a range of methodological approaches, including archival research, oral history, and personal narratives. Vladimir Tikhonov will examine the Soviet Korean diaspora's participation in the Korean communist movement, drawing on previously unexplored materials from the Comintern archives. Lim Kyunghwa will analyze the role of the Zainichi Korean diaspora in the development of internet infrastructure in both North and South Korea, as well as the political constraints surrounding and consequences of such involvement. Kim Mikyong will investigate the contributions of Korean Americans and their mobilizations to the democratization process in South Korea.

Diaspora and Translation in Korean Literary Studies

10:30am-12:00pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 208

Organizer and Chair: Jae Won E. Chung
Speakers: Eunice Lee, Youn Soo Goldstein, Olan Munson, Brandon Joseph Park

Excellent and accessible translations of primary sources into English provide sustenance and strength to Anglophone Asian studies. However, the labor and craft required for their production do not receive adequate institutional recognition. In celebration of the launch of DITTA: Korean Humanities in Translation (Rutgers University Press), this roundtable seeks to discuss the challenges and affordances of translation as a creative and scholarly act, with special emphasis on the question of what it means to be a diasporic translator within academia. What is translation's relationship to one's identity as a teacher, an artist, or a scholar? How does the history of translation culture inform the translator's subjectivity? What are some pitfalls of turning to diasporic subjectivity to anchor translatorial authority? We also encourage conference attendees outside the Korean studies or diasporic community to participate and enrich our conversation about translation-related issues across and around Asian studies more broadly. Our panelists hail from various stages of their academic careers, disciplinary homes, and familial linkages to Korea. Youn Soo Goldstein is an assistant professor of translation studies at Weber State University and translator of Kwon Jeong-saeng's *My Sister, Mongsil*; Goldstein will explore the connection between Translation Studies theories and literary translation practices. Eunice Lee is a Ph.D. candidate in English at Harvard University, whose translations of Kim Myeong-sun's poems have appeared in *The Margins* and *Asymptote Journal*; Lee will discuss approaching translation as a form of research and the intersection between translated Asian literature and Asian American literature. Olan Munson is an assistant professor of Korean literature at The Ohio State University and translator of poems by Kim Nam-ju; Munson will reflect on negotiating between the competing ideological claims of pedagogy, publishing, and theory. Brandon Park, the translator of poet Moon Tae-jun's *Flatfish*, is a writer-photographer and a lecturer of English at Rutgers-Newark; Park will talk about translating as a means of language acquisition and challenging established norms to take artistic ownership over one's translation. The session will be chaired by Jae Won Edward Chung, assistant professor of Korean literature at Rutgers-New Brunswick and a series editor of DITTA.

Author Meets Critics: *The State's Sexuality: Prostitution and Postcolonial Nation Building in South Korea* by Park Jeong-Mi

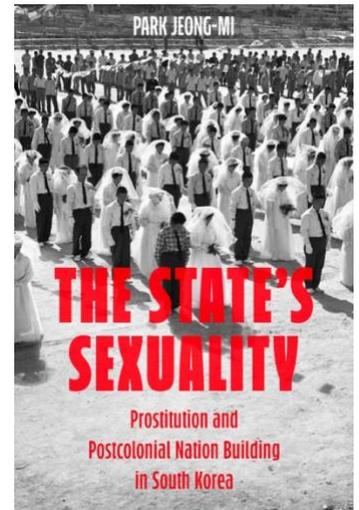
10:30am-12:00pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 205

Organizer: Jeong-Mi Park; Chair: Jang Wook Huh

Speakers: Jeong-Mi Park, John DiMoia, Sungyun Lim, Seung-kyung Kim

The term "comfort women," originally referring to sexual slaves of the Japanese Imperial Army, was adopted by the fledgling South Korean state to label the prostitutes who served the U.S. military stationed in Korea. In *The State's Sexuality*, Park Jeong-Mi attributes this kind of contradictions in South Korea's prostitution policy to the tragic intertwining of traditional misogyny and modern nation-state building. Since liberation from Japanese colonial rule, South Korea's prostitution policy has not only served as the fulcrum of policing gender hierarchies but also reflected a schizophrenic approach to broader domestic affairs. As the initial enthusiasm for decolonization was frustrated by the Cold War reality of U.S. hegemony, the South Korean state developed the policy as a patchwork of bureaucratic measures that had already been tried in other nations, empires, and colonies. Therefore, while Park's book provides a historical analysis of Korea's unique national circumstances, it also offers a transnational perspective through which to understand the country's experience within the global context of postcolonial modernity. Japan's involvement in Korea's sex industry extended beyond its colonial legacy of licensed prostitution and the World War II "comfort women," to include kisaeng sex tourism from the 1960s through the 1980s. More recently, an increasing number of foreign sex workers from the Philippines and Russia have been imported to replace Korean "comfort women" in the U.S. military camptowns. Park's interdisciplinary research, which intersects historical sociology, gender and sexuality studies, and subaltern studies, is an invaluable contribution to the field of Asian Studies.



Beyond the Draft: Universalism, Art, and Gender in the Sixth Republic of Korea's Military System

10:30am-12:00pm, Saturday, March 14

Pan-Pacific Hotel, Pacific Rim, Suite 2

Organizer and Chair: Sunhong Kim; Discussant: Seungsook Moon

Presenters: Inhwa Kang, Kazuki Morita, Sunhong Kim

One year after the First Republic was established, military conscription became a compulsory obligation for male citizens of the Republic of Korea in 1949. Since then, the draft system has changed in its handling of deferments, exemptions, and resistance. These include male-preference in third-generation bloodlines, selective considerations for artists and athletes, and criminal penalties for individuals who abstain from registration on religious grounds. As scholars have noted the pervasive influence on the Republic of Korea's bureaucratic and industrial sectors (Jung 1987; Kearney 1991; Janelli 1993), what it means to be non-conforming citizens who fall outside the unified chain of command that governs a society structured by superior-subordinate relations and a rigid top-down hierarchy? What does it mean to be left out of the state-enforced and gendered obligation of draft? This panel examines experiences of "invisible soldiers" or "non-dutiful citizens," whose lives challenge the legitimacy and totality of the conscription regime. The first paper analyzes the construction of the military conscription during the Cold War and Post-Cold War by focusing on the history of male conscriptive system through national security, victimhood, and universalism. The second paper investigates the narratives of draft deserters and explores their legal consequences and the social meanings of abandonment. The final paper traces the historical development of exemption policies for musicians, with particular attention to the role of a state-sponsored national music competition in institutionalizing selective service exemptions.

Carter Eckert and the Making of Modern Korea: Colonialism, Militarism, and Economic Development

10:30am-12:00pm, Saturday, March 14

Pan-Pacific Hotel, Pacific Rim, Oceanview Suite 4

Organizers: Michael Kim, Hyung Gu Lynn; Chair: Christine Kim; Discussants: Paul Chang, Jean Hong
Presenters: Michael Kim, Sungik Yang, Tae Gyun Park, Anna Lee

With the passing of Carter Eckert, the field of Korean studies has lost one of its most influential voices. For decades, Eckert's scholarship unflinchingly addressed what he called the "uncomfortable truths" of modern Korean history by challenging nationalist orthodoxies through meticulous empirical research. His groundbreaking works, *Offspring of Empire* and *Park Chung Hee and Modern Korea*, reveal the complex continuities of colonialism and militarism that shaped twentieth-century Korea. This panel convenes not only to honor his memory but to engage with the demanding questions his work continues to pose for historians of modern Korea.

Building upon his research, the panel explores the lingering influence of Korea's colonial and Cold War past. Michael Kim examines wartime colonial planning through Suzuki Takeo's theories and their influence on the developmental state. Sungik Yang analyzes how Manchukuo's state ideology was transmitted to Park's regime. Tae Gyun Park explores why Park combined economic development with military modernization through the Heavy and Chemical Industry drive. Anna Lee investigates how Park's militaristic thinking shaped his hostility toward consumer culture through frugality campaigns that discouraged consumption despite economic growth.

Jean Hong (political science) and Paul Chang (sociology) will serve as discussants, bringing their disciplinary perspectives to foster inter-disciplinary conversation on Eckert's scholarship and its contemporary relevance. This cross-disciplinary design reflects Eckert's own commitment to engaging multiple fields in understanding Korean development. The panel brings together scholars across career stages and includes gender diversity in its composition. The panel will be co-chaired by Hyung Gu Lynn and Christine Kim.

Korean Diaspora of the Highly Skilled: Examining Migration Channels, Resources, and Discourses

2:00-3:30pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 302

Organizer and Chair: Minjeong Kim
Presenters: Minjeong Kim, Hyunji Kwon, Joonkoo Lee, Ilju Kim, Sung-Chul Noh

Koreans' border-crossing movements have become diversified since the late 20th century and the contour of the Korean diaspora is ever evolving. Scholars have examined immigration experiences within broad sociopolitical contexts or at the individual level. This organized panel includes three research papers that examine how business and governmental institutions construct migration channels, resources, and discourses that shape migration patterns and experiences of Koreans, especially those of the highly skilled. First, by focusing on the regional expansion of Korean MNCs in Asia, Kwon and Lee analyze how international human resources management strategies influence the journeys of expatriate managers and engineers whose cross-border movements are aligned with the firms' demands. Second, Kim examines Korean workers in the US-Mexico border region where Korean MNCs have manufacturing operations and how expatriate managers' and their families' experiences are stratified due to their employers' disparate financial and legal support. Third, Kim and Noh investigate a different setting, the South Korean government's labor export policy, exemplified by Human Resources Development Service of Korea which trains and supports thousands of Korean IT workers' overseas employment each year. They identify different discourses on labor export, such as solutions to youth unemployment policy and cultivation of global talent, and how recent demographic crisis and predicted labor shortage changed its discourse to reverse its course. Collectively, the proposed panel will enhance our understanding of Korean highly skilled migration while providing insightful takes on some of economic and societal developments and challenges in contemporary South Korea.

K-pop Fandom(s) and Authenticity: When Fans Control the Narrative

2:00-3:30pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 303

Organizer and Chair: Mathieu Berbiguier; Discussant: Donna Kwon

Presenters: Stephanie Choi, Areum Jeong, So Yoon Lee, Mathieu Berbiguier

This panel explores how K-pop fans repurpose cultural materials to construct narratives of authenticity. These practices challenge boundaries between production and consumption, amateur and professional, entertainment and politics, while resisting gendered stereotypes. Through the lens of authenticity—a malleable concept linking authority, agency, and narrative control—we examine what these acts reveal about contemporary authorship in (trans)national digital cultures. Centering both Korean—often marginalized in Western K-pop scholarship— and international fan perspectives, this panel addresses issues of cultural labor, political expression, and meaning-making that extend beyond academia. Against industry-driven analyses that overlook reception and fan voices, we reveal how fans function as actors who reshape cultural discourses to reflect their values. This interdisciplinary analysis illuminates broader questions about digital citizenship, creative labor economies, and how marginalized communities navigate cultural power in an increasingly polarized global landscape. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork, comparative analysis, and digital archive studies, we investigate four sites where fans assert narrative control. Topics include: resistance to fandom pathology by constructing fan authenticity and challenging misogynistic and Orientalist stereotypes (Choi); "fan-producers" performing authenticity as professional credentials while transitioning from fandom to industry employment (Lee); fan fiction as tactical media documenting historical events like the Gwangju Democratic Uprising and creating alternative archives (Jeong); and political use of photocards and nostalgic activism across Korean and international contexts (Berbiguier).

Negotiating Democracy and Power on the Korean Peninsula

2:00-3:30pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 304

Organizer and Chair: Sojin Lim; Discussant: Hyung Gu Lynn

Presenters: Sojin Lim, Hannes Mosler, Marco Milani, Kevin Gray

This panel examines how competing visions of democracy, legitimacy, and power are produced, challenged, and reimagined across the Korean Peninsula. Through analyses of legal practices, cultural diplomacy, ideological conflict, and the conditions for civil society under authoritarianism, the panel explores the diverse yet interconnected strategies by which political authority is asserted, contested, and reshaped in both North and South Korea. At the heart of the discussion is the tension between democratic ideals and political expediency in South Korea's institutional practices, such as presidential pardons, which raise fundamental questions about accountability, reconciliation, and the health of democratic institutions. Cultural diplomacy, particularly through the global dissemination of South Korean popular culture, is examined as a key site of statecraft, where soft power is mobilized to advance national and international objectives. Meanwhile, national identity on the peninsula is framed not only by inter-Korean division but also by domestic ideological struggles within each state, shaped by competing hegemonies and socio-political



transformations over time. Finally, the panel draws comparative insights from the North Korean context by examining the limited yet crucial role of international aid in supporting civil society initiatives under authoritarian regimes, with reference to parallels in countries like Myanmar. Together, these contributions illuminate the complex and often contradictory forces shaping political development in both Koreas. The panel offers a multidisciplinary and theoretically grounded perspective on how legitimacy is constructed and contested, how democracy is practiced and constrained, and how influence and resistance unfold within the broader regional and global order.

Hunting, Authority, and Animal Symbolism in Korea

2:00-3:30pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 301

Organizer and Chair: Rebekah Clements; Discussants: Lisa Yoshikawa, George Kallander
Presenters: Hyunjoo Lee, Eugene Park, Rebekah Clements, Joseph Seeley

Animal history deploys animals and their representations as a means for understanding overlooked realms of human activity, human-animal relationships and co-evolutionary processes. This approach is increasingly being fruitfully applied to the study of Korea. The papers in this panel, arranged chronologically from ancient history through the Imjin War to the colonial period, explore figurative and practical aspects of the human-animal relationship in Korea, with a focus on hunting, folklore, and authority. Lee examines animals that were presented to Silla's monarchs, as recorded in the *Samguk sagi*, demonstrating how these creatures linked the central authority with the provinces that offered them up, integrating peripheral regions into the Silla state. Next, Park investigates human-leopard cat interactions in pre-early modern Korea, tracing the history of how leopard cats, initially commensal animals before the introduction of domestic cats, were hunted and became the subject of folklore, against a background of habitat destruction. Thirdly, Clements considers the role of falconry practiced by Japanese troops during the Imjin War, arguing that hunting was a sign of rulership in Japan that did not translate well to the Korean context but served to reinforce hierarchies within the Japanese military. Lastly, Seeley considers Japanese imperialism and big-game hunting in colonial Korea, arguing that it was a multicultural blending of Western models, reinvented Japanese tradition, and the integration of Korean expertise. Collectively, these papers offer diverse insights into animal exploitation and the ways big game and birds have become the site of contested meaning in Korea over the *longue durée*.

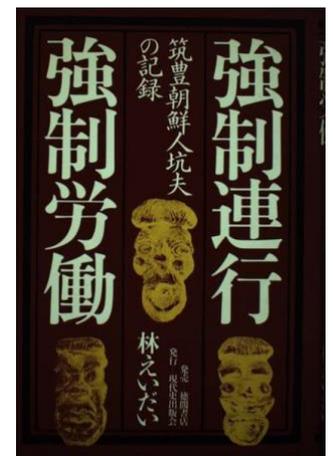
Script and Conscription: Articulating Ethnic Korean Labor in Japan

4:00-5:30pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 218

Organizer: Nathan Shockey; Chair: Hirokazu Toeda; Discussant: Akito Sakasai
Presenters: Younglong Kim, vanessa baker, Julia Hansell Clark, Nathan Shockey

This panel explores how narratives of labor and conscription shed light on the imperial and postwar entanglements of Japan and Korea. By focusing on how Japanese-language narratives engage with the embodied and affective lives of Koreans working under Japanese state power, these papers seek to complicate discourse on labor and freedom by examining writings that illuminate the porous boundaries between consensual and conscripted labor. The panel transcends the disciplinary boundaries of Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, and "Zainichi" Studies through analyses of reportage, poetry, and fiction that center the voices of erased or underrepresented workers, while considering the complex functions of orality and testimony in these texts. Younglong Kim's paper examines literary representations of the "volunteer" soldier recruitment systems in colonial Korea and Taiwan, questioning the binary framework of voluntary versus coerced participation in the Japanese Empire. vanessa baker considers how Matsuda Tokiko's writings on Japanese mines depict affective affinity between Chinese and Korean forced mine workers in the 1940s. Julia Clark's paper explores "Zainichi" depictions of Korean women and undocumented migrants whose labor supported the mass production of "hep sandals" in Japan's largest Koreatown from the 1950s-1990s. Finally, Nathan Shockey's paper focuses on issues of complicity and collective history in Hayashi Eidai's 1980s reportage on Korean survivors of forced mine labor. Together, we explore the various ways that ethnic Koreans and their labor contributed to the transformation of Japan from the mobilization for total war, through the postwar energy revolution, to the era of mass production and globalization.



