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The 2011-2012 academic year coincided with important changes in and around the Korean Peninsula, some anticipated and some not, but all of them in various ways connected to the work of the CKR. Our first conference of the year, “Power Shifts in Northeast Asia,” took place in October and focused on the contemporary political dynamics of the region. This was followed in November by a conference on “Sixty Years After the San Francisco Peace Treaty,” co-sponsored by the Northeast Asian History Foundation in Seoul, which looked at the history and present-day significance of the 1951 treaty that ended the US occupation of Japan. One unanticipated event was the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il on December 17th. In February, the CKR—along with the Center for Korean Legal Studies and the APEC Study Center—held a round-table to discuss the implications of leadership change in North Korea and possible scenarios for the Korean Peninsula and US-Korean relations. In early March, with the support of the Korean Consulate-General in New York, the CKR hosted a conference on the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. In April, we plan to join forces with the Korea Economic Institute in Washington to hold a forum at Columbia on the Korean National Assembly elections.

Not all of our activities dealt with politics and diplomacy. The CKR also hosted a very stimulating and engaging series of colloquia on Korean literature, and on March 2nd organized a talk with journalist Euna Lee on media in North and South Korea, part of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute’s series on “Social Networking and Political Participation in East Asia.” At the end of March, CKR and the C.V. Starr East Asian Library will host a daylong symposium on the work of filmmaker Theodore Conant, who has donated to Columbia his extensive archive of film and audio recordings from Korea in the 1950s. We are especially proud that CKR affiliate and Columbia visiting scholar Kim Young-Ha, one of Korea’s leading novelists, has become the latest recipient of the Yi Sang Prize, one of the most prestigious literary prizes in Korea. Mr. Kim is profiled in this issue of the newsletter.

The Year of the Black Dragon, 2012, is already shaping up to be an important and auspicious year for Korea. Here’s hoping it will be year of peace, prosperity and positive development throughout.

The CKR was very excited to go live with our new and improved website earlier this year. With the help of designer Jonathan Lu (Columbia ’13), the CKR created a new format for the site that is easier to navigate and that more clearly represents the organization and our mission.

This year the CKR has also stepped into the world of social media with a Facebook page. We regularly update the page with event announcements, news postings related to Korea, and photos. Our fan numbers have grown slowly but steadily, and we are excited about the new ways we can join in the online conversation and share the CKR with new friends. Go online and "like" us!

www.columbia.edu/cu/ckr/index.html
On October 28, 2011, the CKR hosted “Power Shifts in Northeast Asia,” a conference featuring panelists from New York, Washington, D.C., and Seoul. As CKR Director Charles Armstrong stated in his introductory remarks, the conference program sought to redefine the idea of “power shift” from its singular, one dimensional plane usually associated only with China, to the idea of “power shifts,” plural and comprehensive.

Victor Cha, the D.S. Song Chair in Asia at Georgetown University, opened by discussing what he thought to be “the most important unanswered question: how to deal with the rise of China.” Cha maintained that the shifts in Asia would be more stabilizing than destabilizing. Richard Bush, author of *Perils of Proximity*, also focused his talk on China’s place in the world. Following Bush, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations Sheila Smith redefined Japan’s “decline” to Japan’s “recovery.” This move of redefining the terms of modern discourse was a recurring theme at the conference. Finally, Stephen Noerper, the Senior Vice President of The Korea Society, briefed the audience on Russia’s growing interest and involvement in Asia, especially regarding energy development.

For the second half of the day, the conference focused its scope on power shifts between and around the Korean peninsula. Ambassador Mark Minton, President of The Korea Society, spoke of North Korea as a long-dormant issue, but with potential for future political change. He expressed his optimism for developments in North Korea and renewed diplomatic contact. Jin Shin, President of the Institute for Peace Affairs, discussed the many potential avenues for political change throughout the year 2012 including elections in Korea and the US and potential power changes in North Korea. Sung Wook Nam, the President of the Institute for National Security Strategy presented a discussion of the Kim leadership in North Korea and its patterns of hereditary succession. Jae-Jin Suh, the most recent President of Korea Institute for National Unification, argued for a paradigm shift towards preparation for reintegration, mutual agreement, and international diplomatic pressure.

