

CKR NEWSLETTER

THE CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH AT THE WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

2013 - 2014



Photo Credit: Anna J. Kim



THE CENTER FOR
KOREAN
RESEARCH

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE



The 2013-2014 academic year has been a very active one for the Center for Korean Research. As in the past, the CKR has sponsored events on a range of topics and in many disciplines, including history, political science, literature, economics, and film. In addition to partnerships and co-sponsorships with institutions and universities in the New York area and South Korea, the CKR is increasingly working to forge connections on the intra-university level. A number of recent CKR events have been co-sponsored by the Center for Korean Legal Studies, the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, the School of the Arts Film Program, and the Donald Keene Center. We would like to move further in this direction in the years to come.

Following a year at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, Professor Jungwon Kim joined the CKR and the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures in Fall 2013. Professor Kim will lead one of Columbia's traditional strengths, premodern Korean history, into the future. We take this occasion both to offer her a warm welcome and to reflect on the history of the study of premodern Korea at Columbia (please see the sections in this newsletter). We are also joined this year by three outstanding visiting scholars in Korean studies: Professor Ruth Barraclough (Australian National University); Professor Jiyoung Shin (Institute of Korean Studies, Yonsei University); and Professor Sun Hui Yi (Jangseogak Institute, The Academy of Korean Studies).

The CKR continues to promote inter-

disciplinary and transnational approaches to the study of Korea through its Colloquium Series on Korean Cultural Studies, which entered its second year. In addition to talks, the CKR hosted a number of larger events, including the Sixth North American Workshop on Korean Literature: NAOKOL 2013. Made possible by the generous financial support of the Literature Translation Institute of Korea, this event brought together over twenty professors and advanced graduate students in literature and film from across North America, with the aim of providing feedback to younger scholars engaged in dissertation writing and revision. The CKR also partnered with the Korea Economic Institute to hold the CKR/KEI Policy Forum, "The Seoul-Beijing-Pyongyang Triangle."

"The CKR continues to promote interdisciplinary and transnational approaches to the study of Korea."

Finally, Charles Armstrong has organized a very exciting workshop, "Culture and Everyday Life in North Korea." Scheduled for April 25, this event will include talks by Ruth Barraclough, Senior Lecturer, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University and Visiting Scholar, Columbia University; Cheehyung Kim, ACLS Faculty Fellow in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke University; Suzy Kim, Assistant Professor of Korean History, Rutgers University; Andre Schmid,

Associate Professor in the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Toronto; and Dafna Zur, Assistant Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University

On the research front, CKR faculty have been very active. Charles Armstrong's new book, *Tyranny of the Weak: North Korea and the World, 1950-1992* (Cornell University Press) was published in 2013, and Professor Jungwon Kim's co-edited *Wrongful Deaths: Selected Inquest Records from Nineteenth-Century Korea* (University of Washington Press) came out in early 2014.

Columbia University Alumni Association, Korea (CUAAK) has spearheaded an endowment drive for CKR in 2013-2014, and the drive has just been completed. We are very grateful to CUAAK for their unwavering, enthusiastic support of the CKR mission. We also express our gratitude to the Korea Foundation and the M.S. Shin Fund for their continued support of CKR.

I would like to thank Charles Armstrong for his outstanding service and leadership as Director of CKR for the past seven years. Building on the strong foundation he has laid for the Center, we hope to continue to play a leading role in the study of Korea in North America.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Theodore Haggard".

A EULOGY FOR PROFESSOR JAHYUN KIM HABOUSH



This eulogy was given at the funeral of Professor Jahyun Kim Haboush at Riverside Memorial Chapel on February 3, 2011.

As one of her former students, I am deeply honored to talk about Professor JaHyun Kim Haboush today. I would like to say a few words in memory of my dear advisor. I hope I can do justice in a few minutes to this remarkable teacher, mentor, and friend.