Roundtable in Honor of Professor Donald L. Baker's Retirement

4:00-5:30pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 217

Organizer: Javier Cha; Chair: Si Nae Park

Speakers: Javier Cha, Dongkyu Kim, Guy Shababo, Christopher Lovins

Donald Leslie Baker will retire in 2026 after nearly four decades of teaching at the University of British Columbia and making wide-ranging contributions to both premodern and modern Korean studies. His scholarship on Korea's intellectual and religious history was notably ahead of its time. Through close readings of Korea's first Catholic converts, especially Tasan Chŏng Yagyong (1762-1836) and his family, Baker revealed the relative flexibility that Chosŏn subjects could exercise beneath what appeared, in rhetoric at least, to be a rigid Neo-Confucian orthodoxy. His later work broadened to encompass Neo-Confucian philosophy, epidemics and millenarian movements, and the study of new religions. A lifelong pacifist, Baker first encountered Korea in 1971 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kwangju. Nearly a decade later, he witnessed firsthand the harrowing consequences of martial law and the massacre of civilians in 1980 in what had become his adopted Korean home. That experience prompted him to examine the enduring impact of historical trauma and to interrogate the very notion of objectivity in the practice of history. This roundtable brings together four of his former advisees to reflect on the many ways Baker has shaped their scholarship and pedagogy. Together they will consider the intellectual legacy he leaves behind, the distinctive qualities of his mentorship, and the enduring influence of his example as a scholar and teacher. It will be both a celebration of his career and an occasion to look ahead at how his work continues to inform the evolving field of Korean studies.

Teaching Korean Buddhism: Pedagogical Strategies and Challenges in North American Universities

4:00-5:30pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 214

Organizer: Maya K. Stiller; Chair: Susan Andrews

Speakers: Juhn Ahn, Sung Ha Yun, Mark Nathan

In the face of mounting political attacks on higher education recently, the need to reaffirm the relevance of Asian and Asian American perspectives in the classroom has never been more urgent. This roundtable addresses these challenges by foregrounding pedagogy as a method of resistance and renewal, with a focus on Korean Buddhism. Often overlooked in curricula on Buddhism and East Asian religions, Korean Buddhism offers fertile ground for innovative and inclusive teaching across institutional contexts. This roundtable aims to generate practical solutions and share pedagogical resources for instructors who wish to integrate Korean Buddhism into their teaching portfolio, while contributing to a broader conversation about rethinking East Asian religious studies. Each panelist will briefly present their own teaching approach before the session opens into an interactive discussion in which all participants will be invited to share challenges, successes, and strategies for fostering student engagement. Juhn Ahn will present a "critical term dictionary" assignment developed for large introductory courses on Buddhism. This collaborative exercise asks students to define and contextualize key concepts across premodern and modern contexts. By juxtaposing the mystical and the demystified, and the doctrinal and the material, the assignment encourages students to reflect on how Buddhist terms are shaped by historical and cultural transformation, serving as an effective tool for incorporating Korean Buddhist materials. Sungha Yun will discuss a close reading and discussion-based assignment used in her Korean Buddhism unit. Students select and annotate significant passages from primary sources and generate discussion questions for class. Repeated throughout the semester, this activity promotes close textual engagement, fosters student-led inquiry, and highlights both shared and distinctive features across Chinese, Korean, and Japanese Buddhist traditions. Mark Nathan will present on his biography-based approach to teaching East Asian Buddhist history. Students are assigned historical monks from China, Korea, or Japan and later embody these figures in a "monastic speed dating" activity. They then collaborate on presentations based on their monk's tradition. This method presents Korean Buddhism as integral to a broader East Asian Buddhist landscape while encouraging students to make transnational and comparative connections.

The East Asian War of 1592–1598 in Korean and World History: Lessons from Ryu Söngnyong's *Chingbirok*

4:00-5:30pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 216

Organizer and Chair: Kate Chouta

Speakers: Byonghyon Choi, Stella Kim, Sookja Cho, Nam-lin Hur, Kenneth Swope

Starting from Choi Byonghyon's newly revised translation of *Chingbirok (Reprimands and Admonitions)*, this roundtable will bring into dialogue five scholars of history and literature to consider the significance of the East Asian War of 1592-1598 in regional and world history. Professor Choi will begin with remarks about the original text and his translation work and then will discuss his biography of its author, Ryu Söngnyong, and moral historiography. Stella Kim will discuss the politics of record-keeping and producing historical knowledge in Chosön Korea and reflect on the place of Ryu's book among what might be thought of as a broader tradition of self-narrations of crisis. Nam-lin Hur will remark on the book's place within the author's overall body of work, its significance relative to other sources on the war, the insights it offers into specific aspects of the war, and its limitations that historians should consider. Sookja Cho will examine how *Chingbirok* can be effectively used in broader humanities and East Asian cultural studies courses—particularly those exploring the realities and lessons of war—in both comparative and contemporary contexts, to illuminate the enduring relevance of historical East Asian warfare for our generation. Ken Swope will discuss how the book portrays the Ming intervention and the Sino-Korean relationship, and how it can be used to examine the nature of international relations in early modern East Asia, particularly as it pertains to the so-called Chinese Tributary System. The following questions may be considered: Why did Ryu Söngnyong write *Chingbirok*? What lessons does this book have for us today? What is involved in translating a work like *Chingbirok*? How might *Chingbirok* be used in teaching Chosön history, East Asian history, and global history? What other materials do we have for learning about the East Asian War? Will the regional and world historical significance of the East Asian War soon be established as a necessary topic in histories of East Asia? Can we use it to understand all of East Asia at the end of the sixteenth century? What did it mean to individual countries?

The Korean Christian Diaspora During the Colonial Period and Beyond: Their Identity, Nationality, and Religion

5:45-7:15pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 209

Organizer: Jieun Han; Chair: Michael Kim; Discussant: Donald Baker

Presenters: Haeseong Park, Allen Kim, Jieun Han

This panel aims to provide a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics of the Korean Christian diaspora during the colonial era and beyond. Koreans were generally known to leave their motherland to avoid political constraints from Japanese imperial rule. However, 'religion' also served as a crucial factor in their immigration or settlement. Haeseong Park examines Grace Song, or Song Bok-sin, who was the first Korean Christian woman to earn a Ph.D. in the United States, but has faded from Korean discussions, partly due to her out-marriage to a wealthy American businessman. Park reveals the structural erasure that serves to reinforce the dominant discourse and shape collective memory. Allen J. Kim explores the life and ministry of Father Mark Jeong Mo Koo, a Korean Jesuit priest who has lived and served in Japan for over thirty-five years. Based on interviews conducted between 2015 and 2025, along with a reflective questionnaire, Kim draws on sociological theories of affective citizenship, lived religion, and post-national belonging to analyze how relational grace, aesthetic evangelization, intercultural mentorship, and shared suffering from the 2011 earthquake have shaped his ministry. Lastly, Jieun Han examines Ahn Misaeng, who worked for the Provisional Government of Korea as a secretary for Kim Ku, exploring why she suddenly left Korea for the United States in 1947 and subsequently faded from the memories of Koreans at home and abroad. Han seeks to trace Misaeng's ethnic identity and relationship with the Catholic Church as a Christian expatriate in a newly adopted country.

K-pop, Namtaeryeong, and Far-Right Radicalization: Cultural-political Dynamics in Post-Insurrection Korean Street Politics

5:45-7:15pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 221

Organizer: Junghyun Nam; Chair: Pil Ho Kim; Discussant: Hang Kim
Presenters: Junghyun Nam, Jung Hwan Cheon, Sang Eun Park, Manseok Kim

How does civil society respond to democratic backsliding? To answer this question, this panel examines how Korean movement culture's persistence, transformation, and appropriation shaped mass mobilization against the emergency martial law declaration on December 3, 2024. The 2024-2025 protests were rooted in established protest tactics, changing tactical-interactive norms, and activist-citizen solidarity driven by universal agendas and external shocks. Yoon Seok-yeol's emergency martial law declaration served as a crucial test of Korean democracy's resilience, revealing how enduring characteristics of Korean street politics provided resources for contemporary mobilization while undergoing significant reconfiguration and appropriation. Each paper in the panel analyzes different dimensions of this dynamic process: how member-evaluation criteria from the 2016-2017 Candlelight Protests were relaxed in 2024-2025, both enabling expanded solidarity and exposing this solidarity's vulnerability to external shocks; how far-right groups appropriated established protest repertoires, catalyzing societal far-right extremism; how traditional art performances and songs rooted in labor, student, and minority movements shaped contemporary resistance practices; and how historically marginalized farmer activists forged unprecedented solidarity with women and queer communities, constructing the mythic narrative of "Namtaeryeong." These studies demonstrate that Korean citizens actively responded to democratic crisis by drawing upon historical precedents while adapting to new political realities. The analysis reveals how Korea's movement culture serves as both a resource for democratic defense and contested terrain subject to appropriation. These papers illuminate the complex relationship between cultural and political continuity and innovation during democratic crises, offering insights into the evolving nature, adaptive capacity, and persistent challenges of Korean democratic resistance.

New Sources, Methodologies, and Perspectives on North Korea-China Relations, 1940s–60s

9:00-10:30am, Sunday, March 15

VCC, Room 210

Organizer: Claudius Kyung Yeob Kim; Chair: Andre Schmid; Discussant: Adam Cathcart
Presenters: Haeyoung Kim, Hao Chen, Gregg Brazinsky

Historians have drawn on Soviet, Chinese, and even Eastern European archives to explore North Korea's inter-socialist relations, much of this work has focused narrowly on elite diplomacy within the socialist bloc. The panel draws on previously underutilized sources and offers diverse approaches, including ethnopolitical, trans-imperial, discursive, and cultural, to the study of North Korea's international and transnational experience in the early Cold War, with a focus on Sino-North Korean relations. Hao Chen traces the transnational deployment of Soviet-trained Korean cadres to Yanbian during the Chinese Civil War (1945–49), revealing how this Soviet military arrangements shaped the region's ethnopolitical landscape and that early CCP-North Korea relations must be understood through the Yanbian region's ethnopolitical history. Haeyoung Kim examines the Japanese railway systems both helped forge and fracture socialist solidarity. While they facilitated North Korea's logistical support for China's civil war, the railways' colonial design inadvertently reproduced imperial power structures that subordinated Pyongyang to Beijing. Against the backdrop of unequal relations, Claudius Kim reveals how North Koreans discursively challenged the hierarchical logic of the CCP's revolutionary narrative vis-à-vis North Korea by (re)writing Sino-Korean revolutionary history and producing literatures that subverted Chinese ethno-centrism. Moving from the 1950s and into 1960s, Gregg Brazinsky analyzes how North Korean cultural performances in Maoist China served to cultivate popular emotions and build legitimacy narratives in both Pyongyang and Beijing. His paper thereby connects state-to-state relations with domestic politics and the emergence of socialist culture across the Yalu.

Publishing, Collecting, and Remembering: Japan as a Site of Korean Representation and Cultural Production

9:00-10:30am, Sunday, March 15

VCC, Room 104

Organizer: Sunyoung Kwak; Chair: Hyejin Jo; Discussants: Kayoung Kim, Hannah Shepherd
Presenters: Ria Chae, Susan Taylor, Sunyoung Kwak



This multidisciplinary panel explores narratives of media and the media of narratives, especially of intellectual and material exchange and friendship, in the context of Imperial Japan, Colonial Korea, and their legacies. The year 2025 is one of anniversaries in the South Korea-Japan relationship: the 80th anniversary of liberation and the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations, with various events held in commemoration. While it seems that human and cultural exchanges, such as through tourism, pop culture, and food, are flourishing along with the popular discourse of mutual understanding, the concrete image of Korea as a former colony is often ignored, evaded, or obscured. Combining perspectives from the three different disciplines of history, anthropology, and media studies, this panel discusses the circulation of people and information between Korea and Japan during the colonial era, challenging the popular discourse.

The papers in this panel address: the self-molding of colonial intellectuals in the early years of colonial rule; the construction of colonial and post-colonial images of Korea through Japanese collections of rare books before and after liberation; and the invisibility of colonialism in contemporary Japanese pop culture depicting Japan's 20th-century history. They demonstrate how different actors and media, across time, have shaped narratives of colonial Korea in Japan and beyond. Reexamining Japanese-Korean cultural exchange through the lenses of coloniality and post-coloniality, this panel analyzes the ways the figure of colonial Korea has been created, dismissed, rendered invisible, or willfully ignored.

Haunting Visions: Re-imagining Korean History and Nation in Transnational Visual Culture

9:00-10:30am, Sunday, March 15

VCC, Room 111

Organizers: Naveen Minai; Junyoung Verónica Kim; Chair: Naveen Minai
Presenters: Naveen Minai, Jung Joon Lee, Hieyoon Kim, Junyoung Verónica Kim

In the present moment when South Korea has emerged both as a global cultural powerhouse and a media spectacle, this panel explores the transnational infrastructures of war, capital, and state violence that undergird and scaffold the shiny reified visions of Korea and Koreanness. The imaginary of South Korea as a model of Asian capital, a techno-Orientalist fantasy, a Cold War success story, and a fashionable style, hides and buries the material costs and debris, including the necropolitical management of the disappeared, the dead, and ecological ruins. By centering histories of authoritarianism, militarized diasporas, South to South relations, and necrocapitalist ecologies, the panelists bring to light the afterlives that haunt and anchor the present while proposing new analytics for understanding alternative visions and futures. How does visual culture illustrate, comment on, complicate, interrogate, unravel questions of Korean nation and history? By offering different registers and textures of ghostly presence, how does visual culture unearth what is hidden and what is buried? This panel brings together transnational visual culture from Mexico, Argentina, and South Korea to excavate the silenced voices, edited scenes, and buried footage that interrogate dominant visions/versions of Korea: KyungMook Kim's VR installation *5.25 m²*, Korean Argentine artist Michael Vince Kim's photography project "Aenikkaeng", South Korean military drama *D.P.*, and Mexico City-based art collective that was produced and exhibited in Gwangju. Tracing the throughlines of haunting, the panelists offer transnational forms of solidarity, relation, memory, and imagination which have been (and are being) crafted to resist and remake our worlds.

Queering Aging in East Asia: Beyond Care, Crisis, and Kinship

10:45am-12:15pm, Sunday, March 15

VCC, Room 112

Organizer and Chair: Eun Ah Cho; Discussant: Nam Lee
Presenters: Eun Ah Cho, Hee-seung Irene Lee, Yeori Park

The visceral depiction of the aging female body in *The Substance* (2024) has ignited debate over the aesthetics of aging and the use of horror to stage bodily excess and social anxiety. While controversial, it signals a broader shift in screen cultures and media arts that increasingly center aging as a complex site of performance, critique, and imagination. This interdisciplinary panel brings together scholars from literature, media, and anthropology to examine how aging is being reimagined in East Asian contexts—across China, Japan, and Korea—through visual storytelling, everyday performance, and cultural production that resist normative scripts of decline, dependence, and quiet dignity. One paper analyzes aging humor in Japanese Silver Senryu and Korean storytelling, where self-deprecating wit emerges as a politically charged act of self-representation and cultural aging. Another interrogates South Korean films and dramas that use bodily transformation and temporal disruption to expose the biopolitical contradictions of aging femininity under neoliberalism. A third, grounded in ethnographic fieldwork, explores how middle-class Chinese elders perform social distinction through their choice of institutional eldercare, framing their environment as an aesthetic and affective expression of modern aging. Together, these papers treat aging as an expressive, contested, and deeply visual terrain. By queering aging—unsettling its temporal norms, aesthetic ideals, and social expectations—the panel contributes to interdisciplinary conversations on aging in East Asia that foreground aesthetics, performance, and cultural critique beyond the binaries of care or crisis.

