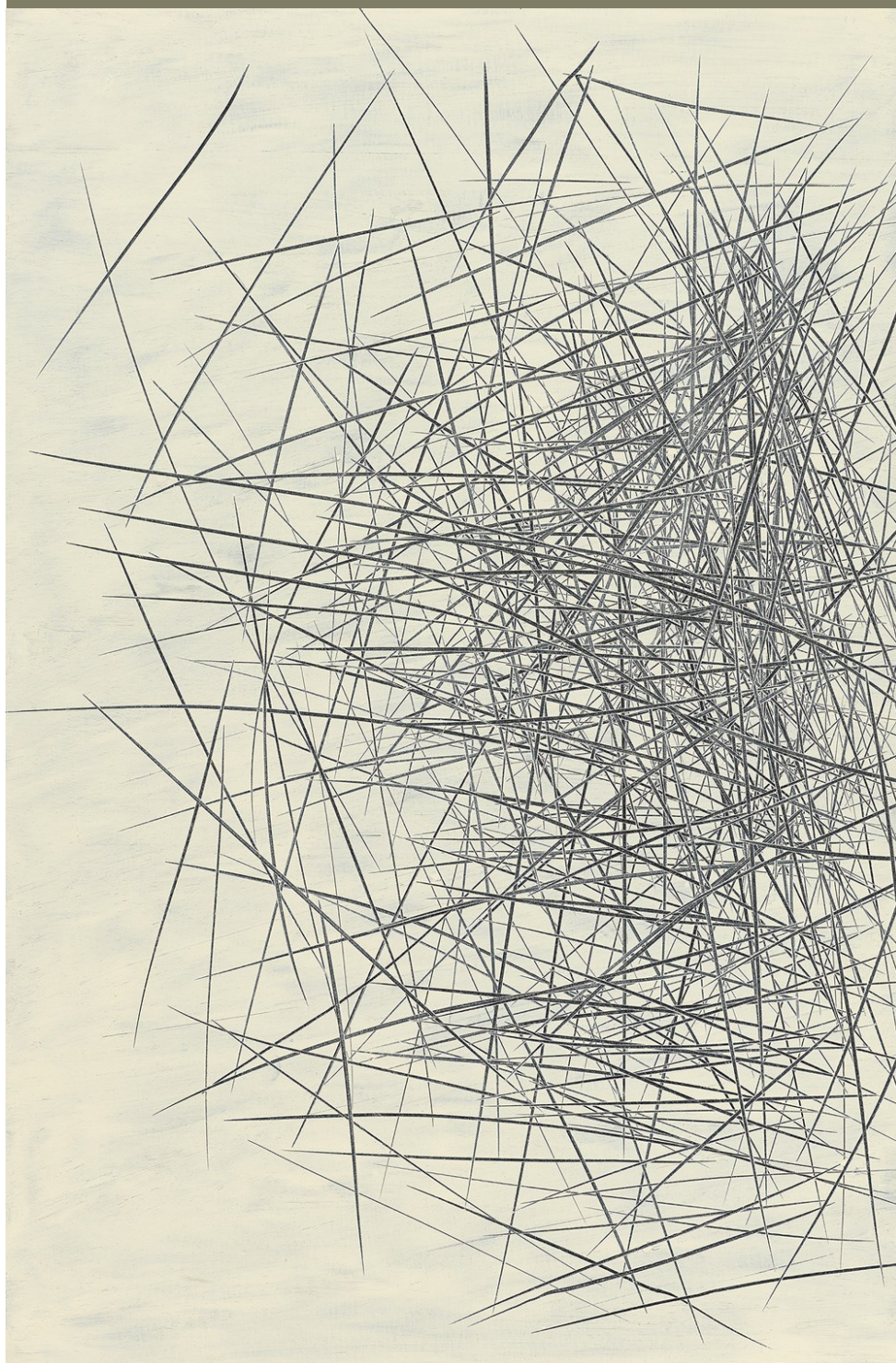


CKR NEWSLETTER

THE CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH AT THE WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

2015 - 2016



IN THIS ISSUE

Director's Note	2
JaHyun Kim Haboush's New Book	3
Spotlight on Colloquium Series on Korean Cultural Studies	4
A Dialogue	5
Spotlight On...	6
Film & Documentary Screening	7
Event Highlights	8



THE CENTER FOR
KOREAN
RESEARCH

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



The 2015-2016 academic year was a very active one for the Center for Korean Research. CKR placed particular emphasis this year on events and initiatives related to international relations and North Korea; premodern Korean history and culture; and Korean religious traditions.

