



THE CENTER FOR
KOREAN
RESEARCH

KWON, YOUNG-WOO, UNTITLED, 1985, GOUGH, CHINESE INK ON KOREAN PAPER, 22.4X17.0 CM, COURTESY OF ARTIST'S ESTATE, PRIVATE COLLECTION, USA



newsletter

2016 - 17

newsletter

1 하나 cover page 3 셋 gender and sexuality 5 다섯 beyond the San Francisco system 7 일곱 interview with Hyunkyu Yi
2 둘 editor's note 4 넷 regional collaboration 6 여섯 JKS Spring inaugural issue 8 여덟 backpage

director's note



Among its many constituencies, CKR aims to enrich the experience of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows engaged in Korea-related research at Columbia via programming and financial support.

In 2016 - 2017, CKR continued to foster intra-university, regional, and international collaborations that further Korea-related research across disciplines and fields. As part of this effort, CKR co-sponsored two major conferences in fall 2016. CKR partnered with Yonsei University, Sungkyunkwan University, Korea University, and UC Berkeley to hold a major event at Berkeley entitled "Critical Studies in Modern Korean Literature and Culture, 1945-1980: Creating the Groundwork for a Cooperative/Reciprocal System between South Korea and the United States to Promote Research on Modern Korean Literature and Culture." Charles Armstrong worked closely with the Northeast Asian History Foundation, the Kim Koo Foundation, and several entities at Columbia to bring together over twenty speakers and discussants for the conference "Beyond the San Francisco System": Seeking a Peace Regime in East Asia."

Enabled by the 5-year Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) Core University Grant (\$896,442) awarded to CKR in late 2016, CKR set its formal Regional Collaboration Program in motion in spring 2017. CKR co-sponsored "Conversations about Women and Peace Making: Visions, Actions, Challenges" with Rutgers University; "Inaugural Workshop on Zainichi Literary Studies" with Lehigh University; and "Colloquium Series on Korean Studies" with NYU. CKR will conclude the 2016-7 academic year with a conference co-sponsored with Princeton University and Yonsei University, "Korea, Media, Archive: Rethinking Optics."

CKR has allocated the majority of the AKS Core University Grant funds to the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, and the Starr East Asian Library in the form of graduate fellowships, postdoctoral positions, adjunct teaching, and Korean collection cataloging. Remaining funds will be used for CKR programming, staff support, and the Regional Collaboration Program. CKR looks forward to working with units associated with the Core University Grant to bolster Korea-related research and teaching at Columbia over the coming years.

I am happy to report that the *Journal of Korean Studies* (<http://jks.weai.columbia.edu/>) has completed its move from the University of Washington-Korea Studies Program to CKR. Beginning with its spring 2017 issue, *The Journal of Korean Studies* will be published by Duke University

Press. Forthcoming special issues include "The Cold War in Korean Cinemas," guest edited by Steven Chung (Princeton University) and Hyun Seon Park (Yonsei University); "Science and Literature in North and South Korea," guest edited by Dafna Zur (Stanford University) and Chris Hanscom (University of California at Los Angeles); and "Archives, Archival Practice, and the Writing of History in Premodern Korea," guest edited by Jungwon Kim (Columbia University). The Journal is currently accepting submissions for the spring 2018 general issue.

Finally, I would like to offer congratulations to two Columbia alumnae/i on their recent achievements: Professor Jisoo Kim of George Washington University was awarded the prestigious 2017 James B. Palais Book Prize of the Association for Asian Studies for *The Emotions of Justice: Gender, Status, and Legal Performance in Chosun Korea* (University of Washington Press); and Charles Kim of the University of Wisconsin-Madison received tenure in spring 2017.

CKR's considerable growth over the past several years has been made possible by the continuing generosity of the Columbia Alumni Association of Korea, the M.S. Shin Fund, the Academy of Korean Studies, the Korea Foundation, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. This year, we are particularly grateful for the heightened financial support provided by the Academy of Korean Studies and the new Shin Family Gift.

**CKR AIMS TO ENRICHEN THE EXPERIENCE OF GRADUATE
STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS ENGAGED IN
KOREA-RELATED RESEARCH AT COLUMBIA**

Yours truly,

gender and sexuality

JUDY HAN AND JOHN CHO DISCUSSED GENDER AND SEXUALITY ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY KOREA IN THIS YEAR'S COLLOQUIUM SERIES ON KOREAN CULTURAL STUDIES.