Film Screening on Korea



Songs of Love from Hawaii

4:25-5:45pm, Saturday, March 14

VCC, Room 116

Directed by Jinyoung Lee; Produced by Jinyoung Lee and T. S. Choi
2025. United States. 62 min.

Airing on PBS and earning a 97% rating during its 16-week theatrical run in South Korea, this beautifully moving film unveils Hawaii's untold stories. Blending history, music, and the immigrant experience, it tells three distinct stories featuring extraordinary performances by world-class musicians.

Official Film Website: <https://www.therainbowwords.com/songs-of-love>

Korean Literature Association 2025 Annual Conference Report

- By **Jina Kim** (KLA President, University of Oregon)

The Korean Literature Association's annual conference (October 31-November 1, 2025), held at Emory University, brought together scholars for two days of rich intellectual exchange under the theme "The Transtemporal Turn in Korean Literary Studies." This year's gathering showcased how Korean literary and cultural studies continue to push the boundaries of temporality, memory, and historical imagination across genres, disciplines, and media.

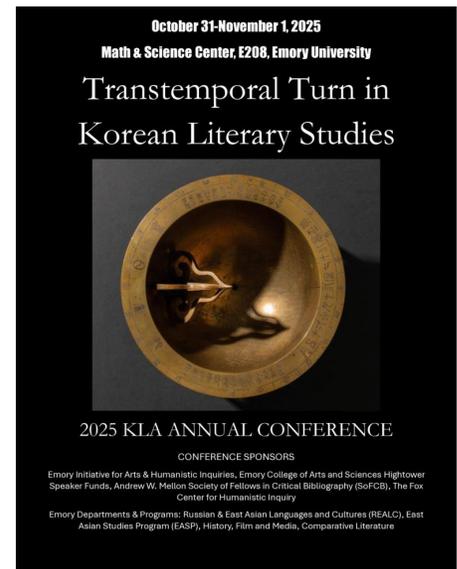
The conference opened with a keynote by Professor Jie-Hyun Lim (Sogang University/Williams College), whose lecture, "Transtemporal Coloniality: Colonial Innocence and Victimhood Nationalism in East Asia," offered a penetrating critique of how temporal frameworks shape the narratives of colonial memory and national identity. His keynote set a foundation for panels that followed, many of which explored the entanglements of past, present, and future in Korean cultural production.

A major highlight of the program was the Yun Ch'i-ho Paper Workshop, led by Professor Hwisang Cho, held at the Rose Library. Participants engaged directly with materials from the Yun Ch'i-ho archive, discussing methodological questions about reading, interpreting, and contextualizing complex historical documents. This hands-on workshop underscored the conference's broader commitment to archival inquiry as part of the transtemporal turn.



The conference also featured a dynamic translation roundtable bringing together professional literary translators Seung Hee Jeon, Janet Hong, and Stine An. Their discussion illuminated the artistry and ethical responsibilities of translation, especially in rendering Korean literature for global audiences.

Another milestone was the awarding of the inaugural KLA Article Prize to Dr. Sujin Eom (Dartmouth College) for her article, "Fugitive Archives: Architecture, Police Photography, and Decolonial Future."



Perhaps most inspiring was the remarkably strong presence of graduate students and early career scholars, whose research demonstrated both depth and innovation. Their research presentations ranged from diaspora studies and feminist speculative fiction to media archaeology and posthumanist poetics, demonstrating not only intellectual rigor but also an inspiring sense of energy and direction for the future of the field.

Thank you to all the participants, and Emory University and Hwisang Cho for hosting the conference. The 2026 KLA conference will be held at Princeton University on November 6-7, 2026. The theme of this year's conference is "From the Letter form to the Literary Site: The Material Lives of Korean Textual Objects" Please join us by submitting an abstract and supporting KLA by becoming a member. <https://koreanlit.org/>

Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Center for Korean Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Critical Issues Forum

Monica Kim

THE WORLD THAT HUNGER MADE

BLOOD, RICE, AND DEBT IN U.S.-OCCUPIED KOREA



3 PM, Tuesday, December 2, 2025
Center for Korean Studies Auditorium

This lecture uncovers a Cold War military economy that was the shadow twin of the "military-industrial complex." By tracing the struggle over day-to-day survival in post-1945 Korea in tandem with financial and social policies of the U.S. military government, I examine crises of hyperinflation, austerity, debt, speculation – which we often associate with the neoliberalism of the late 1970s and onwards. My lecture will offer a kind of prehistory to neoliberal capitalist logics, all in the belly of the U.S. liberal imperial project in Asia.



Monica Kim is Associate Professor and the William Appleman Williams Chair in U.S. International and Diplomatic History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her book, *The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War: The Untold History*, was published in 2019 by Princeton University Press. The book received top prizes from the Association for Asian Studies, the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, the Society for Military History, and the Association for Asian American Studies. Beyond the classroom, she has worked with feminist and critical scholars in the U.S. and South Korea around political and pedagogical interventions aimed at ending the ongoing Korean War. She has been a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, and is currently a member of the editorial collective at *The Radical History Review*. In 2022, she received the MacArthur Fellowship.

Center for Korean Studies
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

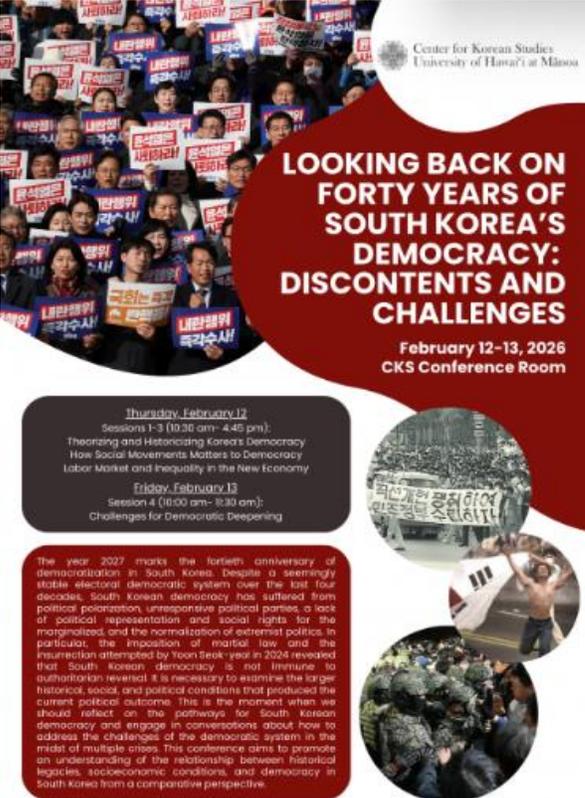
LOOKING BACK ON FORTY YEARS OF SOUTH KOREA'S DEMOCRACY: DISCONTENTS AND CHALLENGES

February 12-13, 2026
CKS Conference Room

Thursday, February 12
Sessions 1-3 (10:30 am- 4:45 pm):
Theorizing and Historicizing Korea's Democracy
How Social Movements Matters to Democracy
Labor Market and Inequality in the New Economy

Friday, February 13
Session 4 (10:00 am- 1:30 pm):
Challenges for Democratic Deepening

The year 2027 marks the fortieth anniversary of democratization in South Korea. Despite a seemingly stable electoral democratic system over the last four decades, South Korean democracy has suffered from political polarization, unresponsive political parties, a lack of political representation and social rights for the marginalized, and the normalization of extremist politics. In particular, the imposition of martial law and the insurrection attempted by Yoon Seok-yeol in 2024 revealed that South Korean democracy is not immune to authoritarian reversal. It is necessary to examine the large historical, social, and political conditions that produced the current political outcome. This is the moment when we should reflect on the pathways for South Korean democracy and engage in conversations about how to address the challenges of the democratic system in the midst of multiple crises. This conference aims to promote an understanding of the relationship between historical legacies, socioeconomic conditions, and democracy in South Korea from a comparative perspective.



The Yang Lecture Series

Endowed by Drs. Sung Chul Yang and Daisy Lee Yang, the Yang Lecture Series was established to facilitate the regular appearance of eminent scholars of Korean and Asian affairs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa campus. The next event in the Yang Lecture Series, "Buddhist Nuns Go Global: Korean Temple Food and Ethical Living" with speaker Dr. Hyaewool Choi will be held on March 5, 2026. Dr. Choi is Professor of Korean Studies, Gender History, and Religious Studies, and holds the C. Maxwell and Elizabeth M. Stanley Family and Korea Foundation Chair in Korean Studies at the University of Iowa. She also served as President of the Association for Asian Studies (2024-2025).

Conference: "Research Methods Toward Dialogue and Unification Possibilities between North Korea and South Korea"

Slated for April 30-May 1, 2026 is a conference that aims to present and discuss various research that can facilitate a more constructive understanding between North Korea and South Korea. More information will be provided as it becomes available on the CKS [website](#).

Commemorating the 50th Volume of Korean Studies

The Center for Korean Studies is proud to celebrate a significant milestone this year: the publication of the 50th Volume of Korean Studies. Established in 1977 at UH Mānoa, Korean Studies has evolved into a leading academic journal, fostering deep intellectual inquiry into Korea-related topics through the lens of the humanities and social sciences. This 50th Volume is a testament to the enduring spirit of our academic community. On April 16, 2026, we are hosting a special event celebrating this important anniversary and the contributors who made it possible.

Center for Korean Research, Columbia University

- By **Ruth Barraclough**

(Director of the Center for Korean Research, Columbia University)

The Center for Korean Research (CKR) at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University continues to build momentum as a hub for innovative scholarship and public engagement in Korean studies. Anchored by long standing faculty in literature (Professor Ted Hughes), religion (Professor Seong Uk Kim) and history (Professor Jungwon Kim) the Center recently welcomed new leadership with the appointment of Ruth Barraclough as Director. A specialist in modern Korean women’s labor history, she further strengthens CKR’s interdisciplinary reach.



Professors Kornel Chang, Mae Ngai, Ruth Barraclough (Director of CKR), and Ph.D. student Kyu Dong Lee gather for a photo after dinner following Professor Chang’s talk.

CKR’s fall semester featured a vibrant series of lectures and conversations, drawing strong participation from scholars, students, and community members and reinforcing the Center’s role as a dynamic forum for critical inquiry into Korea’s past and present.

The spring semester builds on this energy with a thoughtfully curated program that brings together scholars across disciplines to reflect on questions of democracy and dissent, memory and representation, labor and gender, religion and popular culture, and the shifting landscapes of media, art, and state formation. Spanning colonial and Cold War contexts to contemporary South and North Korea, the series highlights the breadth and vitality of Korean studies today.

We look forward to continuing this momentum in the year ahead and warmly invite colleagues to connect with us through our [website](#) and public programs.

George Washington University Institute for Korean Studies

- By **Celeste Arrington**

(Director of the GW Institute for Korean Studies)

[GWIKS](#) is entering its tenth year and continues to have a full slate of diverse programming related to Korea.

Date	Event	Time	Location
9/17	Workshop on the Social (Re)Construction of War and History in Korea	12:30 - 5pm	ESIA Room 505
9/23	Rebranding North Korea: Changes in Consumer Culture and Visual Media Immanuel Kim (GW) New Books in Korean Studies: Soh Jaipil Lecture Series	3:30 - 5pm	ESIA Room 505
9/30	Modern and Contemporary Korean Art in Context: 1950–Now Book Talk with Jung-Sil Lee (GW)	2pm	Hammer Auditorium Flagg Bldg. 100
10/1-2	Charting a Sustainable Fiscal Future: U.S. and Korean Insights U.S.-Korea Fiscal Policy Forum Conference		Lindner Commons ESIA Room 602
10/14-15	Discerning North Korean Economic Strategies: Sanctions Enforcement, Trump-Era Policies, and Geopolitical Realignment 7th Annual North Korea Economic Forum Conference	9 - 11am	Virtual
10/24	Transcultural K-Drama 33rd Annual Hahn Moo Sook Colloquium	1 - 5pm	Lindner Commons ESIA Room 602
10/28	The U.S.-ROK Alliance in the Trump and Lee Administrations Korea Policy Forum	3 - 4:30pm	SMPA Room 310
11/4	Building a Strategic U.S.-ROK Artificial Intelligence Partnership Korea Policy Forum	1 - 2:30pm	Lindner Commons ESIA Room 602
11/6	Screening "Songs of Love from Hawaii" GWIKS - EALL Hosted Screening	3:30 - 5:30pm	University Student Center 307
11/7	Sixiang Wang (UCLA) Premodern Korea Lecture Series	1 - 2pm	Virtual

Date	Event	Time	Location
2/25	Beyond the Border: A Conversation with Nicole Kim Rogers Revolutionary Reads Book Club Author Event Book Club Event with a GW Alum	6:00 p.m.	Virtual via Zoom
2/27	Cold War Economies in the Two Koreas Signature Conference	10:00 a.m.	Lindner Commons / Hybrid
3/18	The Future of U.S.-ROK Nuclear Cooperation: National and Economic Security at the Intersection Korea Policy Forum	6:00 p.m.	Lindner Commons / Hybrid
3/20	Jungwon Kim (Columbia University) Premodern Korea Lecture Series	10:00 a.m.	Virtual via Zoom
3/24	Land, Fence, and Border: Andong and the Transformation of China's Frontier, 1630s-1950s Wang Yuanzhong (University of Delaware)	12:00 p.m.	GW Textile Museum
4/15	North Korea Economic Forum Annual Webinar North Korea Economic Forum	TBD	Virtual via Zoom
4/17	Hyeok Hweon Kang (Washington University in St. Louis) Premodern Korea Lecture Series	1:00 p.m.	Virtual via Zoom
4/23	Special Lecture with Sen. Andy Kim Korea Policy Forum	4:00 p.m.	Lindner Commons / Hybrid
4/24	Gregg Brazinsky Book Launch Cold War Comrades: An Emotional History of the Sino-North Korean Alliance	3:00 p.m.	Lindner Commons

Korean Studies Institute, University of Southern California

– By **Sunyoung Park** (Director of USC KSI)

Since its relaunch as a multi- and interdisciplinary research center in Fall 2024, the USC Korean Studies Institute (KSI) has significantly expanded its programming for the 2025–2026 academic year. Our annual graduate conference, which has grown to an international scale, has been renamed the Pacific Graduate Conference in Korean Studies at USC. See this year’s [Call for Papers](#). Below are reports on two faculty-led conferences and our signature annual K-trail walking tour.

Conference Reports

[Technoscience, Gender, and Cultural Transformations in Korea](#)

February 13-14, 2026 | Rosen Family Screening Room, Tutor Campus Center, USC Doheny Memorial Library, University of Southern California

This international conference, led by Jinhee Park and Sunyoung Park—alongside USC graduate researchers, Jiwon Park and Fiona Xu—brought together twenty-eight global scholars from four different countries to examine the nexus of technoscience, gender, and culture. Panel themes ranged from feminist historiographies of health and labor, technofeminist critiques of algorithmic and media cultures to queer feminist science fiction. The conference fostered dialogue across disciplines and methodologies to deepen our insights into both the gendered impacts of contemporary technoscientific developments and the ways in which embodied perspectives inform technoscientific practices and cultural imaginaries. This conference was sponsored by the Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies, the Korea Foundation, and several academic units at USC.

[Traditions of East Asian Typography](#)

March 6, 2026 | 9:30AM-4:15PM | Doheny Memorial Library, University of Southern California

Organized by Professor Graeme Reynolds, this upcoming conference investigates the autochthonous traditions of movable type in East Asia prior to the arrival of Western letterpress in the late 19th century. While woodblock printing remained the dominant medium for centuries, East Asia’s home-grown typographic history is often unfairly dismissed as a failed experiment or a historical “afterthought.” This conference seeks to challenge that narrative. By interrogating these traditions as distinct technological systems, scholars will explore how movable type was utilized by diverse actors for specific objectives often in direct competition with xylography. The goal is to push English-language scholarship on East Asian typography—and more broadly, book history—in new directions. This conference is co-sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography at Rare Book School at the University of Virginia.