I am sure everyone remembers the first time they met Professor Haboush. I certainly do but my first encounter with Professor Haboush was over the phone in the spring of 2002. She called me in order to conduct a phone interview. I still remember clearly what she told me toward the end of our conversation that day. She told me, "Do your best Jisoo if you get accepted by Columbia University." And that was the beginning of our relationship.

During my graduate studies at Columbia, I was exceedingly lucky to have worked with Professor Haboush. It was through her seminars that I came across women's petitions, which later became the source of my dissertation. It was through her teachings that I came to realize how interesting history of Chosŏn Korea could be.

In my early graduate years, I remember how we, in her seminar class, tried to impress Professor Haboush with brilliant ideas. However, she would occasionally grab and pull her hair with both hands. If she made this gesture, this meant that we had said something dull and had to quickly come up with better ideas. As her student here today, I would like

to emphasize that she was an extraordinary teacher. If I were to describe her teaching philosophy in just one word, then that would be "trust." She trusted her students and encouraged them that they all have the potential to become great scholars one day. Her trust was what really made me move forward during my graduate years.

"If I were to describe her teaching philosophy in just one word, then that would be 'trust.' She trusted her students and encouraged them that they all have the potential to become great scholars one day."

As I begin my career as a professor, I have been thinking about the enormous responsibility that we as educators are entrusted with. Professor Haboush was successful in providing us with the very best that we, her students, deserve. I sometimes ask myself whether I can do the same. It is not easy. Professor Haboush is my role model and the type of teacher, mentor, and member of the intellectual community that I strive to be. I will continue to honor her words and share them with my students so that they can find wisdom from her teachings. She will always be my advisor, whom I greatly respect.

Professor Haboush once told me that she wished to write a play after she retires. It is so sad to see her wish un-

fulfilled. It is also sad that we cannot see her anymore. But I want her to know that she will be remembered in our hearts and always be with us. Thank you Professor Haboush for what you were. We will truly miss you. Your place is just irreplaceable.

Jisoo M. Kim

*Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of
History and International Affairs,
George Washington University*

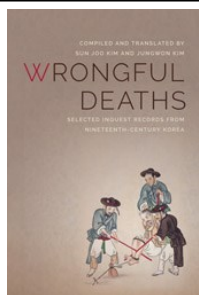
CKR PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to **Professor Theodore Hughes** on receiving the 2014 James B. Palais Book Prize for *Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea: Freedom's Frontier*.

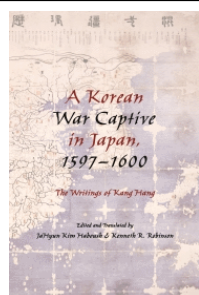


2014 James B. Palais Award Winner

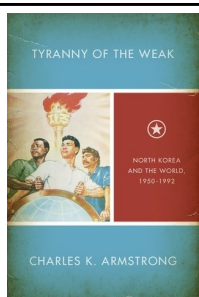
Professor Theodore Hughes' more recent book *Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea: Freedom's Frontier* (Columbia University Press, 2012) was published in Korean by Somyong Press.



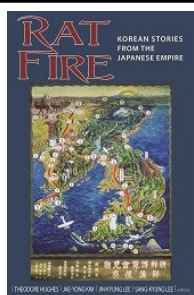
Professor Jungwon Kim's new book *Wrongful Deaths Selected Inquest Records from Nineteenth-Century Korea* (University of Washington Press, 2014), compiled and translated by Sun Joo Kim and Jungwon Kim, was published.



A Korean War Captive in Japan, 1597-1600: The Writings of Kang Hang (Columbia University Press, 2013), edited and translated by JaHyun Kim Haboush and Kenneth Robinson, was recently published. JaHyun Kim Haboush (1941-2011) was King Sejong Professor of Korean Studies at Columbia University.



Professor Charles Armstrong's new book *Tyranny of the Weak: North Korea and the World, 1950 - 1992* (Cornell University Press, 2013) was published.