Under the leadership of Charles Armstrong, the Columbia University Alumni Association of Korea Colloquium Series on Contemporary Korean Affairs included a major colloquium, "South Korea and the Changing Geopolitics of East Asia," which brought former foreign ministers of the Republic of Korea to Columbia. Notable among several North Korea-related events was a talk given by Ambassador Oh Joon, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Republic of Korea to the United Nations, entitled "The United Nations and the North Korean Human Rights Issue"; a very popular screening of "Comrade Kim Goes Flying," a Belgian, United Kingdom, and North Korean Co-Production directed Nicholas Bonner, who attended the event; and "Culture and Everyday Life in North Korea," a workshop at the Australian National University co-organized by Charles Armstrong and Ruth Barraclough and co-sponsored by CKR and ANU.

CKR is working to advance the study of premodern Korea, under the guidance of Jungwon Kim. CKR partnered with the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, the Department of Classics, and the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, African Studies to hold a border-crossing workshop, "Courts, Collections, Cosmologies: The Literary Anthology in Eurasian Perspective." Working closely with the C.V. Starr East Asian Library and the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, CKR co-sponsored a colloquium and reception celebrating the life and

work of Ko Hui-dong, "Ko Hui-dong and the Diamond Mountains: Restoring Korea's Artistic Heritage."

On the Korean religions front, CKR affiliate Laurel Kendall gave an important talk, "God Pictures in Korean Contexts: the Ownership and Meaning of Shaman Paintings." (CKR congratulates Laurel Kendall on assuming the presidency of the Association for Asian Studies in 2016.) CKR Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow Jungshim Lee played an active role in CKR events and gave a brown bag lecture, "Yi Kwangsu and His Unknown Buddhist Life." CKR is happy to announce that Dr. Seong-Uk Kim will join the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures in fall 2016 as Il Hwan and Soon Ja Cho Visiting Assistant Professor of Korean Religions. A specialist in Korean Buddhism, Dr. Kim will hold an affiliation with CKR.

"CKR placed particular emphasis this year on events and initiatives related to international relations and North Korea; premodern Korean history and culture; and Korean religious traditions."

Finally, *The Journal of Korean Studies*, the preeminent journal in the field, is in the process of moving from the University of Washington-Korea Studies Program to its new home at CKR. *The Journal of Korean Studies* is currently accepting submissions for the spring 2017 issue, under the co-editorship of Charles Armstrong and Theodore Hughes. We are happy to report that the CKR has received a generous grant from the Academy of Korean Studies to support operation of the

Journal at Columbia.

CKR could not continue to serve as the umbrella organization for Korea-related academic and cultural activity at Columbia University, hub for Korean studies in New York, and active partner with universities both in North America and abroad without the support of the Columbia University Alumni Association, Korea (CUAAK), the Academy of Korean Studies, the Korea Foundation, and the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. We are particularly grateful for the financial support provided by the M.S. Shin Fund and the financial and staff assistance of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute.

Yours truly,

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

NEW BOOK

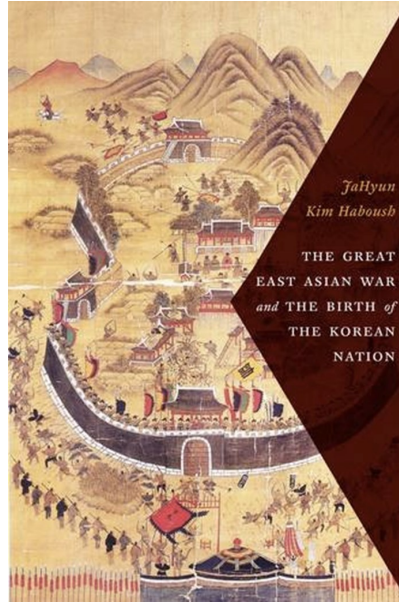
The Great East Asian War and The Birth of The Korean Nation

By JaHyun Kim Haboush

It is truly exciting to see the late Professor JaHyun Kim Haboush's book, *The Great East Asian War and the Birth of the Korean Nation* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016) finally in print. Many of us well know that she had been working on this book project for many years before she passed away in January 2011. The prominence of her scholarship had been already recognized, but this posthumous book will culminate her meticulous research of reading an incredible amount of primary sources and analyzing them that indeed distinguishes from existing scholarship. By examining the intersection of war, language, nation, and memory, she tackled one of the most contentious issues—the discourse of nation in premodern Korea. She eloquently argues that the discourse of nation emerged during the turbulent phase of the Imjin War (1592-98), intensified after the Manchu Invasions (1627, 1636-37), and it was this postwar discourse of nation that sustained and reshaped the Chosŏn state until the demise of the dynasty. In arguing the rise of the discourse of nation in the late sixteenth century, she explicitly

“By examining the intersection of war, language, nation, and memory, she tackled one of the most contentious issues—the discourse of nation in premodern Korea.”

challenges the Western scholarship of the “nation” that regards it as a distinctly modern formation. She is confident in her words, and her confidence precisely stems from having conducted extensive research in primary sources. Professor Haboush once again provides vivacious prose that allows the reader to engage throughout the book. This book makes an enormous contribution not only to Korean and East



Asian history but also to those studying nation and nationalism, military history, war and memory, and vernacular language.