Continuing Signature Program

[The K-trail](#)

Developed by Jungeun Hong of USC’s Korean Heritage Library (KHL), this annual walking tour program is designed to visit and discuss notable spaces related to Korean heritage at USC campus and surrounding areas. The tour starts at the library and continues to historic sites such as the University Club, Ahn House, USC Dive Tower, Korean National Association Memorial Foundation, Hung Sa Dahn, and Florence Sherman’s Church. The K-trail is more than just a walking tour – it is an immersive historical journey rooted in KHL’s rich, carefully curated resources. From rare archival photographs and oral histories to community newspapers and government documents, the KHL’s collections provide a vivid window into the Korean American experience. These unique materials form the foundation of this program, allowing us to connect physical spaces with the remarkable stories, struggles, and contributions of the Korean American community across generations.



Nam Center for Korean Studies, University of Michigan

Michigan Korean Studies Summer Institute

The Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan is pleased to announce the Michigan Korean Studies Summer Institute (MiKSSI), to be held in Ann Arbor from June 28-July 3, 2026. PhD students in any discipline whose research concerns Korea are encouraged to apply. This one-week residential intensive program will focus on collaborative learning, collective thinking, and interdisciplinary agenda-setting around a key critical issue central to Korean Studies.

This year's theme is Confucianism in Korean History. What is Confucianism? And what about Neo-Confucianism? Some scholars state that Neo-Confucianism was adopted as the state ideology at the time of the founding of the Chosŏn dynasty. Others discuss the Confucian transformation of Korea society during this period. Still some others note that late Chosŏn scholars and officials regarded their own country as the true inheritor of Confucian civilization, resulting in Chosŏn becoming more Confucian than any other East Asian polity. Many blame Confucianism for the Chosŏn dynasty's ultimate inability to maintain its independence, citing such presumably Confucian factors as factionalism, anti-commercialism, rigidity in the social order, and short-sighted Korean reliance on its tributary relationship with China. Nonetheless, the strong Confucian historical legacy is believed by some to have had an enormous impact on Korea's modern transformation, and Korea is still dealing with its legacy today. The ongoing debate about whether Confucianism has any place in contemporary Korea and the wider world continues.

In this year's MiKSSI, we will address some of these questions in order to gain a better understanding of the historical evolution of Confucianism and its context in China and Korea, as well as exploring the following topics: how (un)Confucian premodern Korea was and how tensions between Confucian values and indigenous Korean traditions informed Korean identities; the impact of Confucian teachings on historical developments in Korea; and how such historical uses and abuses shaped the Korean history. Each day, participants will read article-length studies and short selections of primary sources to stimulate discussion. In addition to the two faculty leaders of the workshop, guest scholars will give lectures on related subjects. The aim of this workshop is not only to familiarize the participants with scholarship on premodern Korea, but also to encourage students to think beyond existing works in a provocative way by asking unconventional questions.

This summer, the two scholars who will be joining the Summer Institute as the lead faculty instructors in residence are John B. Duncan (Professor Emeritus, UCLA) and Sun Joo Kim (Professor, Harvard University).

For more information and application, please visit this [website](#).



Photo from 2025 MiKSSI: Literature in Korea's Twentieth Century

Center for Korean Studies, Stony Brook University

Stony Brook Launches First-of-Its-Kind M.A. Track in Korean Humanism

The [Center for Korean Studies](#) at Stony Brook University has launched a groundbreaking M.A. Track in Korean Humanism, beginning Fall 2026. This is the first graduate program in North America dedicated to the systematic study of Korean classical texts through original sources.

Supported by the Academy of Korean Studies' Core University Program, the track uniquely employs Korean classical materials—from ancient foundation myths to Joseon-era philosophical treatises—for both Classical Chinese instruction and cultural study. It is led by Dr. Hongkyung Kim, author of the six-volume [The Analects of Dasan](#) (Oxford University Press)



Stony Brook University



MA Track in Korean Humanism

Stony Brook University | Fall 2026

Unlock the Wisdom of Korea's Classical Tradition

WHO SHOULD APPLY?
Ideal for students with a background in Korean studies, humanities, or East Asian language, culture, and history. We welcome applicants seeking to deepen their understanding of classical Korean thought and prepare for advanced academic or professional careers.

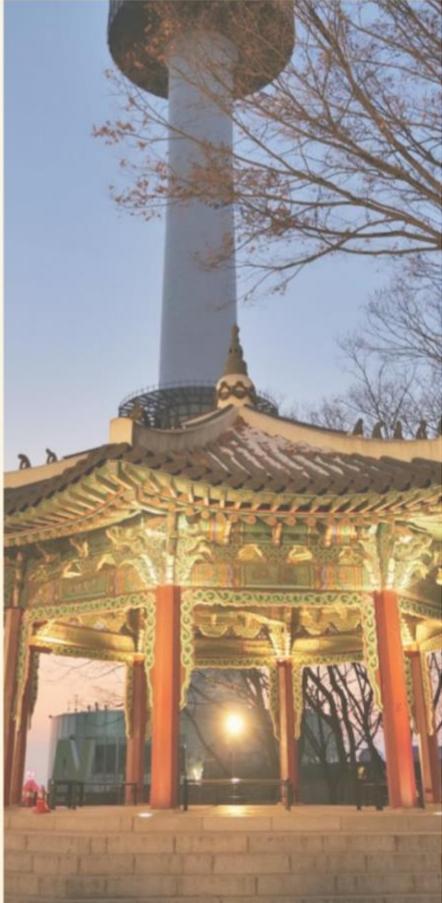
Program Highlights

- Full Tuition Scholarship Available (30 credits covered)
- 3 Semesters | Complete in 1.5 Years
- Study Confucianism, History, Literature and More
- Perfect PhD Preparation Pathway
- Small Cohort | World-Class Faculty
- First Cohort - Be a Founding Member

Application Deadline
May 1, 2026
(April 30 for Scholarship Consideration)



Website: stonybrook.edu/koreanhumanities
Email: hongkyung.kim@Stonybrook.edu



Inter-University Center at Sungkyunkwan University

- By **Ross King** (Co-chair of the IUC, University of British Columbia)

The IUC at SKKU (Inter-University Center for Korean Language Studies at Sungkyunkwan University)—with dues-paying members of UBC, Harvard, UCLA, Stanford, and Michigan—was founded belatedly in 2017 along the lines of the inter-university centers for Japanese and Chinese language studies founded already in the early 1960s. Our Korean IUC remains small but is eager to attract more students. The IUC is committed to providing high-level intensive instruction in advanced academic Korean, which remains the Achilles heel of graduate-level training in global Korean Studies, and is essential to building a more diverse professoriate.



Term	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Spring 2027
Enrollment	5	10	4	6			
Period				2/9 - 5/28	7/1 - 8/11	8/31 - 12/17	tba
Application Deadline					4/30/2026	6/30/2026	11/30/2026

Global Korean Culture Network

- By **Anna Stein** (Founder, Global Korean Culture Network)

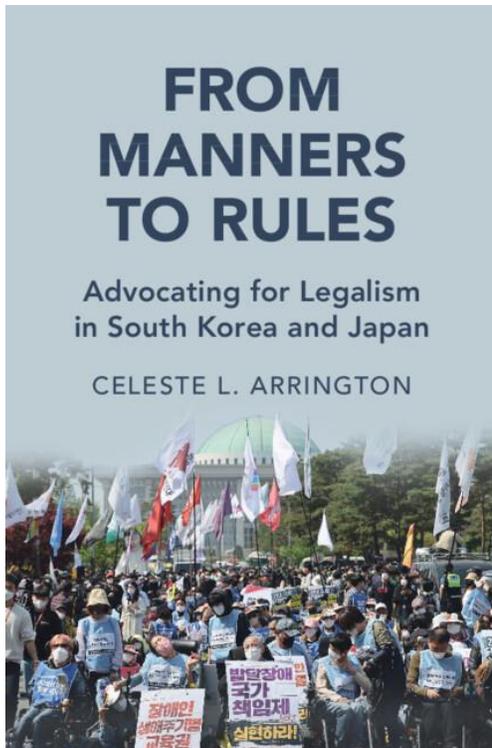


The Global Korean Culture Network (GKCN) is a research initiative documenting and mapping exhibitions, cultural programmes, and heritage-related activities connected to Korea worldwide. Focusing on museums, cultural centres, festivals, and public institutions, GKCN brings together dispersed information to support comparative research on how Korean culture circulates internationally. The project is ongoing and continues to expand as a reference resource for scholars working on Korean Studies, Hallyu, heritage, and cultural diplomacy.

GKCN treats exhibitions and cultural programmes as part of a wider cultural infrastructure through which Korean culture circulates globally, alongside media platforms and popular culture. The project currently features a public-facing map and dataset and is continuing to expand geographically and thematically. It may be of interest to scholars working on Hallyu, cultural diplomacy, museums, heritage, and the international circulation of Korean culture.

More information is available at: <https://sites.google.com/view/gkcn/home>

Publication News: Monographs

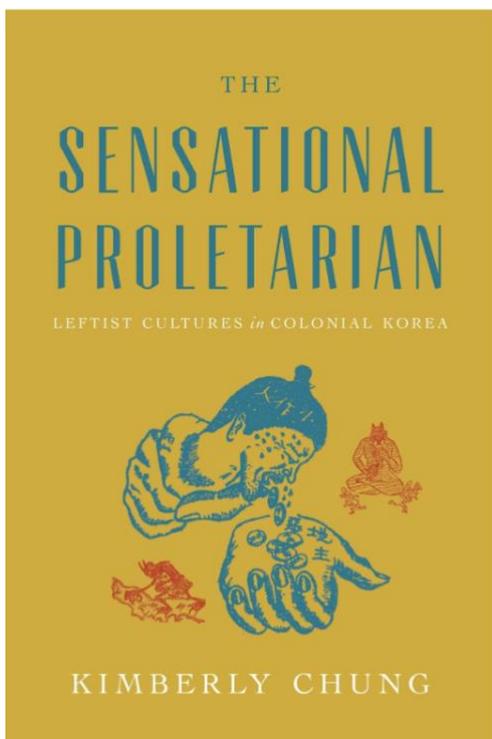


From Manners to Rules: Advocating for Legalism in South Korea and Japan

Cambridge University Press, 2025

From Manners to Rules traces the emergence of legalistic governance in South Korea and Japan. While these countries were previously known for governance characterized by bureaucratic discretion and vague laws, activists and lawyers are pushing for a more legalistic regulatory style. Previous studies have focused on top-down or structural explanations for legalism. *From Manners to Rules* instead documents bottom-up sources of institutional and social change, as activists and lawyers advocate for and use more formal rules and procedures. By comparing recent reforms in disability rights and tobacco control, the book uncovers the societal drivers behind legalism and the broader judicialization of politics in East Asia's main democracies. Drawing on 120 interviews and diverse sources, *From Manners to Rules* challenges the conventional wisdom that law and courts play marginal roles in Korean and Japanese politics and illuminates how legalistic governance is transforming citizens' options for political participation.

Celeste L. Arrington is Korea Foundation Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the George Washington University.

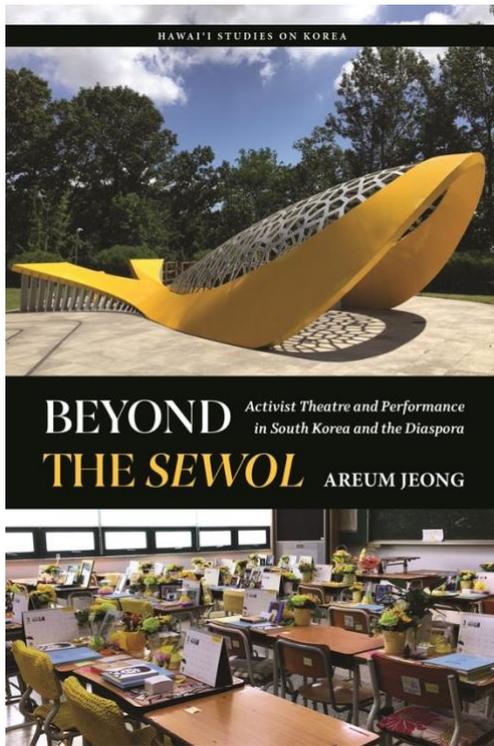


The Sensational Proletarian: Leftist Cultures in Colonial Korea

Stanford University Press, 2025

Starving ghosts, anguished farmers, and grieving mothers. Floating heads, gaunt bodies, and masses of bodily fluids. Such are the visceral sensations, exaggerated affects, and suffering subjects that characterized leftist Korean cultural production in the 1920s-1930s. *The Sensational Proletarian* focuses on these textual and visual representations to tell the story of how new affects and everyday experiences introduced by imperial capitalism and colonial modernity were mediated through the lower-class body. Kimberly Chung traces the emergence of "the sensational proletariat" as a central figure of colonial Korean print culture and reads its varied manifestations as emblematic of Korean efforts not only to grapple with modernity, imperialism, and capitalism, but to do so using the new political ideology and imaginary of Marxism. This book brings to light the centrality of sensational cultures in the development of class politics in Korea, an integral relationship that continues throughout modern and contemporary Korean cultural history.

Kimberly Chung is Assistant Professor of Korean Literary and Visual Cultures at McGill University.

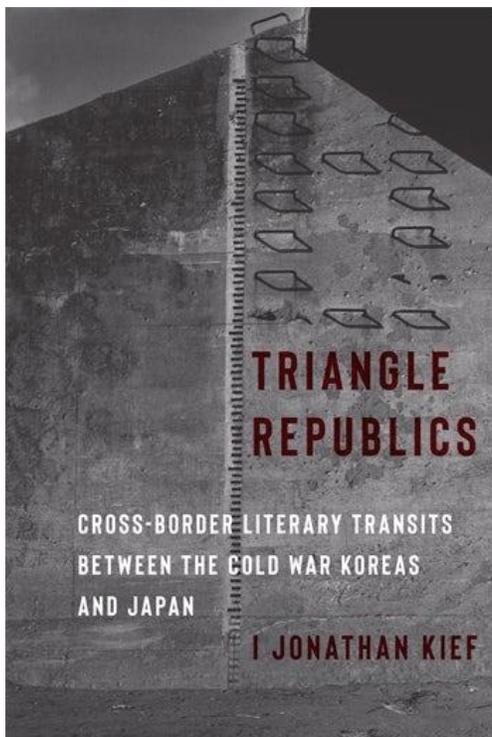


Beyond the Sewol: Activist Theater and Performance in South Korea and the Diaspora

University of Hawai'i Press, 2025

The feelings of helplessness that many South Koreans and others felt at the sinking of the Sewol were sharpened by the ways the government mishandled the disaster, which has become the most galvanizing event in contemporary South Korean history. Throughout this roller coaster of national disaster, public outrage, hope for change, and broken promises, an activist movement has taken shape among artists working through the medium of performance to process the disaster. This is the first book to spotlight this creative fluorescence of performative work, which spans the genres of theatre productions, exhibitions, interactive memorial events, site-specific public performances, street protests, and K-pop music videos. By identifying and analyzing a multimedia collection of performative works, this book reveals the ways activists and artists mobilizing performative strategies have labored to transform the meaning of Sewol from an unresolved national trauma into a catalyst for creating a safer, fairer, and more caring society.

Areum Jeong is assistant professor of Korean studies at Arizona State University.