Columbia Law School Professor Jeong-Ho Roh added an interesting perspective to the day when he looked at the Korea division issue from the prism of law. He argued that the first line of question in any political action is always legality and presented an analysis of the legal relationship between the two Koreas. He laid out a stimulating argument as to why before any political or economic changes can be tackled, the ongoing war between North and South Korea must be dealt with on the level of international law.

At the end of the first panel of speakers, discussant Andrew Nathan, Class of 1919 Columbia Professor of Political Science, questioned whether the changes happening in and around China were structural and strategic - or simply just shifts that happen in the course of time. In an interesting turn of conversation, he challenged the panelists and the audience to consider whether the region might actually be in a position to stabilize in the next 10-15 years.
GRADUATE CONFERENCE 2012
By Jaewon Chung, Ph.D. candidate in Korean Literature

The 21st Annual Columbia Graduate Conference on East Asia was held on February 11 and 12 in Kent Hall. The conference boasted 30 panels and 96 participants. While the majority of the discussants were graduate students from Columbia University, Professors Charles Armstrong, Carol Gluck, Robert Goree, and Gregory Pflugfelder also generously participated as discussants for the conference. In keeping with conference tradition, Department Chair Professor Robert Hymes gave the opening remarks during which he called upon student participants from throughout the country and abroad to look around the room to see their future colleagues. Professor Dorothy Ko gave a provocative keynote speech to a packed lecture hall in Kent 413 and challenged the attendees to rethink their approaches to their subjects as well as their sources, positing a “post-human future” for the field. Several students stayed behind after Professor Ko’s talk to chat with her. The reception that followed was lively and very well attended, with

“Professor Dorothy Ko gave a provocative keynote speech...positing a ‘post-human future’ for the field”

LITERATURE COLLOQUIA
By Jimin Kim, DeBary Postdoctoral Fellow

In the fall of 2011, the Center for Korean Research hosted a series of literature colloquia organized by Theodore Hughes, Korea Foundation Associate Professor of Korean Studies in the Humanities. Three promising junior faculty members teaching in North America visited to speak about their current research. Everyone in the Korean studies community at Columbia was fortunate to have the opportunity to engage with these speakers.

In September, Youngju Ryu, Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan, presented “Literature on Trial: The Politics of (Im)purity in Authoritarian Korea.” Professor Ryu talked about her research on engaged literature in South Korea during Park Chung Hee’s authoritarian rule. In October, Sunyoung Park, Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California, presented “A Forgotten Aesthetic: Reportage in Colonial Korea, 1920s-1930s.” Professor Park brought reportage, a relatively unknown genre in Korean literature, to our attention. In November, Professor Nayoung Aimee Kwon of Duke University suggested another lens on colonial Korean society in her talk “Geopolitics of Collaboration: Colonial Korean Culture after the ‘Manchurian Incident.’” In the talk, she showed the changing representations of Korea and Korean people in contemporary Japanese cultural discourses. She examined how colonial Korea was remapped and how a new image of Korea as a place of happy co-existence for multiethnic peoples with expanding Japanese imperialism appeared in the 1930s after the Manchurian Incident.

All three presentations engaged in a collective and literary reflection on the cultural politics of colonial and postcolonial Korea. Formal and informal question-and-answer sessions following the talks also enabled graduate students and the general public to engage in those specific topics and in the general field of Korean literature.