Professor Theodore Hughes' new co-edited volume *Rat Fire: Korean Stories from the Japanese Empire* (Cornell East Asia Series, 2013) was published.

AN INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR GARI LEDYARD



An interview with Gari Ledyard, Professor Emeritus of Korean Studies at Columbia University. Dr. Ledyard taught Korean studies at Columbia beginning in 1964. He was appointed King Sejong Professor of Korean Studies in 1994 and continued to teach until his retirement in 2000. In an interview with Sixiang Wang, a graduate student in Korean history, Dr. Ledyard shares some of the history of Korean Studies at the university.

SW: Professor Ledyard, you were at Columbia for quite a long time and have been involved with Korean Studies nearly since the field's inception. Can you tell us about how you came to become a professor of Korean Studies at Columbia University?

GL: I graduated from high school ten days after the beginning of the Korean War in June of 1950. From then until 1953, I was studying in local colleges but not too happy with my grades. As the war raged I became fearful of being drafted. An army recruiter urged me to enlist and apply for training in some of the military specialties. I had done well in foreign languages, and he said that I might qualify for the Army Language School in Monterey (now known as the Defense Language Institute), not far from my home in California. After basic training, I took a language aptitude test and passed with a good score, and in the end I was assigned to study Korean, graduating in June, 1954. After further training in Virginia and in Japan, I finally arrived in Korea in November, 1954, and served there and again in Japan until January, 1956, when I returned home near San Francisco, and was discharged. I had made many friends in Korea and become very fond of the country. Wishing to study Korean his-

tory, in the same month I enrolled at the University of California (Berkeley), majoring in Classical Chinese and East Asian History. I received the B.A. in 1958, and the M.A. in 1960. In 1963, I returned to Korea for my Ph.D. research. While there, I received a letter from Professor William T. deBary at Columbia. He had heard about me from some of my UC professors early in 1964, and asked if I would be interested in coming to Columbia in the fall of that year. Of course I said yes! I left Korea in August, 1964, and joined the Columbia faculty in the Fall semester as Instructor in Korean, teaching Elementary Korean, Advanced Korean, and a graduate course in historical Chinese linguistics. I was also busy writing my Ph.D. thesis. In 1966, I defended it in Berkeley and received the Ph.D. from UC. From then on I joined the professorial ranks. During the early 1970s I began teaching Classical Chinese and graduate courses in Korean history and continued that program until I retired in 2000.

SW: What was it like for Korean Studies at Columbia in those years?

GL: Columbia did not have a permanent position in Korean Studies before I came. There was an earlier teacher, Peter Lee, who taught Korean at Columbia, but he soon left for other places. During the academic year before I arrived at Columbia, Bill Skillend, a British scholar, serving as Visiting Professor in Korean and Japanese, had taught elementary and advanced Korean at Columbia. When he returned to London, I took over the Korean courses. What is now the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures was then called the Department of Chinese and Japanese. Teaching Kore-

an, at first I naturally felt a little insecure, but the senior professors encouraged me, and soon after I had become an assistant professor, the departmental name was changed to its present form. When you think about it, Korea, sitting between China and Japan and having a long and intricate history with each of those countries, is in an ideal position to have an objective view of East Asia as a whole. It might even be seen as a linch pin that holds "East Asia" all together. In my view, Koreans, out of necessity, have over history understood China and Japan quite objectively, and considering all the wars and other challenges, their historical experience provides sharp and interesting insights.

When I first arrived, there were only four students studying Korean language. Developing the language program was key. I taught Korean for six or seven years, but eventually stepped aside when during the 1970s Columbia hired Carol Schulz, a graduate student at Teacher's College. She had been my teaching assistant. Carol could teach Korean in a more thorough and modern way than I had done. She took over running the Korean language program and is still there today, teaching and administering. Most of the students were, and I presume still are, Korean-American undergraduates who have some experience in what we called "Kitchen Korean," but had no clue concerning vocabulary and grammar. They came in great numbers. Beginning in the early 1970s, the growing student enrollments in Korean language were critical for the program as a whole. Everything began to flesh out once the language program took shape.