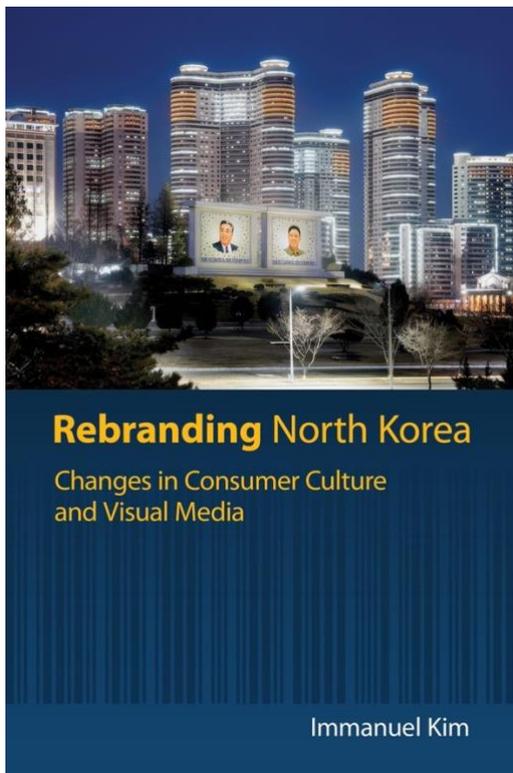


Triangle Republics: Cross-Border Literary Transits Between the Cold War Koreas and Japan

Columbia University Press, 2025

In Korea, the end of the Second World War in 1945 brought both liberation from Japanese colonial rule and the division of the nation by the triumphant Allies. Although the two Koreas are typically seen as isolated from each other, texts continued to circulate between them—with the assistance of Korean diasporic and other colleagues in Japan—throughout the ensuing decades. Jonathan Kief follows the triangular flow of texts linking North Korea, South Korea, and Japan from 1945 until the 1980s, revealing overlooked paths of interaction and exchange. He highlights the creative ways in which poets, playwrights, novelists, critics, and academics crossed boundaries of language, ideology, genre, and geography to challenge the stability of the Cold War. By showing how writers in North and South Korea engaged in dialogue via the mediation of a multiethnic set of colleagues in Japan, *Triangle Republics* offers a new perspective on this era, emphasizing its vibrant, dynamic, and interconnected nature.

Jonathan Kief is an associate professor of Korean Studies and Asian Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

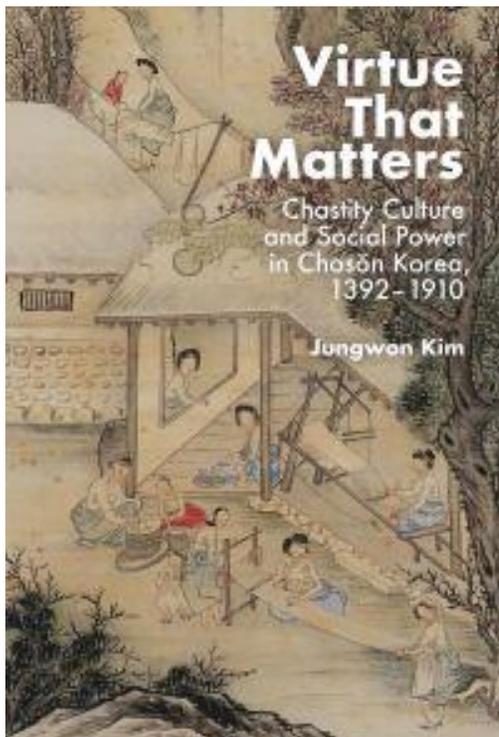


Rebranding North Korea: Changes in Consumer Culture and Visual Media

University of Hawai'i Press, 2025

Immanuel Kim traces two parallel trajectories illustrating the most significant changes in North Korean consumer culture: the expansion of modern urban development projects and increased social amenities, alongside the technologically advanced aesthetic qualities of visual media. These changes reveal the transition from the politics-centric society of the Kim Jong Il regime to the consumer-centric one under Kim Jong Un. The country's revamping of visual culture—as seen in the move from celluloid to digital formats, improved filmmaking techniques, advanced editing, and artistic photographic renditions—highlights North Korea's attempts to educate itself and rebrand the DPRK. Its revamped cityscapes, gentrified living conditions, fashionable consumer goods, and transformed film and television industries signal a strong and stable economy where citizens are actively customizing their consumerist lifestyles according to the images portrayed in visual media.

Immanuel Kim is Professor of Korean Literature and Culture Studies at George Washington University.

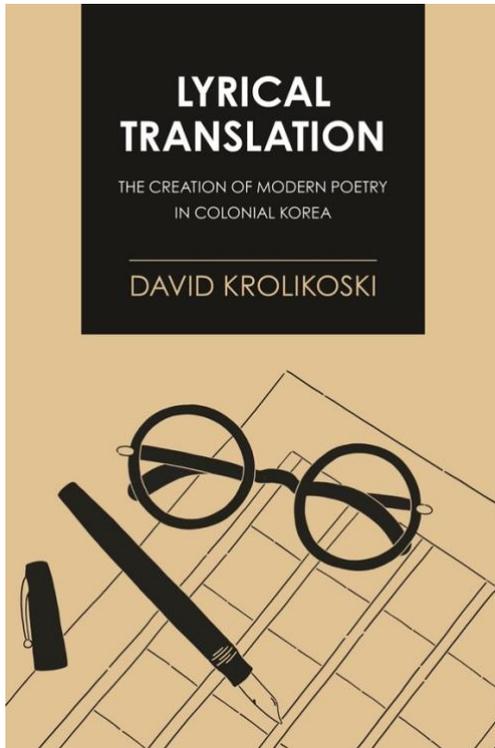


Virtue That Matters: Chastity Culture and Social Power in Chosŏn Korea, 1392-1910

Harvard University Press, 2025

Virtue That Matters is a groundbreaking exploration of the intricate dynamics of chastity culture in Chosŏn Korea from 1392 to 1910, shedding light on its political, legal, social, and cultural significance. In this book, Jungwon Kim demonstrates how an emphasis on female chastity came to pervade society as it intertwined with state ideology and elite interests. By analyzing a copious range of sources including governmental publications, legal records, and women's own writings, Kim unveils the rich tapestry of Chosŏn society's attitudes toward female chastity and argues that extreme chastity culture was not merely a product of Confucianization but was also shaped by diverse social forces and individual agency. Furthermore, Kim reframes the discourse on chastity by focusing on women's experiences and perspectives, challenging the traditional portrayal of women as marginal to Chosŏn history.

Jungwon Kim is King Sejong Associate Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Culture at Columbia University.

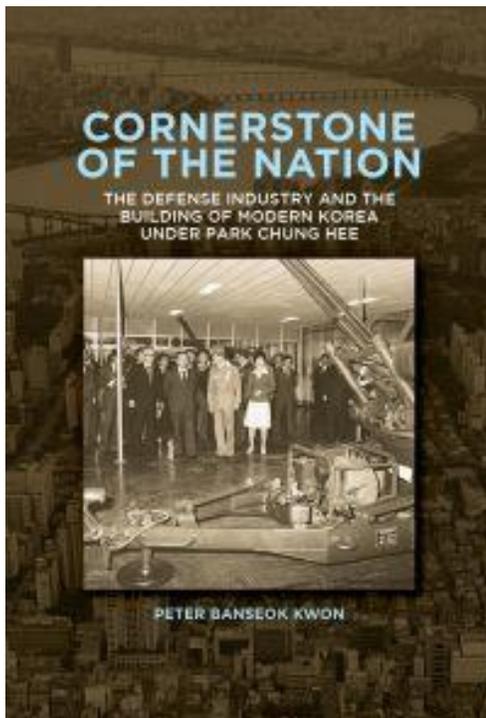


Lyrical Translation: The Creation of Modern Poetry in Colonial Korea

University of Hawai'i Press, 2026

Lyrical Translation is a literary history of modern Korean poetry's origins and its development through translation. As the use of Korean became increasingly restricted during the Japanese occupation, translation was not a choice but a necessity for higher education and intellectual labor. Yet it also had an expansive, creative function: Korean poets wielded it as an instrument to reimagine their literature. Pushing back against the perception of translation as a process of simple replication, *Lyrical Translation* reveals how poets used it to forge an entirely new mode of poetic composition. Drawing on a vast collection of primary materials in Korean and Japanese, David Krolikoski situates close readings of major poems against critical writing (editorials, essays, and articles) from the period. Krolikoski's interpretations pay close attention to the nuances of form and language, which were in a state of flux due to the embryonic state of modern verse, and approach poetry of the era as serious expressions of political sentiments seeking to address the anxieties of modern life.

David Krolikoski is assistant professor of Korean literature at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

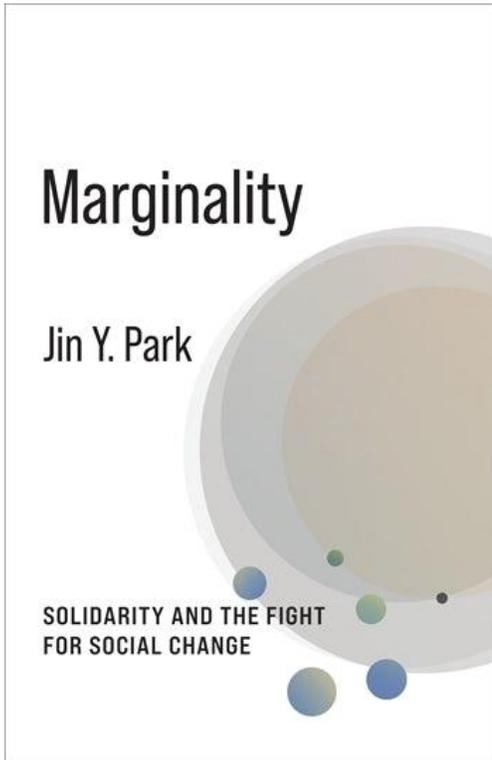


Cornerstone of the Nation: The Defense Industry and the Building of Modern Korea under Park Chung Hee

Harvard University Press, 2024

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. 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.

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

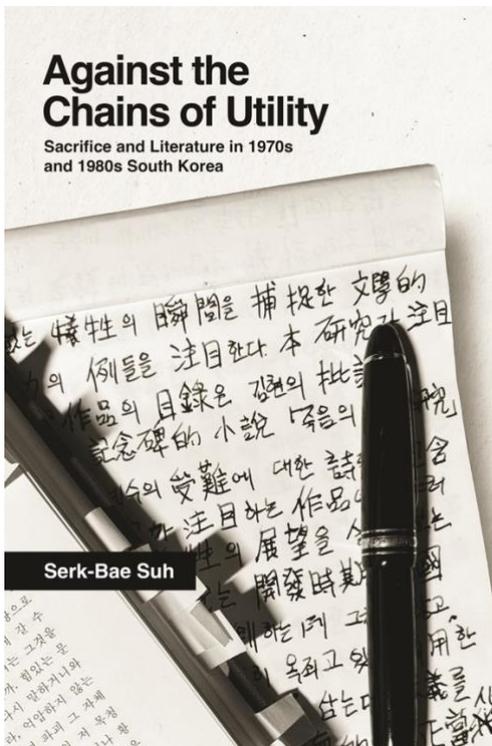


Marginality: Solidarity and the Fight for Social Change

Columbia University Press, 2025

This groundbreaking book reimagines marginality as a transformative force, interweaving personal narratives with cultural, literary, and philosophical analysis to reveal how perspectives from the margins can catalyze social change. Drawing on her own experiences as an Asian American female philosopher specializing in non-Western thought within an academic world dominated by white male-centered Western traditions, Jin Y. Park argues that personal stories are essential to philosophical inquiry. Ranging across non-Western philosophy, South Korean literature, and Asian American and African American voices as well as Western philosophy, she invites readers to examine their own feelings of marginality, reflecting on how lived experiences shape the search for meaning and values. Bridging theoretical insights and real-world issues, *Marginality* offers fresh perspective on contemporary challenges such as violence, social discrimination, and economic inequality. Urging a radical rethinking of how we understand power, community, and social justice, this book calls on readers to embrace the solidarity of the margins to drive positive change.

Jin Y. Park is William Fraser McDowell Chair Professor of Philosophy and Religion at American University.

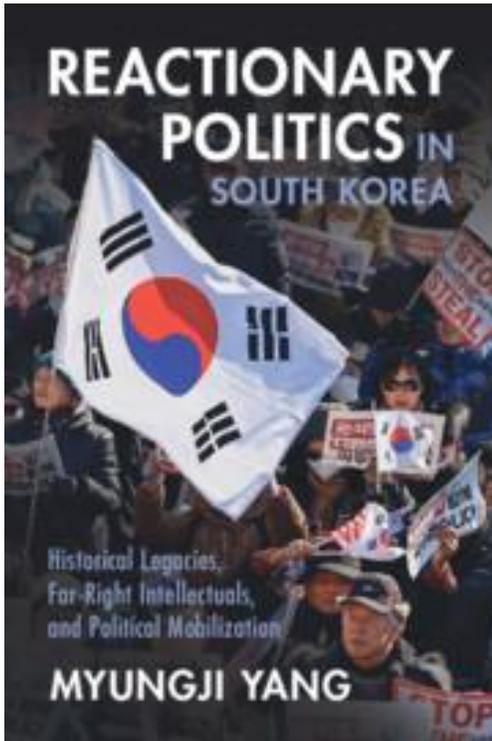


Against the Chains of Utility: Sacrifice and Literature in 1970s and 1980s South Korea

University of Hawai'i Press, 2025

In the 1970s and 1980s were pivotal decades in South Korea, marked by rapid industrialization and urbanization. The language of sacrifice was constantly employed by the developmental state to justify its exploitation of workers and violation of countless civil rights as necessary for the nation's economic growth and security. As a counter to this prevailing rhetoric, a rich variety of literary texts emerged to capture moments of anti-utilitarian sacrifice, including Kim Hyön's critical essays, Pak Sangnyung's monumental novel *A Study of Death* (1975), and Ko Chŏnghŭi's poems about the Passion of Jesus. Suh argues that any act of sacrifice for a higher cause is inherently utilitarian, regardless of whether its motives are morally sound or questionable. Such sacrifices establish a circuit of exchange, where sacrifice is valued solely based on its ability to achieve an end. To counter this instrumentalization, anti-utilitarian sacrifice must exist as a means without an end. Suh posits that literature's relevance to society lies in this seemingly nihilistic sacrifice, viewing literature not as a proxy for politics but as the art of imagination in language.

Serk-Bae Suh teaches Korean literature as associate professor at the University of California, Irvine.

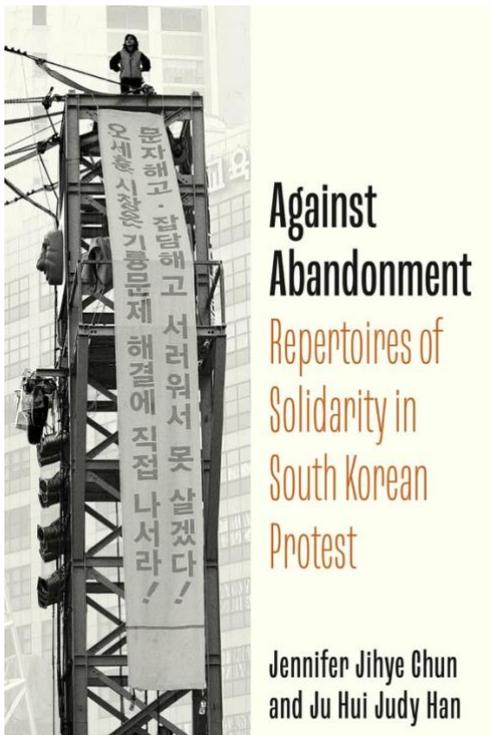


Reactionary Politics in South Korea: Historical Legacies, Far-Right Intellectuals, and Political Mobilization

Cambridge University Press, 2025

In December 2024, South Korean president Yoon Seok-yeol stunned the world by declaring martial law. More puzzling was that Yoon's insurrection unexpectedly gained substantial support from the ruling right-wing party and many citizens. Why do ordinary citizens support authoritarian leaders and martial law in a democratic country? What draws them to extreme actions and ideas? With the rise of illiberal, far-right politics across the globe, *Reactionary Politics in South Korea* provides an in-depth account of the ideas and practices of far-right groups and organizations threatening democratic systems. Drawing on eighteen months of field research and rich qualitative data, Myungji Yang helps explain the roots of current democratic regression. Yang provides vivid details of on-the-ground internal dynamics of far-right actors and their communities and worldviews, uncovering the organizational and popular foundations of far-right politics and movements.