The publication of the book was possible only because Professor Haboush's husband, Professor William Haboush at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, was determined to share with our historical community the writings she left behind. He felt he was heavily responsible to finish the book on behalf of his wife. His wholehearted dedication enabled to turn an unfinished book manuscript into a completed book. He first conducted a thorough search of the files in her computer and did a preliminary copyediting of the initial manuscript. This manuscript was then edited and prepared for submission to Columbia University Press by the late Nancy Abelmann (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Martina Deuchler (SOAS), and Dorothy Ko (Barnard College). Gari Ledyard (Columbia University) and Ronald Toby (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) also helped with providing a bibliography and examining references.

As soon as the manuscript received positive reviews, the editor of the Columbia University Press was eager to move on with the publication process. Professor

Haboush's students then assumed the final preparation of the editorial work: Jisoo M. Kim (George Washington University), Hwisang Cho (Xavier University), Ksenia Chizhova-Kim (Princeton University), and Sixiang Wang (University of Pennsylvania). I was asked to take a leadership role in finalizing the manuscript and dividing the labor of work among the students. Our job was primarily focused on the technical aspect of the editorial work such as correcting romanizations, checking and completing sources, checking names and years, compiling the bibliography, etc. After putting all the files together, I did the final editing to maintain consistency and Martina Deuchler read the entire manuscript to give final comments. Dorothy Ko and I later read the final proofs of the manuscript before it went to print. It needs to be mentioned that Dorothy Ko took the lead in getting touch with the editors of the Press and the students to assure the publication process was moving forward. Her contribution to the completion of the book has been immense as she was the only colleague involved from the beginning until the end of the publication process. It is truly heartening to see how everyone's effort and their collaboration enabled Professor Haboush's posthumous book to come to its fruition. It is extremely sad that this book is the last publication by Professor Haboush, but her legacy will be honored by the next generation of scholars as they strive to pursue her intellectual excellence.



Jisoo Kim
George Washington
University

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Colloquium Series on Korean Cultural Studies (organized by Jungwon Kim)

In keeping with the pace of CKR, Professor Jungwon Kim, King Sejong Assistant Professor of Korean Studies in the Humanities in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, has also had quite a busy year. She organized “Courts, Collections, Cosmologies: The Literary Anthology in Eurasian Perspective,” where literary anthologies were discussed as a prominent part of Asian literary culture. She also organized “God Pictures in Korean Contexts: the Ownership and Meaning of Shaman Paintings” with Dr. Laurel Kendall, whose new book examined what it is that makes a Korean shaman painting magical or sacred, and the ways in which shaman paintings been revalued as art. Also, there are two upcoming events that she is moderating. The first event is on April 25, titled “The Emergence of Commercial Economy, Local Administration, and Townspeople in Mid- Eighteenth Century P’yŏngyang,” featuring Professor Sun Joo Kim from Harvard University. The second event is on April 28, titled “The Enigmatic Legend of Feminized Men: A Sociocultural History of a Scholar-Bureaucrat Family in Gyeonggi Province,” featuring Professor Shimpei Cole Ota, Research Associate at American Museum of Natural History. Finally, she will be a panelist at the upcoming Association for Asian Studies Roundtable on April 2, titled “Spring Forward, Fall Back? Progress and Challenges in Korean Gender Studies,” where she will discuss archival, methodological, and theoretical issues in locating women's experiences and gender ideologies both inside and outside the various sources relevant to women in premodern Korea.