KOREAN STUDIES GROUP 2012
By Sun Yoo, Ph.D. candidate in Premodern Korean History

The Korea Studies Group (KSG) is an organization for graduate students who have an interest in Korea. The fields of research of our students include history, literature, religion, anthropology, public policy, and law. Established in 2002 and operating with the support of the Center for Korean Research, the KSG provides a space in which the students can be critical and supportive of each other’s work. KSG regularly organizes guest lectures, Korean film screenings, and other social events. This semester, KSG will inaugurate the Korean Language Table where students can meet periodically to practice and sharpen their Korean language skills. KSG will also hold a film screening this spring. In addition, KSG in collaboration with other East Asian studies groups will hold an event in which advanced graduate students from each area of studies present their most recent works while sharing their experiences at Columbia and abroad. KSG is open to other types of events and outings and welcomes your participation.
SIXTY YEARS AFTER THE SAN FRANCISCO PEACE TREATY

By Liang Xu, Visiting Scholar

The Center for Korean Research and the Northeast Asian History Foundation (NAHF) hosted the conference “Sixty Years after the San Francisco Peace Treaty” on November 18, 2011 at Columbia University. The Treaty of Peace with Japan (commonly known as the San Francisco Peace Treaty) on September 8, 1951 closed World War II but began the Cold War era in East Asia. More importantly, the Treaty still deeply influences East Asian affairs to this day. The conference was an effort to reexamine the history of the treaty and rethink its current purpose.

Fourteen scholars from six countries (America, China, South Korea, Japan, Canada and Germany) were organized into three panels to discuss different topics. The first panel was “The San Francisco Treaty and the Making of the Postwar Asia-Pacific.” Professor Bruce Cumings, a well-known American historian from the University of Chicago, focused on the role of the United Nations during the division of Korea. He also criticized Washington for changing President Roosevelt’s policies after World War II. Kimie Hara, Renison Research Professor, reviewed territorial problems as a result of the San Francisco system in East Asia. Naoyuki Umemori, Professor at Waseda University, rethought the US occupation of Japan from a Japanese perspective. NAHF Research Fellow Yonghwan Kim’s paper “The 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty and Third Parties” reminded us of third parties’ interest in the San Francisco Peace Treaty. Kim Brandt of Columbia University served as the discussant in the first panel.

The second panel was “Conflict and Security in the Cold War and After.” Somei Kobayashi of Hitotsubasi University presented on radio wars in the context of Cold War in East Asia. Victor Cha, Professor at Georgetown University, made a speech on “US Security Policy in the Post-Cold War Asia-Pacific” and gave a positive assessment of America’s Asian alliances. The next speaker, Dr. Liang Xu from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, traced the history of the US-ROK alliance and introduced Chinese perspectives on America’s Asian alliances and the San Francisco Peace Treaty. Finally, Vyacheslav Gavrilov, Professor at Far Eastern Federal University, presented on the territory dispute history between Russia and Japan. Charles Armstrong, Director of CKR, served as the discussant for the second panel.

The third panel’s topic was “Historical Reconciliation in Comparative Perspective.” Sherry Broder, Attorney at Law in Honolulu, introduced the experiences of the reconciliation between the native Hawaiians and the US. Falk Pingel, Professor at the George Eckert Institute, introduced the resolution of the textbook issue in the process of reconciliation between Germany and other European countries. Mikiyung Kim from the Hiroshima Peace Institute analyzed the Dokdo/Takeshima debate from a sociological perspective. Kenneth Robinson from NAHF facilitated the discussion of the third panel.

The very act of these scholars sitting together and discussing these controversies is an endeavor of reconciliation. Although disagreements exist, as Charles Armstrong said in his closing speech, the future is optimistic.
On February 8, 2012 the CKR had the pleasure of interviewing visiting scholar and author Kim Young-Ha. Kim, whose novels have been translated the world over, is the most recent recipient of the Yi Sang Literary Prize, one of the most prestigious literary prizes in Korea. He is also the recipient of the Dong-In Literary Prize.

CKR: How did you get connected with Columbia?

KYH: Professor Hughes invited me to be a visiting scholar. I have been here for one and a half years since the fall of 2010.