Myungji Yang is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



Against Abandonment: Repertoires of Solidarity in South Korean Protest

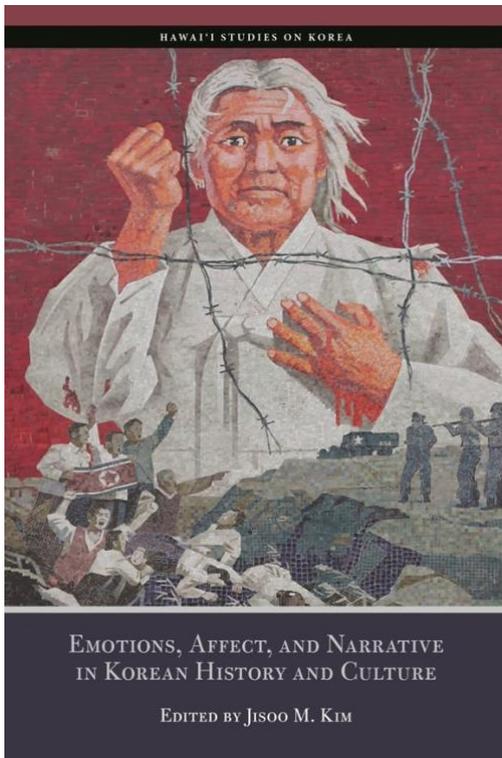
Stanford University Press, 2025

In South Korea, protest is a ubiquitous and essential form of political expression. In 2017, the Candlelight movement removed the sitting president. Beyond these spectacular national protests, Korean workers and minority groups regularly turn to protest to express their grievances and assert their rights. Based on long-term ethnographic research with labor and social movement activists, *Against Abandonment* is at once a chronicle of the life-and-death character of protesting precarity in South Korea and a searing examination of repertoires of solidarity for upending injustice. Protest forms such as long-term encampments, life-threatening hunger strikes, and perilous high-altitude occupations are agonizing to perform and to witness but often powerful as catalysts for change. Building on the work of abolitionist feminist thinkers, the book theorizes protest as a political form with far-reaching resonance across history and geography, and underscores the significance of collective survival, self-determination, and emancipatory transformation.

Jennifer Jihye Chun is Professor of Asian American Studies and Labor Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Ju Hui Judy Han is Associate Professor of Gender Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

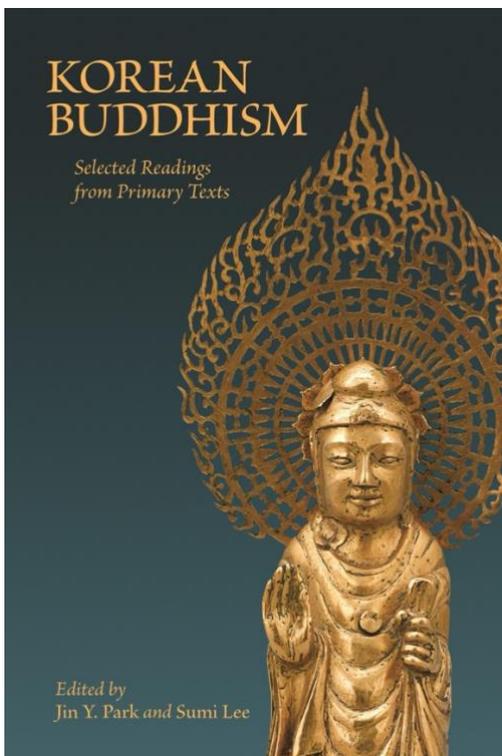
Publication News: Edited Volumes, Translations



Emotions, Affect, and Narrative in Korean History and Culture University of Hawai'i Press, 2026

This collection of essays explores emotions and affect in Korean culture across a broad temporal span, from the Koryŏ dynasty to the present. Drawing on a diverse array of sources—including memoirs, diplomatic letters, newspapers, films, video diaries, photographs, and ethnographic interviews—the volume examines how emotions intervene in public discourse and how affect is shaped, intensified, and managed through expressive practices. Each contributor's critical intervention lies in offering a non-essentializing approach to studying emotions and affect in Korea. Rather than positing uniquely "Korean" feelings such as *han* or *hwabyŏng* as inherent or fixed emotional traits, the contributors argue that what is culturally distinctive is not the emotions themselves but how they have been expressed, mediated, and interpreted within specific social relationships and historical experiences. In this framework, emotions and affect are not static or universal but are historically and discursively produced.

Jisoo M. Kim (editor) is Korea Foundation Associate Professor of History, International Affairs, and East Asian Languages and Literatures at George Washington University.

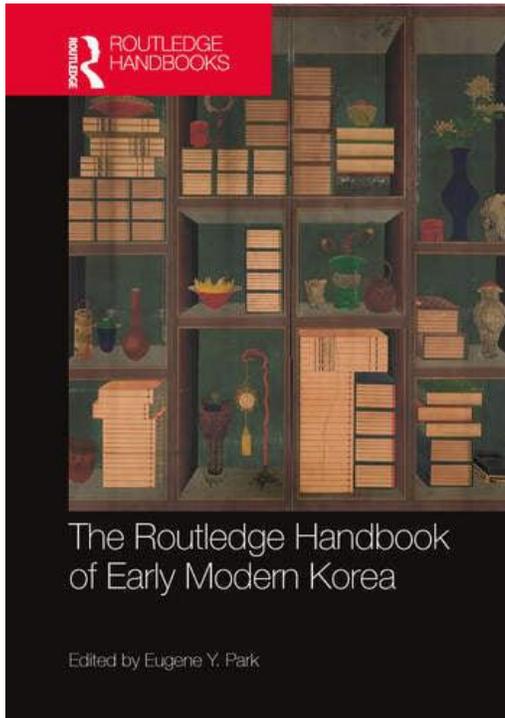


Korean Buddhism: Selected Readings from Primary Texts University of Hawai'i Press, 2026

This book presents the first comprehensive introduction to Korean Buddhism through twenty-five key primary texts spanning the seventh to twenty-first centuries. The volume introduction provides an overview of major themes that illuminates the diverse sources that follow. The texts, each prefaced by a brief introduction and list of recommended reading, delve into core Buddhist teachings, meditation practice, pilgrimage, intercultural exchanges, and interreligious conflict. Several touch on contemporary concerns, such as social engagement, colonialism, moral psychology, conflict resolution, and Buddhism's contribution to women's liberation and engagement with marginalized communities. Others present insights into the ways in which Buddhism becomes distinctly Korean and the effects of modernity and colonialism on Korean Buddhism.

Jin Y. Park (editor) is William Fraser McDowell Chair Professor of Philosophy and Religion at American University.

Sumi Lee (editor) is assistant professor of Buddhist philosophy in the Department of Philosophy at Ewha Womans University.

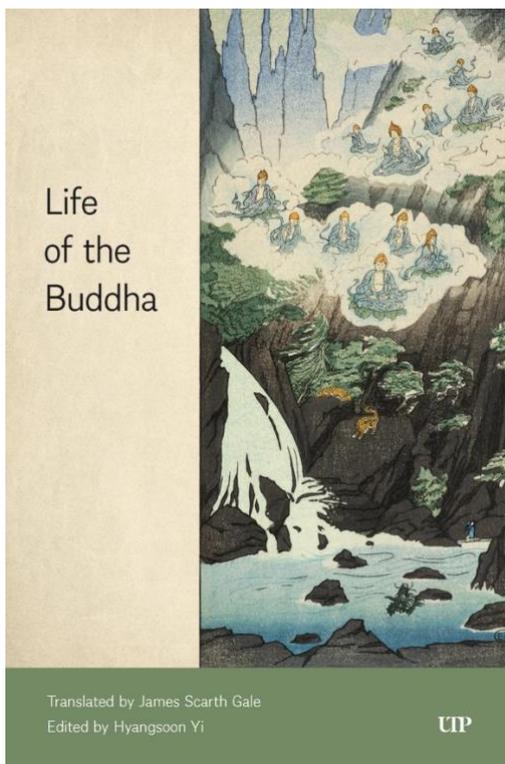


The Routledge Handbook of Early Modern Korea

Routledge, 2025

Comprising topical chapters written by 22 experts from 11 countries, *The Routledge Handbook of Early Modern Korea* presents an interdisciplinary survey of Korea's politics, society, economy, and culture from the founding of the Chosŏn state (1392-1897) to 1873 when its political leadership began preparing for treaty relations with Imperial Japan, the United States, and other Western nations. This handbook provides historical context for readers wishing to know more than just the "Korea" that evokes K-pop or North Korea's nuclear weapons, while Hyundai, Samsung, and other South Korean brands have gained visibility in everyday life. Interested English-speaking scholars, educators, students, and the general public without access to the large body of Korean-language works on Chosŏn will find this book a valuable critical introduction to early modern Korea.

Eugene Y. Park (editor) is a professor in the Department of History at the University of Nevada, Reno.

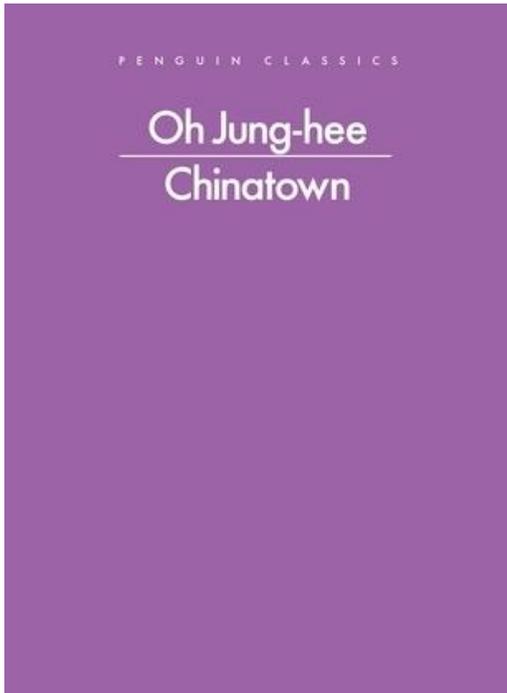


Life of the Buddha

University of Toronto Press, 2025

Composed in vernacular Korean by Powŏl, *P'alsangnok*, or *Record of the Eight Marks*, is an influential pre-modern fictional biography of the Buddha that chronicles the life of Śākyamuni through eight transformative stages, from his celestial origins to his final moments. *Life of the Buddha* illuminates the rich tapestry of Chosŏn Buddhism as translated by Canadian missionary James Scarth Gale in 1915. With nearly four decades of immersion in Korean culture, Gale's expertise ensures that this translation retains the essence of the original, while highlighting unique local teachings alongside the broader Buddhist biographical tradition. The book offers a comprehensive introduction to *P'alsangnok* and compiles an extensive list of Buddha biographies published in European languages from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries, aiming to evaluate Gale's impact on the discursive formation of Buddhism in the West. This groundbreaking volume examines the dynamic interplay between popular Buddhist practice and literature during the Chosŏn era, offering a vital opportunity to explore intercultural and interreligious dialogues and the enduring relevance of Buddhist teachings.

Hyangsoon Yi (editor) is a professor in the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Georgia.



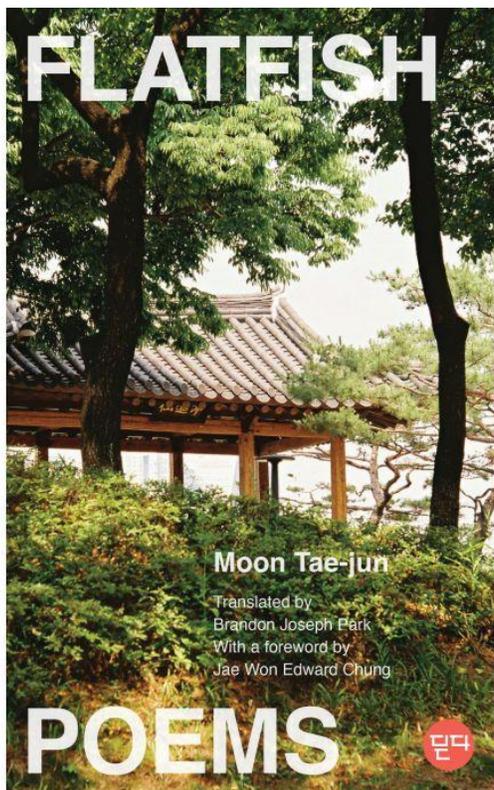
Chinatown

Penguin Classics, 2025

In this emblematic selection of her stories, Oh Jung-hee probes beneath the surface of seemingly quotidian lives to expose nightmarish family configurations warped by desertion, psychosis, and death. In 'Chinatown' a young girl living on the edge of the city's Chinese community comes of age among mundane violences, collisions with adult sexuality and the American occupation; in 'The Garden Party' a woman grapples with her conflicting identities of wife, mother and writer at an alcohol-fueled gathering. Throughout a career spanning six decades, Oh Jung-hee has drawn comparisons to Alice Munro, Virginia Woolf, and Joyce Carol Oates, and is assuredly a trailblazing writer.

Bruce Fulton (translator) is the Young-Bin Min Chair in Korean Literature and Literary Translation at the University of British Columbia.

Ju-Chan Fulton (translator) is the award-winning translator, along with Bruce Fulton, of numerous volumes of modern Korean fiction, recently the novel *Togani* by Gong Ji-young.



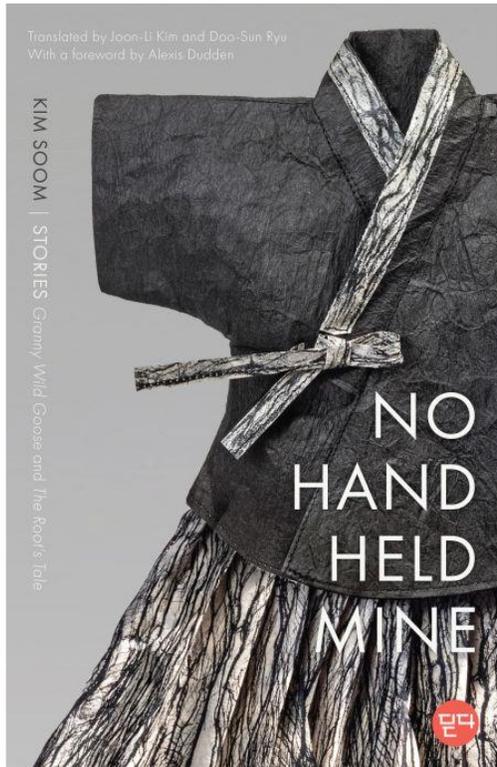
Flatfish: Poems, a Bilingual Edition

Rutgers University Press, 2025

In his poetry collection, *Flatfish*, Moon Tae-jun offers an aesthetic that emphasizes the author's exploration of the inner self. At times sparse and allusive, his poems use blank space and other stylistic considerations to convey a voice and thought that ranges from the contemplative to the surreal and absurd. Moon's poems suggest Buddhist ideologies, natural images, and Korean temples, as the collection explores individual experiences within the context of a search for understanding a greater whole. While Korea is certainly the setting of these poems, the works remain largely free of cultural-specific imagery and are, instead, naturalistic or universal. This first bilingual edition is a critical resource for students, poets, translators, and general readers alike.

Moon Tae-jun (author) has published a number of poetry collections in Korean. In poems that range from short, broken lines to longer prose-like forms, Moon Tae-jun evokes a sense of longing, as if searching for moments in the past that help inform the present.

Brandon Joseph Park (translator) is a lecturer in the Korean Program at the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers University - New Brunswick, and in the Writing Program at Rutgers University - Newark.