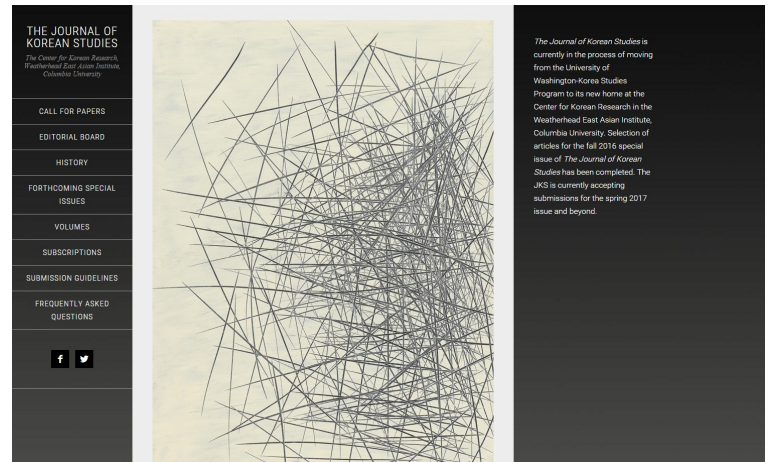
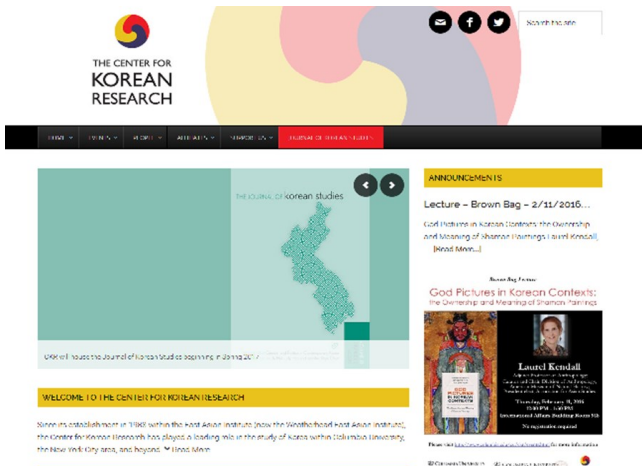
Prof. Jungwon Kim introduces Dr. Laurel Kendall

REDESIGNED CKR AND JKS WEBSITES

The Center for Korean Research is pleased to announce that it has launched its newly redesigned website. Please visit us at our new address: <http://ckr.weai.columbia.edu/>

If you have previously bookmarked our web page on your computers, please update your files with our new address.

In July 2016, *The Journal of Korean Studies* will transfer leadership to Columbia University and senior editors Drs. Charles Armstrong and Theodore Hughes. As CKR prepares for this transition, we have redesigned the JKS website to reflect the current trends in Korean studies. We are pleased to feature the important contemporary Korean artist Il Lee, whose work, *WB-1202*, courtesy of the artist and Art Projects International, New York, is on the JKS website: <http://jks.weai.columbia.edu/>



A DIALOGUE

Between Peter Moody and Thomas Ryan, two new Korean History Ph.D. students



Peter Moody

Peter: So before coming to Columbia, I know that your research focus was the history of U.S. foreign relations. How did you end up getting interested in U.S.-South Korean relations?

Tommy: I graduated in 2010 with a BA in History from the University of Victoria, where I was lucky enough to work with Jason Colby, a young professor and specialist working on the commercial side of the U.S. Empire, especially in Central America. From 2011 to 2013, I taught English in Gwangju in the South Korean public school system, a hugely challenging but also very fun job. After formally studying history one becomes attentive to certain things, so I suppose it was natural that I made the transition you allude to. South Jeolla Province has historically been Korea's most marginalized region, and U.S. acquiescence in the face of the bloody events of May 1980, now officially memorialized at a park only a short walk away from my old apartment in Gwangju, stimulated genuinely anti-American sentiment in the region. Naturally, then, I started to link my previous academic interest in U.S. foreign relations with the region's past and present, and major historians of Korea like Charles Armstrong and Bruce Cumings were natural jumping off points.

How about you? I know you were interested in North Korean domestic history before. How did you end up getting interested in North Korea, and have your research interests evolved since you've come here?

Peter: Korea has been a subject of fascination for me ever since I first was exposed to glimpses of Korean Buddhism as an Undergraduate student. My interest in Korean Buddhism as well as other religions inside Korea is what led me to go to Korea and eventually get interested in looking at the North Korean ideology as having cer-

tain attributes of a new religious movement with, of course, profound political repercussions. My Master's thesis at the University of Virginia focused largely on North Korean mass mobilization campaigns of the 1950s including the Chollima (Flying Horse) movement. Since arriving at Columbia, I have felt compelled to broaden my research interests outside of North Korean history slightly to look at other periods in Korean history such as the period of the Korean Empire (1897-1910). Speaking of the Korean empire, a paper I wrote on it last semester was an opportunity for me to apply general historical concepts and theories of world history, in this case empire, to the case of Korea.



Thomas Ryan

Tommy: For me, everything has changed, within reasonable limits. The amount of reading and thinking one has to do in a short span of time in a doctoral program opens up so many new ideas of writing history. I have become much better acquainted with relevant theoretical and methodological approaches, and perhaps more importantly, I've started to pick out what I perceive as absences in the literature. Otherwise, I try to find time to attend talks given by the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and Center for Korean Research.