(Continued on Page 8)

EVENT: CKR/KEI POLICY FORUM



CKR/KEI Policy Forum

*November 13, 2013
Columbia University*

Changing relationship dynamics between Seoul, Pyongyang, and Beijing were highlighted in this policy forum. Charles Armstrong, Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies in the Social Sciences in Columbia University's Department of History, noted that there is a new relationship dynamic between South Korea – led by Manda-

rin-speaking president Park Geun-hye – and China. Stephanie Kleine-Ahlbrandt, director of the Asia-Pacific Program at the United States Institute of Peace, then followed up by noting that, although China projected a sterner demeanor towards North Korea after nuclear testing, any change in their relationship was not substantive. Stability rather than denuclearization remains China's overriding goal with regard to North Korea, and Ms. Kleine-Ahlbrandt does not foresee a fundamental adjustment of Chinese policy on North Korea in the near future, although this may be possible in the long term. Troy Stangarone, senior director of Congressional Affairs and Trade at the Korea Economic Institute of America, noted that China and South Korea have to work together to ensure stability in North Korea, and that stronger economic ties are bring-

ing China and South Korea closer. Professor Armstrong concluded by commenting on the very low probability of the North Korean regime's collapse, likening it to the play "Waiting for Godot." He also noted that ties between North Korea and China are based not on deep friendship, but national interest. North Korea has no choice in the matter since China is its economic supporter.

This forum was co-sponsored by the Center for Korean Research and the APEC Study Center at Columbia University, and the Korea Economic Institute of America.

Penn Nee Chow
APEC Study Center

EVENT: THE COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The Colloquium Series on Korean Cultural Studies aims to foster an interdisciplinary, transnational approach to Korean studies. The series targets an audience composed not only of Korean studies faculty and students in the New York City area, but also, much more broadly, scholars engaged in research on China, Japan, Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe. The purpose of the series is to enhance the visibility of academic work done on Korea to the broadest academic possible while moving Korean studies into a dialogue with cutting-edge approaches in the humanities and social sciences.

Modern Times in North Korea: Scenes from the Founding Years
Suzy Kim, Assistant Professor of Korean History, Rutgers University
November 8, 2013

Colonial Korean Cinema: Love, Identity, and Propaganda
Kelly Jeong, Associate Professor, University of California Riverside,
November 13, 2013



Colloquium Series with Professor Kelly Jeong

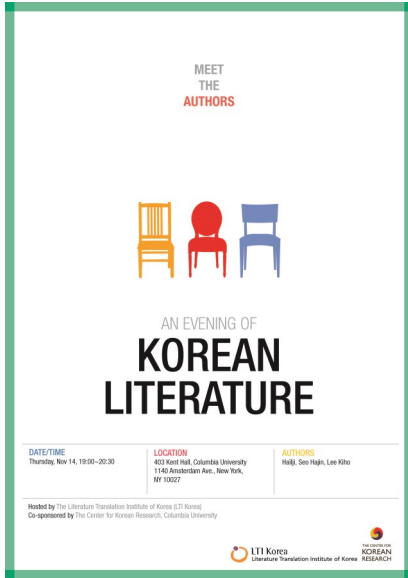
Provisioning Armies in a War-time Borderland: The Imjin War, Ming Quartermasters, and Korean Society, 1592-1598
Masato Hasegawa, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, New York University
February 20, 2014

Social Memory and Public Production of History: *The T'aebaek Mountains* and the Politics of Remembering the Korean War
Namhee Lee, Associate Professor of Modern Korean History, University of California Los Angeles
March 6, 2014

Advertising in Contemporary South Korea: From Humanism to Terrorism
Olga Fedorenko, Assistant Professor, New York University
March 13, 2014