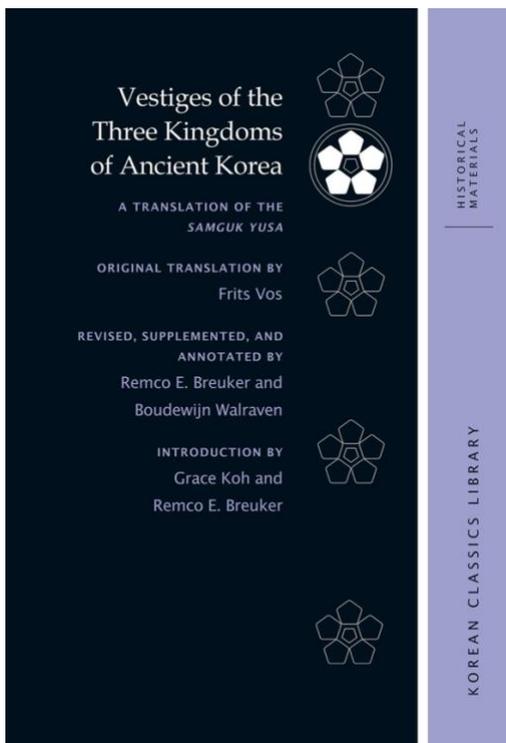
No Hand Held Mine: Stories – “Granny Wild Goose” and “The Root’s Tale”

Rutgers University Press, 2025

An elderly Korean woman talking about being forced into sexual slavery during World War II. A modern Korean woman extricating herself from a failing relationship with an artist. Award-winning South Korean writer Kim Soom presents us with portraits of two women who couldn’t be more different but who both show resilience and compassion. *No Hand Held Mine*, containing one non-fiction piece and one short story, demonstrates the power and breadth of Kim’s writing. “Granny Wild Goose” uses former Comfort Woman Gil Won-Ok’s own words, recorded during conversations with Kim, to tell her life story of brutality, betrayal, and survival. In “The Root’s Tale,” the female protagonist comes to understand the strength of solitary women. Both devastating and reaffirming, *No Hand Held Mine* shows why Kim Soom has received every major literary award in Korea.

Joon-Li Kim (translator) is a freelance writer and an editor of academic research papers, novels, and memoirs.

Doo-Sun Ryu (translator) is emeritus professor of English Literature at Seoul National University.



Vestiges of the Three Kingdoms of Ancient Korea: A Translation of the Samguk yusa

University of Hawai’i Press, 2026

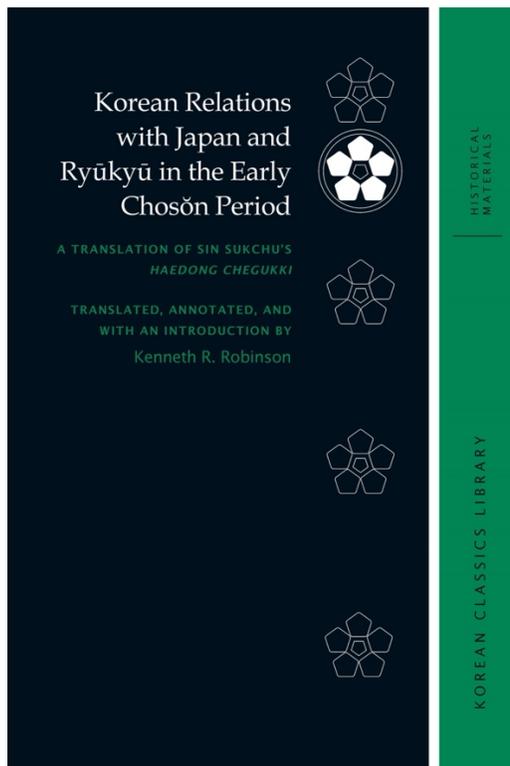
The *Samguk yusa* is a rich collection of historical, supernatural, and mythical stories, including one of the earliest surviving narratives of Tan’gun, who in modern times came to be regarded as the mythical or legendary progenitor of the Korean people. Although strongly Buddhist in orientation, the work also encompasses Confucianism, geomancy, secular history, and folklore. This annotated translation, the result of many years’ work by Frits Vos, a pioneer of Korean studies in Europe, and later colleagues, includes a critical introduction that illuminates the text’s history, reception, and broader historical context and offers an analytical overview of the themes and literary strategy of the work.

Frits Vos (1918–2000; translator) was professor of Japanese and Korean language and literature at Leiden University.

Remco E. Breuker (translator) is professor of Korean studies at Leiden University.

Boudewijn Walraven (translator) is emeritus professor of Korean studies at Leiden University.

Grace Koh (translator) is lecturer in Korean literature at SOAS University of London.

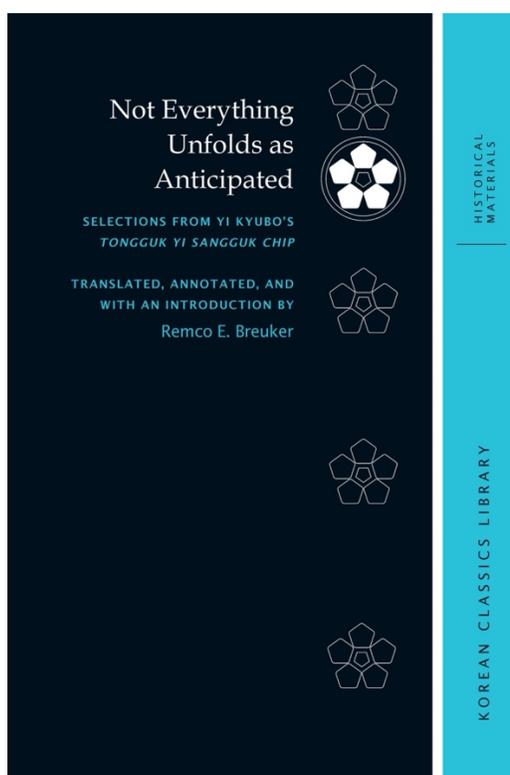


Korean Relations with Japan and Ryūkyū in the Early Chosŏn Period: A Translation of Sin Sukchu's Haedong Cheukki

University of Hawai'i Press, 2026

Between 1392 and 1592—a period bounded by Japanese pirate raids along the Korean coast and Japan's invasion of Chosŏn Korea—more than 4,600 Japanese trade missions were recorded by the Chosŏn government. In response to these missions, the famous official Sin Sukchu compiled regulations, detailed information about Japanese contacts, and other material, which was printed in 1472 as the *Haedong chegukki*. Additional information was added in 1512, creating a still more detailed report for overseeing Japanese and Ryukyuan diplomacy and trade with the Chosŏn government. The 1512 text, which is translated here into English for the first time, shows in rich detail how Korea managed these foreign relations for some two centuries. Korea-Japan trade practices are depicted in numerous profiles of Japanese contacts from Tsushima to Kyoto, including the use of impostor identities designed in Japan for trade and diplomacy in the second half of the fifteenth century and sixteenth century. Historians of Korea, Japan, and East Asian foreign relations will find the translation a most valuable resource.

Kenneth R. Robinson (translator) is an independent scholar. He has published numerous articles and translations on Korean-Japanese relations from the late fourteenth to sixteenth centuries.



Not Everything Unfolds as Anticipated: Selections from Yi Kyubo's Tongguk Yi Sangguk chip

University of Hawai'i Press, 2026

Yi Kyubo (1168-1241) was the foremost writer and poet of the Koryŏ dynasty. *Not Everything Unfolds as Anticipated* is a miscellany of work from his *Tongguk Yi Sangguk chip*, a collection containing more than two thousand texts and considered the earliest substantial oeuvre of a Koryŏ writer to date. The present work comprises translations of poems, tales, letters, epitaphs, and funeral orations, as well as "The Cantefable of King Tongmyŏng," Yi's famous poem chronicling Koryŏ's mythological past. Also included are forewords and afterwords to books no longer extant that shed light on the intellectual, literary, and printing habits of the time. Yi is best remembered as a literary figure, but for much of his career, he served as a composer of official government texts. *Not Everything Unfolds as Anticipated* not only reveals the existential truths of human life as recorded by the brush of medieval Korea's most gifted poet, but also offers a many-faceted view of a formative period in Korean history.

Remco E. Breuker (translator) is professor of Korean studies at Leiden University.

Individual Member News Update

Promotion, Journal Articles, Book Chapters, Media Appearances, etc.

Bruce Fulton has been promoted to Professor in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia.

Sung Eun Kim was appointed Assistant Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke University in August 2025.

Joan E. Cho. 2025. "Democracy Under Neoliberalism in South Korea." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 85(2): 323-334. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jas.2025.a981151>

Stephanie Choi was appointed as an assistant professor in ethnomusicology at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Kim, Jaeun, and Apostolos Andrikopoulos. 2026. "Unauthorized Identity Craft: Rethinking 'Fraud' in the Study of Migration." *International Migration Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183251409752>

Kim, Jaeun. 2025. "Getting Saved from Illegality and Unbelief? Religious Asylum, Migration Dreams, and Christian Conversion." *Migration Studies* 13 (3) (Special Issue: Mobile Temporalities and Political Possibilities). Advanced Online Publication: <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnaf041>

Felicia Istad has been appointed Assistant Professor at Korea University.

Istad, Felicia. Beyond the Classroom: Multicultural Education through Entrepreneurial Collaboration. *Multicultural Education Review* 17, no. 4 (2025): 468–483.

Istad, Felicia (with Jenna Gibson). Toward a Political Model of Soft Power: An Empirical Evaluation of South Korean Foreign Policy. *Asian Survey* 65, no. 3 (2025): 459–495.

Istad, Felicia (with Nate Ming Curran and Michael Chesnut). Standing Out and Fitting In: Korean Coffee Entrepreneurs' Strategies for Survival. *Food, Culture & Society* 28, no. 3 (2025): 573-592.

Yi, J., & Clark, T. N. (2026, Feb 18 online). Asymmetric information and open discourse: US and South Korea. *Theory and Society*, 55, Article 13. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-025-09666-8> (Free eprint <https://rdcu.be/e4zul>)

Yi, J., & Phillips, J. 2025. (05 Nov. online). Race & Selective School Admissions After SFFA (2023). *Journal of School Choice* 19:4, 736-749. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15582159.2025.2575637>

Yi and Park. 2025 (Oct 18 online). Asian Americans' Diverse Perspectives: Stakeholders at a Selective, Asian-Majority School 19:4, 655-666. *Journal of School Choice*. 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15582159.2025.2575616>

Yoon Suk Yeol's verdict is a test for South Korean democracy. February 22, 2026.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/opinion/yoon-suk-yeol-s-verdict-is-a-test-for-south-korean-democracy>

What US and Korean conservatives can learn from Japan's election. February 12, 2026.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/5733984-japan-election-ldp-victory>

Closer cooperation with South Korea is essential. February 4, 2026. <https://asia.nikkei.com/opinion/why-japan-s-election-matters-for-the-world>

Asymmetric Polarization in Korea and the US. Apr 7, 2025. <https://www.cspicenter.com/p/understanding-asymmetric-polarization>

Same-sex Christians in Korea Speak Out: 'What Would Jesus Do?' Feb 12, 2025. <https://japan-forward.com/same-sex-christians-in-korea-speak-out-what-would-jesus-do>

Heterodox Academy's Open Inquiry - Courage Award 2025. <https://heterodoxacademy.org/open-inquiry-awards>

Alexa Alice Joubin is proud to announce the launch of the open-access platform Teach Anything,

<https://www.teachanything.ai> which enables professors to use the platform's open-source LLMs to design and deploy their permanently free AI applications. The system operates in Korean and 58 other languages. Students do not need to login, and their privacy is fully protected. It is permanently free to everyone.

- Jamie Doucette 2024 *The Postdevelopmental State: Dilemmas of Economic Democratization in Contemporary South Korea*. The University of Michigan Press. **Winner of the Association for Korean Studies in Europe Book Prize 2025.**
- Laam Hae and Jamie Doucette 2026 The Construction State Unbound? Struggles over the Seoul Metropolitan Region's Greenbelt in an Era of Planetary Urbanization. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 50(1) 44-62
- Doucette, J., 2025. Converging histories: South Korea's martial law crisis in a global conjunctural frame. *Critical Asian Studies*, 57(3), pp.357-374.
- Doucette, J. and Lee, S.O., 2025. Singapore upon the Korea Strait? Cyberlibertarian Desires and Anxious Regulation in Busan's Blockchain Regulation Free Zone. *Antipode*, 57(5), pp.1892-1913.
- Lee, J. and Doucette, J. 2025. (En)Gendering Democracy in an Emerging Donor? Gender Equality and Civil Society Participation in Korea's International Development Cooperation Policies. *Asian Politics & Policy*, 17(2), p.e70016.
- Podcast Korea in Maize and Blue. Dec 2025 How did you get here: Power and resistance with Jamie Doucette. Nam Center for Korean Studies University of Michigan <https://open.spotify.com/episode/3W0yADNiWTzM54x3Q2wK7E>
- Podcast [Quick Coups & Post-Development in Korea ft. Jamie Doucette](#) Bungacast. 28 Jan 2025, 1hr
- Yi, Sohoon. 2026. "Temporal Acrobatics: The Intersection of Temporary Migration, Care Work, and Corporeality." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, February, 1-22. doi:10.1080/1369183X.2026.2628469.
- Podoler, Guy. "Sports-Heritage Diplomacy and Inter-Korean Relations: Possibilities and Challenges," *International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics* vol. 17, no. 1 (2025): 137-146.
- Podoler, Guy. "An Animal as a Cultural Landscape: The Horse in Seoul, South Korea," *International Journal of Cultural Policy* vol. 31, no. 6 (2025): 765-787.
- Podoler, Guy. "'Forever Glory to the Heroic People of Korea!': North Korea in the Press of the Israeli Zionist Left during the Korean War," *International History Review* vol. 47, no. 6 (2025): 982-997.
- Podoler, Guy. "Addressing a Difficult Past in South Korea: Was Cheju 4.3 a Genocide?" *Memory Studies* (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1177/17506980251379666>.
- Podoler, Guy. "Kim Ch'ung-son: An Atypical Hero in the Contested National History of South Korea," *National Identities* (2026) <https://doi.org/10.1080/14608944.2026.2613283>.
- Bronza, Ron, and Podoler, Guy. "Historical Gulfs, Strategic Bridges: A Pragmatic-Symbolic Analysis of the GSOMIA Between Japan and South Korea," *East Asia* vol. 42 (2025): 131-145.
- Yeger, Shay, and Podoler, Guy. "Diplomacy Beyond Boundaries: South Korean NGOs and Informal Disaster Diplomacy during the North Korean Famine," *Asian Journal of Political Science* vol. 33, no. 2 (2025): 267-286.
- Vladimir Tikhonov, *The Return of a Barbaric Age: The Decline of Pax Americana and the Beginning of Endless Rivalry* (original title: *Yaman Sidae ūi Kwihwan: P'aksŭ Amerikana ūi Mollak kwa Muhan Kakch'uk ūi Sijak*), Seoul, Hangyoreh Publishers, 2026, 351 p. (Korean).
- Pulgŭn Shidae - Tongnip ūl Nŏmŏ Swaeshin ūl Kkumkkun Shingminji Chosŏn Sahoejuŭi Yut'op'ia*; , Seoul, Hangyoreh Publishers, 2025, 447 p. (Korean): Korean translation of *The Red Decades: Communism as Movement and Culture in Korea, 1919-1945*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2023.
- South Korean Capitalism in Crisis: Marxist International Comparative Analysis* (Original Title: *Han'guk Chabonjuŭi Wigi: Marŭk'ŭsŭjuŭijŏk Kukche Pigyo Punsŏk*); Seoul: Chininjin, 2025, 291 p. (Korean) co-edited with Kim Deokmin.
- "A War for the Coming Multipolar World?: How Anti-Hegemonism Sometimes Evolves into a Pro-Putin Stance among the South Korean Left" - *Korea Journal*, Vol. 65, No. 2, 2025, pp. 202 - 232 (English).
- "Introduction to the special issue: 'Cho Seung-bog (1922-2012): at the Crossroads of Academia and Activism'" - *European Journal of Korean Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 1, 2025, pp. 1-4 (English) .

"Cho Seung-bog - An Academic Life in Overlapping Contact Zones and the Meanings of Reversed Nihonjinron" - *European Journal of Korean Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 1, 2025, pp. 5 - 30 (English).

"Review Essay: Moral Authoritarianism: Neighborhood Associations in the Three Koreas, 1931-1972 by Shinyoung Kwon, University of Hawaii Press, 2023, 392 p." - *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Vol. 85, No. 2, 2026, pp. 365-369 (English).