Peter: Yes, I have been very impressed with the number of on-campus events related to Korea. One of the many that I enjoyed was Professor Laurel Kendall's talk on Korean Shamanism. There have also been multiple events with various speakers involved in contemporary economic and cultural issues in North Korea. Furthermore, I find it impressive that we have such a large number of student-scholars interested and concentrating in Korean studies here at Columbia. I feel privileged to be part of an intellectual community with which to share ideas of the past, present and future Korean peninsula.

Tommy: Because my Korean language skills require some work, I will continue in the short term to immerse myself in the English language literature in both modern Korean and postwar U.S. foreign relations historiography. In terms of primary sources, for the next year I will focus on U.S. representations of South Korean economic development after the Korean War, and once I develop the language sufficiently I plan to look at how South Korean sources cohere and conflict with these representations. How about you? Now that your research interests have evolved somewhat, how do you plan on expanding your research?

Peter: Right now, I am mostly interested in how the North Korean regime approaches the Korean past and discovering which elements of Korean "tradition" it has sought to preserve and which elements it has sought to downplay or suppress at various times for particular purposes. As part of that project, I am currently interested in how the Chosŏn period is represented in North Korean historiography. My initial impression is that there is a big divergence between the way North Korean and South Korean historical sources portray the Chosŏn kingdom, and I would like to explore specific manifestations of this. I also hope to apply methodologies I learned from class I took in the environmental and local developmental history of the Japanese islands to the Korean peninsular context. There is a lot of room for research in these particular subfields and in other areas as well.

Peter Moody and Thomas Ryan
Columbia University

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Ji Soo (Janet) Park, Joshua Rapp, and Jong In (Jim) Yoon, three undergraduate seniors working on Korea-related thesis projects



Ji Soo (Janet) Park | CC senior majoring in East Asian Languages and Cultures

I was first introduced to the comfort women issue, the broad theme of my senior thesis project, during my internship with a non-profit grassroots organization called Korean American Civic Empowerment (KACE). The internship immediately sparked my interest in the issue and allowed me to meet with various Congressmen/Congresswomen in Washington, D.C. and urge them to continue to support H. Res. 121, a resolution expressing the stance of the U.S. Congress that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women", during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s during World War II.

My senior thesis project, titled "Comfort Women Memorial: The Starting Point of a Movement towards Building a Public Memory of History and a Collective Transnational Identity," aims to investigate the ways in which the Comfort Women Memorial in Palisades Park, NJ, and the suc-

cessive memorials established in other states since 2010, play a significant role in shaping the collective public memory of the comfort women in the U.S. and in Korea, as well as shaping collective transnational identity of Korean Americans. It will also attempt to highlight the significance of the role of the U.S. in the politically charged issue of the comfort 3 women, a topic of major debate in the East Asian region. The paper will elucidate the aforementioned topics by closely examining three important factors: (1) Identity-formation within overseas Korean communities, which define a diaspora of population and seek to preserve or reaffirm the Korean identity abroad, (2) the symbolic importance of a memorial as a site of memory, as opposed to a museum as a site of history, and (3) the geopolitics of memory, as it relates to the differing scope of political possibilities in Korea and in the U.S. (with grassroots activism as the focus of this discussion), which may help to explain the reason that the world's first memorial that commemorates all of World War II comfort women was established in the U.S. and not in Korea, contrary to expectations. In line with the three factors, the question of how the comfort women issue serves to ground Korean identity

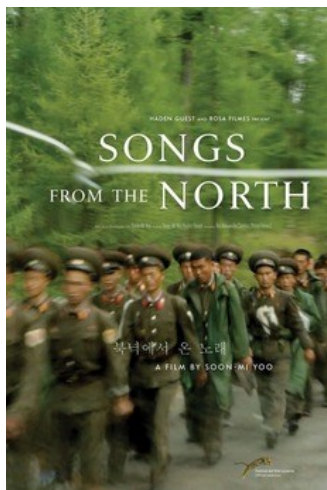
overseas through grassroots mobilization and how the nature of the established comfort women memorials in the U.S. shape their message to the public is also addressed. Finally, the paper will hopefully give some insight into the close and inseparable relationship between history, politics of memory, and collective identity.