China's Informal Imperialism in Korea in the 1880s: A Book Talk on *In the Service of His Korean Majesty*
Wayne Patterson, Professor of History, St. Norbert College
March 25, 2014

EVENT: AN EVENING OF KOREAN LITERATURE



*November 14, 2013
Columbia University*

The CKR and the Literature Translation Institute of Korea held a special literary event called “An Evening of Korean Literature”, which featured three Korean authors: Haïlji, Seo Hajin, and Lee Kiho. The main objective of the event was to introduce a wider audience to the diversity of Korean literature. The literary event began with welcome remarks from LTI Korea’s President Kim Seong-kon and Professor Theodore Hughes, Director of CKR, followed by readings of excerpts from *The Republic of Užupis* by Haïlji, *A Good Family* by Seo Hajin, and *At Least We Can Apologize* by Lee Kiho. Each author discussed their works as well as current issues regarding modern Korean literature. The event concluded with a Q&A session with the audience.

EVENT: NAOKOL 2013



NAOKOL Participants

*November 15-16, 2013
Columbia University*

Under the generous support of LTI Korea, CKR hosted the Sixth North American Workshop on Korean Literature. Among the aims of NAOKOL are to share ongoing projects with colleagues working in the field and to widely promote Korean literary and film studies. The nine presenters from across the nation were given a unique opportunity to have their work critiqued by top scholars in their field. For a full list of discussants, presenters, and their titles, please go to <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ckr>

CUAAK ENDOWMENT DRIVE

Columbia University Alumni Association of Korea just completed the endowment drive to benefit the CKR. Thank you for your continued support of CKR!

CUAAK mission: By networking and connecting, we serve for better benefits to alumni members, students & families, Columbia the Alma Mater, and the society.



Columbia University Alumni Association of Korea (CUAAK)

(Continued from Page 5)

In the late 1960s I began to offer a graduate course in Korean History, “from the Ice Age to the Korean War,” as I used to say. I also shared with other faculty in the department in teaching a broadly ranging general undergraduate course in East Asian Civilization a whole, providing the Korean contribution to that vast sector. The enrollment statistics in all these courses were very high. They impressed the deans and helped create more revenue for the Department.

SW: How did Korean Studies develop into what it is now?

GL: We founded the Center for Korean Research what is now the Weatherhead East Asian Institute in the 1980s. The Center devoted a lot of energy to social sciences, which were not yet a very big part of Korean Studies. Much of this was spurred by student interest. I encouraged students, especially graduating seniors in my history class, to

pursue their interest in Korea. Some of them went on to become master’s students in the graduate program and pursued relevant careers in the social sciences. CKR also invited visiting speakers and professors. The famous linguist Lee Ki-moon, for example, taught Korean linguistics here for a year. We also established a regular seminar devoted to Korea under the University Seminars program, adding a new addition to the other long-standing university seminars on Japan and China.

For a while it was a hard thing to find a place for Korea in East Asian Studies. Nowadays, I think, people have a more balanced approach towards Korea. Part of this, undoubtedly, is because South Korea itself has more international respectability than in the 1960s and 70s. People now understand that Korea is important. And for better or worse these days, North Korea is a major concern for our country, and Charles Armstrong is one of the world’s experts on its history

and present situation. In the 1980s, as Chairman of the Korea Seminar, I invited officials in the North Korean Mission to the United Nations to attend our Korea Seminar, and they sent a couple of representatives. I hope there is still some of that activity these days.

Things really changed in the 1990s. Thanks to the Korea Foundation, we were able to establish the King Sejong professorship. I held that position until I retired in 2000, and JaHyun Kim Haboush succeeded me. Charles Armstrong, who teaches in the History Department, is the present Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies in the Social Sciences. So by the end of the 1990s, we had two tenured professors in Korean studies. And, I think, once that stage was reached, we had a solid foundation and Korean Studies became a bona fide, permanent program at Columbia University.

Sixiang Wang
Columbia University

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