CKR: How has your time at Columbia been so far? Have you interacted with students at Columbia? What is your impression of the students here?

KYH: A few times a semester I will visit classes and meet with students and researchers. Students here are very smart and very creative. In a few classes - Korean literature classes - I actually got many questions that I haven’t been asked in my home country. Columbia students were trying to find a new approach to study Korean literature and novels - it’s impressive. They focus more here on society as opposed to just the novel and literature. I bring to Columbia my work, my novels, stories from my culture. Since some students here are not familiar with the culture I can see their desire to know both texts and culture.

CKR: What are you working on now?

KYH: I just finished my sixth novel. It’s set in Seoul from 2000-2010, and it’s about a young boy. It’s a coming of age novel, and it’s pretty dark and severe. The boy is born in a public bathroom by a teenage mother and grows up in a very...unfriendly situation.

CKR: Are there common themes or threads that run through your work?

KYH: Violence, killing, blood. Actually, I didn’t realize I had this obsession. I just wrote what I wanted and found out later when looking back at my work. But I have been interested in violence - mental and physical. When I was ten I had a terrible accident that knocked out my memory before that age. So maybe that is why. I also remember being young and seeing my sick mother in bed in a white sheet and feeling intensely the horror of death. And when I was in the military I was in the police force. I experienced crime, suicide, and murder almost every day. Violence in the army is very usual and structured. I grew up in a military base when I was a child. Growing up, I could feel the very violent, aggressive atmosphere that pervaded. As a young child experiencing this environment, maybe that made me more sensitive to the themes of violence and killing.

CKR: Who are your favorite writers?

KYH: Tolstoy. I didn’t like him when I was young. But I discovered his hidden charm as a writer after I became a writer, about ten or fifteen years later. He’s a true writer’s writer with a keen eye on human beings. He understands deep insightful qualities of human beings and knows everything. Most writers, when they are young, like the new style, new themes. But the older they become, the more they want insight - it is the precious thing a writer can have.

CKR: What do you mean, became a writer? Was there a moment you felt you came into your own as a writer?

KYH: I’ve wanted to be a writer since I was very young. I knew I wanted to write. I liked storytelling from a young age. My friends would listen and I would make story sequels to TV animations. I really enjoyed making spin offs, backstories, and my friends would sometimes believe me. The decisive moment, though, was when I was a graduate student. I was studying business management at Yonsei and I really hated management, accounting, numbers in general. I started to write short stories. I posted one on a network service - similar to AOL in those days. An editor found it funny and contacted me to publish it. I was 23 years old. That novel is not good. I was not prepared to become a writer. But it made me think seriously about becoming a professional writer.

CKR: Which novel was that?

KYH: It’s a secret! The bastard child of my bibliography.

CKR: If you could recommend one of your books to the Columbia/NY audience, which one would it be?

KYH: I have 16 books published in Korea, but in the English-speaking world...
world, only two are in translation. In October another is coming out. It is the story of Korean people who in 1905 sailed to Mexico and joined the Guatemala population and built a country. It is based on a true story. The title is Black Flower. The novel deals with conflicts of religion and ethnicity, Catholicism vs. shamanism, for example.

CKR: How did you feel winning this year’s Yi Sang Literary Award?

KYH: It’s great. As a high school student, I loved to read the stories that won the Prize. It is one of the most prestigious and historical prizes. And it is maybe the only one my mother in law recognizes! Yi Sang was an iconic writer of modern Korean literature. One of the first avant garde poet/novelists in Korea in the colonial period. I am a huge fan of his works, and I felt very honored to receive the award. In the 1920s, we can imagine just how struck people were by his writings.

CKR: Finally, besides writing, what do you enjoy doing in New York?

KYH: One of the best things to do in New York is watch plays. Not musicals as much, but plays. I see probably one or two per week. Some are shocking and some are classic, and even though I can’t fully understand everything that goes on - I can feel the energy from the stage. Theater is wonderful because it is not reproducible. It is one moment that is shared. I have visited New York previously in 2009, when I lived in Williamsburg. I liked that neighborhood a lot. There are a lot of young artists, aspiring artists, and great new energy.