Joshua Rapp | GS senior majoring in East Asian Studies

My senior thesis research project focuses on the Yangju Highway Incident, a tragic U.S.-military related traffic accident that resulted in the death of two young Korean schoolgirls in June 2002. More specifically, my research is centered on the civil demonstrations that erupted following the exoneration of the two U.S. soldiers who were charged with criminal negligence in a military court martial proceeding. The initial demonstrations were enormous, drawing crowds of upwards of a million participants. Over the course of several years, however, the protests had all but come to a complete halt. The collective, emphatic cries were replaced by an eerie silence. Yet, the memory of the incident lives on through both the families of the young girls, and through the visage of U.S. Army soldiers stationed on the peninsula. My

FILM & DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Songs from the North, People Are the Sky, and Comrade Kim Goes Flying



Songs from the North

Soon-Mi Yoo, Director

Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19

Soon-Mi Yoo and producer Haden Guest, Director of the Harvard Film Archive, were present at The Anthology Film Archives (32 Second Avenue) on Fri & Sat, Sept 18 & 19, for both shows each evening. Soon-Mi Yoo's earlier work was featured in SHOW & TELL series on Sat, Sept 19.



9TH ANNUAL KOREAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

OCTOBER 15 & 24, 2015

KAFFNY.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/KAFFNY

KAFFNY

9th Annual Korean American Film Festival in New York (KAFFNY)

People Are the Sky

Dai Sil Kim-Gibson, Director

Moderated by Chi-hui Yang, President of the Flaherty Film Seminar

Thursday, October 15, 2015



“Comrade Kim Goes Flying,” a Belgium, United Kingdom, and North Korea Co-Production

Nicholas Bonner, Director

Moderated by Charles Armstrong, Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies in the Social Sciences in the Department of History, Columbia University

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Co-sponsored by Weatherhead East Asian Institute, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and MA in Film and Media Studies

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

ART RESTORATION DISCUSSION AND COLLOQUIUM SERIES ON KOREAN CULTURAL STUDIES: KO HUI-DONG AND THE DIAMOND MOUNTAINS: RESTORING KOREA'S ARTISTIC HERITAGE

On the evening of 25 September 2015, while the city was abuzz with Pope Francis' visit, there was a lively atmosphere in the Reading Room of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library for the unveiling of the restored painting by Korean artist Ko Hui-dong (1886-1965). "Ko Hui-dong and the Diamond Mountains: Restoring Korea's Artistic Heritage" was organized by Professor Theodore Hughes and Jooyeon Kim to celebrate and reintroduce the newly conserved painting, as well as to highlight the painting's historical significance and the long and active pedigree of Korean Studies at the University.

I was honored to participate in this event, along with Professor Sunglim Kim of Dartmouth University and Alexis Hagadorn, Head of the Conservation Program, Columbia University Libraries. In essence, the event was a celebration of the outstanding restoration and reframing expertly carried out by conservator Hisashi Higuchi. I spoke on the thought-process behind the decisions that the consultation team, comprised of Mr. Higuchi, Jennifer Perry, Professor Park Jisun of Seoul, and myself, made in determining what would be historically and materially appropriate for the painting in regards to its remounting and reframing. Alexis Hagadorn explained the numerous conservation concerns and treatments that Mr. Higuchi considered and implemented, such as the removal of the warping frame and backing, repairing tears and stabilizing the painted surface, and discrete in-painting.



Professor Kim placed the painting within Ko's oeuvre. Being credited as the first Korean artist to train and paint in oils, Ko is luminary figure of modern Korean painting. The painting has an inscription which dates it to the winter of 1934 and it depicts Chinju Pond, a scenic site of Mt. Kumgang and a favored subject of Ko. Records reveal that Ko exhibited a painting of Chinju



Pond entitled "Kumgang 5 Che" in the 1934 Korean Artist Association Exhibition, Seoul. In a review of the exhibition, Ko's submission was reproduced in the *Choson Ilbo*. From the close stylistic similarities, Professor Kim surmises that the University's painting is likely the same one that was in the newspaper and thus it is "Kumgang 5 Che." This makes the painting one of Ko's earliest surviving images of the Mt. Kumgang. Another wonderful revelation was that Ko's painting, along with a Kim Eun-ho (1892-1979) painting, was gifted to the library in the 1930s by the "Columbia Korean Students Group," a group that was quite active according to Kim's research.

The unveiling was particularly poignant as it was carried out by Amy Hai Kyung Lee. Ms. Lee is not only the granddaughter of King Kojong, the last king of Choson, but also served as the Korean librarian for 27 years from 1969-1996. She recounted when she first learned of the painting and proudly seeing it on display in the Library. She expressed how pleased she was in seeing the painting restored and that it would be exhibited again.

As Professor Hughes opening remarks fittingly expressed, the painting and the conservation effort point to a dynamic Columbia community that was and continues to be significant and innovative with regards to Korea and the larger global context.