Sungik Yang, "The Highest Stage of Nationalism: Postcolonial Fascism in Korea and Breaking Fascism Out of a Eurocentric Frame," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 130, No. 4 (December 2025): 1512-1534.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhaf476>

Sungik Yang, "From the Third Way to Third Worldism: Anti-Western and Antiliberal Internationalism in Postcolonial Korea," in *Beyond Left and Right? Antiliberal Internationalism in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Brotsma, De Bruin, Couperus, Johnston-White and Lok (London: Routledge, 2025), 187-207. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781032707204-15>

Kim, Bohyeong. 2025. "Feminist Economicus: Popular Feminism, Popular Finance, and the Making of the Economic Woman in South Korea." *Cultural Studies*. Online first. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2025.2495559>.

Kim, Bohyeong. 2025. "Global Korean Cinema and the Apocalypse of Asset Capitalism in *Concrete Utopia*." *Korean Journal of Communication* 2 (1): 70-92. <https://doi.org/10.1353/kjc.00010>.

Kim, Bohyeong. 2026. "Entertaining the Stock Market and Speculative Communities: South Korea's Television-Financial Complex and Kakao's *March of the Ants*." *Journal of Cultural Economy* 19 (1): 19-33. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17530350.2025.2478865>.

Bianca Trifoi started a new position as Term Assistant Professor of Asia and the World at the University of Alaska Anchorage in August 2025.

CedarBough Saeji, 2025. "Performing Arts." *Routledge Handbook of Early Modern Korea*, edited by Eugene Park. London: Routledge.

2025 "Dynamic Korea on Display: Commodification of Tradition in Performances for Tourists" *Art, Science, and Technology Journal*. 69: 69-125. [link](#)

2025 (co-authors Jules Gourlin, Park Daeun, Kang Younghun, and Lauraly Lindsay) "Celebrated Cherry Blossoms and Hidden History: How the ChatGPT Algorithm Influences Tourism" *Korean Social Science Journal*. 52, no. 4: 135-161. [link](#)

2026 "Dressing Up in the Korean Past: An Analysis of Hanbok Wearing as Play Informed by Popular Culture." *Journal of American Folklore*. Summer.

2026 "Pop Stars, the Korean Government, and the Forgotten Stakeholders of Tradition." *Contemporary Korean Music in Context*, edited by Anna Yates and Oh Heesook. London: Palgrave MacMillan. Ch. 6.

2026 "K-Illusions: The Limits of Korean Soft Power." *East Asia Forum Quarterly*. 18, no. 1: 25-29. [link](#)

2026 "The Role of the (Un)Knowing Audience in Transmedia Storytelling: Why Seventeen's "Son Ogong" Should Not Be Called 'Super' but 'Monkey King' in English" (co-author Barbara Wall), *Critical Approaches to Transmedia Storytelling in K-Pop*, edited by Nicholas Miller. New York: Bloomsbury Academic. 65-84.

2027 "Embodied Archives of Authenticity: Age and Performance in the Korean Context" *Dance Chronicle*. Online first in approximately March 2026.

Eun Ah Cho began her new job as Assistant Professor of Korean Language and Culture in the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures (EALC) at the University of Kansas (KU), specializing in modern and contemporary Korean literature, films, and media in AY 2024/25.

Maya Stiller was awarded an Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) in Washington D.C. for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Stiller, Maya. "Carpenter-Monks as Crafters of Chosŏn Architecture: Bridging Sacred and Secular Spaces." *Journal of Korean Religions* 15, no. 1 (2025): 57-87.

Lee, Hee-seung Irene. 2025. "Aging, femininity and class: reimagining the 'halmeoni' in contemporary South Korean cinema." *Feminist Media Studies*, 25(5): 1213-1228. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2024.2358085>

Lee, Hee-seung Irene. 2025. "Transnational panorama on Netflix: from a Korean Indie documentary to the Netflix original series *My Love: Six Stories of True Love*." *International Journal of Asian Studies*. Published online 2025:1-17. [link](#)

Lee, Hee-seung Irene. 2025. "Adapting not-yet queerness towards a utopian future: *Fingersmith* to the *Handmaiden*." *Transnational Screens*, 16(3): 246-262. <https://doi.org/10.1080/25785273.2025.2577067>

Lyan, Irina (with Nissim Otmazgin). 2025. "Fandom Makes the World Go Round: Institutional Entrepreneurship and Cultural Translation among Hallyu Fans," *Pacific Affairs* 98, no. 4: 781-800. DOI: 10.5509/2025984-art2

Lyan, Irina. "Waving a Korean Flag: Between Hallyu, Fandom, and Nationalism." *Korea Europe Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Politics, Society, and Economics* 9: 1-17. DOI: 10.48770/ker.2025.no9.69

Jeeyoung Shin. "The Intimate Other: Screening North Korean Defectors in Multicultural South Korea," published in *Asian Studies Review* 49:1 (2025), 99-117, DOI: 10.1080/10357823.2024.2355139

Park, Eugene Y. "Japan and Korea, 1450-1850." In *The Cambridge History of War, Volume III, War and the Early Modern World*, edited by David Parrott and Gábor Ágoston, 430-448. Cambridge University Press, 2025.

David C. Oh received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Asian/Pacific American Caucus of the National Communication Association.

David C. Oh, "Counter-representations in an Australian web drama: Transpacific repertoire and diasporic contradictions in *No Ordinary Love*," published in *Communication, Culture, & Critique*, vol. 18, issue 1.

Calls for Papers, Applications, Proposals, Nominations

Virtuality, Embodiment, and AI: *Critical AI*, Duke University Press journal

This is a [call for papers](#) for a special issue edited by Professor Alexa Alice Joubin, entitled "Virtuality, Embodiment, and Meaning-Making in AI Technologies." We publish on a **rolling basis** (no fixed deadline), and welcome 250-word abstracts. Some of the key questions to consider are:

- What is the relationship between word, embodiment, and the world?
- How can we theorize new modes of AI-infused sociality, including the advent of personified chatbots?
- How do ineffable, embodied experiences differ from or overlap with the datasets that LLMs and other AI systems leverage?
- How might the line of criticism of AI as lacking embodied cognition be strengthened or re-appraised?

This special issue defines the two key words as follows:

- Embodiment refers to (1) tangible forms of abstract ideas and (2) the lived materiality in which physical bodies and their interactions with the world shape personal experiences and identities.
- Virtuality refers to the interplay between material objects and meaning making—an interplay that under certain socio-technical and material conditions gives both fiction and the outputs of generative AI their world-making capacities.
- For example, the contextual use of a costume piece made of vinyl fabric, craft foam, and metallic paint in a film determines its dramatic property as heavy iron armor.

We invite 250-word proposals for a range of essays, from short think pieces of 1,500 to 3,000 words to essays of 5,000 to 8,000 words. Please send 250-word abstracts to Alexa Alice Joubin at ajoubin@gwu.edu. For details, please refer to <https://criticalai.org/2026/02/17/cai-special-series-cfp-virtuality-embodiment-and-meaning-making-in-ai-technologies/>

Call for Papers: MLA 2027 Korean Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Forum

Los Angeles, January 7-10, 2027

Panel 1 (guaranteed). "Closed Open": Visualizing Illness, Sensation, and the Sick Body in Korean Visual Culture

This panel invites papers that explore the intersection of medical humanities and cinema, with a particular focus on how illness, the body, and sensory experience are mediated through visual technologies. Taking inspiration from Jean-Luc Nancy's reflections on illness (the experience of his heart transplant; *L'intrus*) as an irreversible opening—being "closed open"—this panel approaches the sick body not merely as a site of pathology or regulatory ideals of health, but as a locus of altered perception, vulnerability, and relational existence.

We aim to investigate the aesthetic possibilities of redefining the body through the representation of senses and sensorial experiences. By examining the visual historiography of medicine and the technological mediation of the flesh, this panel asks such questions as: How do South Korean bodily practices render the invisible visible against or beneath modernity and normativity? How do films and visual cultures render illness as a mode of *being-in-the-world*? In what ways do medical imaging, post-cinematic technologies, and sensory aesthetics transform narratives of health, disease, and care? How sick, contagious, or transformed bodies are re-presented in the post-cinema era?

By bringing together film studies, medical humanities, and Korean cultural studies, this panel aims to rethink illness not as an exception to normal life but as a critical condition that reshapes embodiment, perception, and human relations.

Please submit a 250-word abstract and a one-page CV by **March 15, 2026** to: Hyun Seon Park (hpark63@gmu.edu) and Pil Ho Kim (kim.2736@osu.edu)

Panel 2 (guaranteed). Scriptscapes in Korean Literature, Media, and Culture

Foregrounding "scriptscape" as a keyword, the panel invites papers that explore how the visual form of writing, the co-presence of multiple scripts, and discourses on and practices of script materiality have shaped Korean literature, media, and culture. Scriptscape is tentatively defined as an environment in which intermixed writing systems and diverse forms of monoscript writing are encoded, organized, and curated on the page and across other written surfaces, including built environments, artistic objects, and digital interfaces. The concept prompts us to consider the interplay between semantic and nonsemantic dimensions of text in meaning-making, affective engagement, aesthetic signification, and performative practice and to relativize assumptions about the centrality of the Korean language and script. How, even before writing conveys meaning, do the shape, scale, spatial configuration, and other visual-material dimensions of texts position readers not merely as interpreters of linguistic signification but as viewers who recognize and process textual information and spectators who feel the effect of writing's presence? In what ways do the creation of a new scriptscape and the interruption of a preexisting scriptscape communicate, sustain, or subvert value hierarchies? How do scriptscapes catalyze social inclusion and exclusion? What paratextual dimensions of scriptscapes can be uncovered?

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- Mise-en-page in print (periodicals, books, event posters, etc.) and in manuscript
- Paratexts (cover art, front matter, epigraphs, etc.)
- Translation and transcription
- Hangul-xenic mixed-script writing, including but not limited to Hangul mixed with sinography, Japanese scripts, the Latin alphabet, and premodern vernacular inscriptional methods across writing surfaces
- Hangulized loanwords and deliberate mixing of Korean and non-Korean languages
- Visual phrasing, paraphrasing, and representations of writing

The panel welcomes scholars working on moments of media-ecological change, the emergence of new textual and technological infrastructures, and the rethinking of relationships among language, literature, people, and territory. Please send a 250-word abstract and one-page C.V. to Si Nae Park (sinaepark@fas.harvard.edu) by **March 15, 2026**.

Panel 3 (non-guaranteed). Emancipatory Lament: Public Performances of Mourning in Modern and Contemporary Korea

This panel explores the agency of public and collective performances of mourning in modern and contemporary Korea. As seen throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, public performances of mourning have disrupted, altered, and recreated narratives of colonial and state violence in Korea. Moving beyond expressions of grief, what are the emancipatory possibilities of communal mourning, as imagined and exercised through music, literature, theater, media, and cultures of protest? How is lament, as an artistic and political force, capable of articulating conditions of oppression and mobilizing collective action? What is the relationship between individual and collective mourning?

We welcome papers across disciplines in Korean Studies that consider the agentic possibilities and outcomes of mourning. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: protest cultures during South Korea's turbulent period of democratization and the post-democratization period; narratives of state, colonial, and neocolonial violence and remembrance of the invisibilized dead; and embodied performances of collective memory on the peninsula and globally across the Korean diaspora.

Please submit a 250-word abstract and a one-page CV by **March 15, 2026** to Ivanna Yi (isy4@cornell.edu).

Panel 4 (non-guaranteed). The Taste of Precarity: Gender, Global Korean Literature, and Food as Method

By treating food as both an aesthetic medium of knowledge production and an epistemology, this collaborative panel invites papers for a session of four presentations that examine how representations of the most mundane yet essential, and intensely political practices of food in global Korean literature generate critical insights into precarity associated with gender roles and identities, domesticity, (im)mobility, migration, body normativity, and embodied subjectivities. The panel especially welcomes interdisciplinary, comparative, transnational, and theoretically engaged contributions that examine all-encompassing literary genres including graphic novels, web novels, etc. that deepen our understanding of embodying values of food.

Studies of Korean food constitute a relatively recent scholarly trend, emerging alongside the global rise of Korean cuisine as a cultural commodity. This visibility has been shaped by the convergence of neoliberal business strategies and state soft-power diplomacy, popularizing transnational food media and personalities including television programs such as *Culinary Class War* and *Please Take Care of My Refrigerator*, food celebrities like Baek Jong-won, and *mukbang* (eating broadcasts). While these formations have attracted growing academic attention, literary engagements with food have remained relatively sparse and under-theorized. By defining "food literature" broadly as prose and poetry that either foreground food as a dominant theme or mobilize it as a medium to address various forms of gendered precarity, this panel raises several key questions: What can food literature reveal about the relationship between sensory experience and gender hegemony? How does it render the affective dimensions of hunger differently from other media? What insights do narratives of ethnic grocery stores and restaurants run by Korean immigrant families offer into gendered labor and familial dynamics? And can food literature generate new theoretical and conceptual tools for critiquing gender inequality?

We welcome papers examining literary works centering around dishes, sensorial affect, cooking, ingredients, ethnic restaurants, cooks and chefs, farmers and farming, and kitchen spaces that bring forth various levels of gendered precarity. In doing so, the panel gestures toward a literary-sensory epistemology of everyday life, care work, and embodied politics, the state, gendered practice of medicine and health, etc., offering a new framework for re-reading gender, domesticity, and power in Korean literature. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to,

- gendered labor in domestic and commercial kitchens,
- the politics of (not)eating,
- food porn,
- ageing and care,
- aphrodisiacs,
- food and illness, etc.

Please submit a 250-word abstract and a one-page CV by **March 15, 2026** to Jooyeon Rhee (jxr5820@psu.edu).

Call for Papers: Korean Literature Association 2026 Annual Conference

From the Letterform to the Literary Site: The Material Lives of Korean Textual Objects

Princeton University, November 6-7, 2026

A conference co-organized by Olga Fedorenko (Seoul National University) and Ksenia Chizhova (Princeton) in partnership with the Korean Literature Association

*Accommodation (2 nights in Princeton) and airfare are fully covered by the organizers.

We invite papers that trace the life of the text from the letterform to diverse literary sites—from the smallest gestures of inscription, impression, or typographic mark to the vast architectures of preservation, circulation, and analog and digital display that materialize textual meanings and engagements. How can we read the material aspects of textual production—engraving, typesetting, coding, layout design—as semiotic systems in their own right? How do material lives of texts become entangled with the local and global systems, platforms, environments that authorize, distribute, and monumentalize literature? How do words travel from literature to other expressive forms (painting, poster design, graphic art)? What is the relationship between the “inside” and “outside” of the text? When does a text begin or stop being literary? We aim to move beyond the disciplinary boundaries of “literature” to consider the broader field of textual production in its material dimension—a field where writing meets fabrication, design, and the infrastructures that shape how texts are made, move, and matter.

- The limits of text: textual opacity, nontransparency, and fragmentation
- Micro-mechanics of publishing: layout, spacing, punctuation
- Codes as nonlinguistic signification
- The archaeology of textual form: materials, binding, inscription, and production methods as historical and cultural markers
- Calligraphics, typographics, ideographics in textual production
- Text and texture in poster design, signage, advertising
- Artistic, decorative, and commercial repurposing of literary texts
- Text as sculptural object: three-dimensional textuality, artistic and formal manipulations, display, arrangement, and architectural integration as spatial and material choreography
- Literary sites, memorial spaces, and themed environments where texts migrate from written form into physical spaces
- Walking, dwelling, and encountering literature: embodied engagement with texts
- The monumentalization of literature: how texts are preserved, displayed, and transformed into cultural landscape
- The transformation and repurposing of textual forms across analog and digital media
- Digitalized textual objects and materiality
- Cross-cultural translation and material transformation of textual objects

Please send paper title, a 250-word abstract, five keywords, and a CV, to Ksenia Chizhova (kchizhova@princeton.edu) and Olga Fedorenko (fedorenko@snu.ac.kr), cc-ing korlitorg@gmail.com, under the subject heading “KLA 2026” by **June 15, 2026**.

Presenters will be expected to join the KLA membership program (<https://koreanlit.org/membership/>).