I just want to say that I have really loved staying in New York and at Columbia. I am very thankful to Columbia for giving me time, space, and good libraries to work on my writing. The time I’ve spent here has been really unforgettable.

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT—GEORGE KALLANDER

How much were you involved with CKR as a student?

For almost two years, I worked as the assistant to Professor Samuel Kim who was running CKR at the time. Because of his interest in current affairs, most of the events involved political science and the globalization of Korea, his major research interests. One of my jobs was to help Professor Kim organize his annual workshops out of which he produced his edited volumes. Although outside my field, I enjoyed meeting professors I admired who would attend his conferences, such as Victor Cha and Kathy Moon. Mostly, though, I was happy doing simple office tasks from arranging his magazines to stacking copies of his Korean newspapers next to the reading chair in his office—this gave me time to read more about contemporary affairs.

What were the biggest influences on you in your development as a scholar?

The people. Professor Gari Ledyard was the biggest. He was demanding, but very encouraging. I learned so much with him. Others teaching at Columbia—from Charles Armstrong and later JaHyun Kim Haboush to Morris Rossabi, Haruo Shirane, and Ted de Bary, among many others—they were all encouraging and influential in different ways. Above all, the Korean language instructors, including Carol Schulz and Hyunkyu Yi, made studying Korean fun.

How do you find teaching at Syracuse?

I really enjoy teaching at Syracuse. I have great colleagues and good institutional support. The department lets me develop courses based on my interests. As a research university, my teaching load is 2/2, one large lecture and one smaller seminar each semester. Currently, I teach courses on Korea, Japan, and one on the impact of socialism in East Asia. Most of my colleagues in the History Department work in the fields of American and European history, but we do have a new “Global History” concentration and minor that should attract more undergraduates to other courses we offer on the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, China, and India. This coming year, I’ve developed a two-semester introductory level global history track that I’m excited to begin. The most unexpected thing after getting this job has been the level of work that’s involved for junior faculty. From committee work, departmental meetings and workshops, student recommendations, job searches and job talks, class prep, and my research and writing, it can be a little overwhelming. I’ve learned that at some point in the evening, I have to turn the computer off.
What exactly is a postdoc, and what does a postdoc do?

I would say that a postdoc serves as a transitional stage between being a graduate student and becoming a professor. In my case, I am using this time as an opportunity to digest the overflow of information from the last stage of my dissertation writing.

What projects are you currently working on in your own scholarship?

Currently, I am working on two book manuscripts based upon my dissertation. The first examines written culture in the formation of a new intellectual community in early modern Korea. I am focusing my inquiries on the practices of writing and reading during this period and relating them to explain changes in social interactions and the mode of political participation of Confucian elites. In the second project, I trace the construction of the charisma of T’oege as the Confucian master of Korea from the 17th century through the 1970s. I emphasize the significance of the records of spoken words in this enterprise in both pre-modern and modern contexts. By elaborating on the complex connection between the oral and the written in the making of the intellectual history of Korea, I am also planning to make comparisons with the creation of the personal cult of Kim Il Sung in North Korea.

What is the most valuable piece of advice you’ve gained from your time at Columbia?

My late advisor, JaHyun Kim Haboush, always told me that scholars have to be disciplined enough to just sit and focus on research, and to persevere no matter what problems they may encounter. This has recently become my motto.

What do you think about Korean dramas that portray the Choson Dynasty? Do you watch them?

Watching them is a good way to look into how the past is being repossessed by contemporary society. However, we have to be careful so as not to regard the representation of the Choson society in these dramas as real. I am amazed at the power of pop culture in shaping our perception about society as well as the past. I am trying to watch some. I do feel the need to monitor the changes of popular perceptions about the past.