Eleanor Hyun
Curator—Korean Collections
The British Museum

CUAAK COLLOQUIUM ON CONTEMPORARY KOREAN AFFAIRS

SOUTH KOREA AND THE CHANGING GEOPOLITICS OF EAST ASIA



(From left) Ro-myung Gong, Sung-hwan Kim, Cheol-hee Park, and Charles Armstrong

On September 17, 2015, CKR held a panel discussion titled “South Korea and the Changing Geopolitics of East Asia” to discuss the rise of China and U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK) relations, prospects of North-South Korean relations and the role of the neighboring countries, the significance and outlook of the change in ROK-Japan relations, and South Korea’s global role in the international society.

Three distinguished speakers from South Korea participated in this event. They are Ro-myung Gong, the former minister of Foreign Affairs in Republic of Korea (1994-1996), Sung-hwan Kim, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Republic of Korea (2010-2013), and Cheol-hee Park, Professor of the Graduate School of International Studies and the Director of the Institute for Japanese Studies at Seoul National University. The discussion was moderated by Charles Armstrong, Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies in the Social Sciences in the Department of History at Columbia University.

Ro-myung Gong began by evaluating ROK government’s current policy in East Asia within the context of the rise of China, the balance of power, and the role of South Korea and the United States. He stated that President Park Geun-Hye of ROK has met with President Xi Jinping of China six times, although no summits were held between ROK and Japan for the past one and half years. He further noted that many scholars describe ROK’s policy towards China and the U.S. as hedging. However, Ro-myung Gong pointed out that the stronger the Chinese influence is, the more ROK needs strong backup from its allies, like the U.S.

Then, Sung-hwan Kim shared his thoughts about the current state of inter-Korean relations and its future prospects. He stated that the relationship with DPRK is precarious at best, even though they have agreed to family reunions recently. He further mentioned that DPRK intends to launch another missile in October. If it does so, it will influence the North-South Korean relations greatly. He also indicated that while it is important to have cooperation with neighboring countries to improve inter-Korean relations, ultimately, unification and inter-Korean relations are tasks that fall to Korea alone.

Finally, Cheol-hee Park evaluated the current relations between ROK and Japan. He also shared his thoughts on the public gap between the two countries and their government policies toward each other. He said many people argue that 2015 has been the worst year between ROK and Japan since they normalized relations in 1965. In conclusion, he said that both ROK and Japan have many issues to resolve before they could move forward, but a slight progress has still been possible.

Zhijun Guo, WEAI Professional Fellow

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

On October 27, 2015, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and the Center for Korean Research hosted Ambassador Oh Joon, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations. Ambassador Oh Joon presented on the ways that the UN is dealing with the North Korean human rights situation thus far.



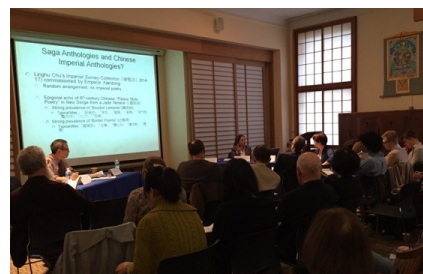
During his presentation, Ambassador Oh Joon highlighted the various resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights regarding North Korean violations. Also discussed was the 2014 release of the Commission of Inquiry’s report on the human rights violations within North Korea, which brought the issue into international attention. The violations described in the report were so serious, it prompted the Security Council to place the issue on their agenda, symbolizing that these human rights abuses are a threat not only to citizens of North Korea, but to the entire region. Ambassador Oh Joon also emphasized the role of South Korea in the human rights situation, stating that this issue needs to be dealt with separately from other national issues, such as reunification. As it stands now, South Korea is currently one of the biggest providers of humanitarian aid to North Korea, with funds from other nations decreasing over the past few years.

Karleta Peterson, Columbia University

with special thanks to The Korea Foundation

Courts, Collections, Cosmologies: The Literary Anthology in Eurasian Perspective

Friday, October 2, 2015



Colloquium Series with Professor Shirane and Professor Eggert

Thursday, March 24, 2016



Colloquium Series with Jungshim Lee

Monday, April 25, 2016



Colloquium Series with Professor Sun Joo Kim

Thursday, April 28, 2016



Colloquium Series with Professor Shimpei Cole Ota



Culture and Everyday Life in North Korea

Tuesday 15 March 2016, 9:30am-4:30pm
Wednesday 16 March 2016, 9:30am-4:00pm

Seminar Room, Australian Centre on China in the World (Building 158)
The Australian National University



Presented by
The Center for Korean Research
Columbia University
ANU Korea Institute
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Sponsored by
The Australian National University
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

The Korea Institute at ANU and the Center for Korean Research at Columbia University hosted a workshop on Culture and Everyday Life in North Korea at the Australian National University from March 15 to 18, 2016. Building upon a 2014 workshop at Columbia University, this meeting welcomed scholars of North Korean history, culture and everyday life to an engaged and informal gathering of academics and research students. Conceived in broad terms as a project that analyses North Korean culture and history from the early twentieth century to the present through a variety of mediums including film, literature, biography, archival sources and cityscapes, the workshop was designed as a series of presentations, with accompanying structured discussions. The aim is a meeting that allows us to circulate our work as discussion pieces, where we think through approaches to the study of and writing about North Korea. An empirically rich and theoretically rigorous approach is all the more important in the face of the ideological construct and phantasm 'North Korea'TM that relies upon an outsized sense of menace that the regime poses to the world.

Charles Armstrong, *Columbia University*
Theodore Hughes, *Columbia University*
Dafna Zur, *Stanford University*
Dima Mironenko, *Yale University*

Ruth Barraclough, *Australian National University*
Immanuel Kim, *Binghamton University*
Chehyung Harrison Kim, *University of Missouri*
Tatiana Gabroussenko, *Korea University*

Co-sponsored by the Australian National University, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Weatherhead East Asian Institute

(Continued from Page 6)

research project attempts to reconstruct and synthesize, to the furthest extent possible, all of the disparate voices that contributed to the controversy surrounding the incident. I wish to understand what it meant for those who participated, and how that meaning shifted so rapidly over the course of subsequent years. Furthermore, I am evaluating how the event contributed to the perception of U.S. soldiers as hated symbols of American nationalism, despite a wealth of paradoxical depictions and impressions in both Korean and U.S. media.

My interest in this project was informed by my coursework at Columbia, and by my own experiences in living as a U.S. military servicemember in South Korea. I served three separate tours of duty in South Korea, and my love and interest for the country grew with each subsequent assignment. For many soldiers stationed on the peninsula, there are veritable internal conflicts and contradictions with which to wrestle. First, South Korea has the eleventh largest economy in the world, and its robust military and exuberant urban centers lead servicemembers to question their purpose and presence in the country. Second, as the "end" of the Korean War enters its seventh decade, its memory and relevance as pretext for U.S. military occupation has virtually vanished. The Yangju demonstrations were a serious rebuke against American inhabitation on South Korean soil, and yet the relationship persists. I find the ultimate endurance of U.S. military presence in the country, despite

the ostensible threat to the north, to be quite fascinating. My coursework at Columbia has burgeoned my interest further, and has laid the groundwork for a much more appreciative and conscientious perception of a country I call my second home.

Jong In (Jim) Yoon | CC senior majoring in East Asian Languages and Cultures & Political Science

When I've asked professors in the past about the senior thesis project, the most consistent advice I got was to write about something you're really interested in, so that you can enjoy the process of working on the thesis. So, combining my passion for sports and academic interest in the Asian American and Korean American communities and identities, I decided to explore the narrative of Jeremy Lin and the phenomenon of Linsanity. I have always felt that this type of research is important because there is dearth of academic scholarship on the societal impact that sports can have.

While Lin's story of being an undrafted Taiwanese American basketball player who graduated from Harvard, got an opportunity to start for the New York Knicks in the NBA, and had an incredible three-week run in February 2012 is well-documented and well-known, the consolidation of the Asian American community that emerged during this incredible run has not been thoroughly studied because the intersection of sports and society is one that does not receive much scholarly attention. However, viewing Linsanity as a historical moment

provides an opportunity to analyze the impact that sports and athletes can have on particular societal groups. My paper explores how Jeremy Lin was able to bring together different groups of Asian Americans, particularly young Korean Americans, and the effect he had on their perceptions of Korean American and Asian American identities. My main questions I'm trying to answer are: What was it about Jeremy Lin that made Korean Americans embrace him as their own, even though he is not ethnically Korean or of Korean descent? In what ways did he impact the young Korean-American community with his Linsanity run?

Ultimately, Linsanity was nothing like anything the sports world had ever seen before. Even in a community in which diverse cultural roots are celebrated, it is still meaningful to look at what unites it, and in the case of Jeremy Lin, his story, however briefly, managed to capture the minds and hearts of Korean Americans and Asian Americans. My ultimate purpose of this study is to analyze and delve into how Lin, simply with his play on the basketball court and putting on a New York Knicks jersey, was able to prompt the pan-Asian American community and more specifically, Korean Americans, into going past cultural, ethnic, and national boundaries to view him as one of their own, and also how he gave the Asian American community the strength and fortitude to participate in an American cultural space, the NBA, that had long been kept from them.

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