"[...] THIS TALK TAKES AS A STARTING POINT THE PLACE OF THE RAINBOW FLAG IN THE SOUTH KOREAN PROTEST LANDSCAPE."

QUEER GEOPOLITICS

UNSETTLING SECURITY AND
TROUBLING MINORITY

JU HUI HUDY HAN
Assistant Professor
University of Toronto

On December 8, 2016, the Center for Korean Research held a Colloquium Series on Korean Cultural Studies event on South Korean queer dissent and minority politics with Ju Hui Judy Han of the University of Toronto. The event was co-hosted by the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, and the Korea Foundation. This talk addressed the simultaneous growing presence of queer critique in societal discourse and the emergence of intensified bigotry in the political sphere. Professor Han discussed how even as queer critique has challenged masculinist labor movements and heteronormative women's movements, troubling militarism and ableism, institutional heterosexism has persisted, most prominently represented by the conservative Protestant-led opposition to anti-discrimination policies. Drawing from ongoing research on the transpacific infrastructure of Christian conservatism and minority discourse, this talk takes as a starting point the place of the rainbow flag in the South Korean protest landscape.

Refusing Exile from Kinship?

Married Homosexual Men and the
Queering of the South Korean Family

JOHN SONG PAE CHO

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

"[...] WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SOUTH KOREAN FAMILY WHEN QUEER PEOPLE REFUSE TO BECOME SEXUAL EXILES."

On February 16, 2017, John Song Pae Cho of Sarah Lawrence College spoke at this Colloquium Series on Korean Cultural Studies event on "Queer Asia," a rising regional sexual imaginary that defies the thesis of queer globalization as Westernization. This event was co-hosted by the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, and the Korea Foundation. Professor Cho addressed the tendency of East Asian queer individuals to reject the Anglo-American model of homosexuality, which constructs gay identity apart from the blood family within alternative communities, in favor of filial ties and obligations. Professor Cho sought to answer the questions of how globalizing discourses of queerness impact the identities of queer South Korean individuals and their families, as well as what happens to the South Korean family when queer people refuse to become sexual exiles.

CO-SPONSORED BY



 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

KOREA 
FOUNDATION

한국국제교류재단



3 색 gender and sexuality

regional collaboration

ENABLED BY THE 5-YEAR ACADEMY OF KOREAN STUDIES CORE UNIVERSITY GRANT
AWARDED TO CKR IN LATE 2016, CKR SET ITS FORMAL REGIONAL COLLABORATION
PROGRAM IN MOTION IN SPRING 2017.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM

On March 8, 2017, International Women's Day, the Center for Korean Research co-hosted with Rutgers University a workshop convening scholars, teachers, authors, activists, feminists, and peacemakers to engage in critical dialogue about women's past contributions and future potential in achieving peace with justice. This event celebrated International Women's Day by sharing examples of women's efforts to reduce conflict and press for transformative peace with justice in multiple settings across the globe, and engaging with specific theories and actions found in this literature, as well as exploring the gaps—that is, identifying what is missing, and how to move in new directions. Some questions that the workshop explored include: What does it mean to focus on women as peacemakers? What are the strengths and limitations of women's grassroots organizing and women's leadership in electoral politics and international organizations like the UN in relation to peacebuilding or peacemaking? How does a women-centered vision of peace include working towards community level security, environmental justice, community-level anti-violence organizing, working with gangs in inner cities, or in sanctuary cities to protect undocumented migrants?

International Women's Day | Wednesday, March 8, 2017
conversations about
Women & Peacemaking
visions, actions, challenges



Z.L.W.2017

Zainichi Literature Workshop 2017

April 21-22, Lehigh University
Bethlehem, PA

INAUGURAL WORKSHOP ON ZAINICHI LITERARY STUDIES

On April 21 and 22, 2017, the Center for Korean Research is pleased to co-sponsor a workshop at Lehigh University on Zainichi ("residing in Japan") Korean authors, with the generous support from the Academy of Korean Studies. With the aim of encouraging new research on race/ethnicity, nationhood, empire, and diaspora through the study of zainichi literary texts, Lehigh University has invited a number of emerging and mid-career scholars from a number of different fields to present at the workshop. Together, workshop participants critically examine several lines of inquiry including how the conventional definition of zainichi literature as texts written in Japanese by ethnically Korean writers renders some texts and authors invisible; what tensions and alliances are forming today between zainichi authors and their Japanese and Korean peers; and how to unpack the discursive paradigms of modern Japanese literature, modern Korean literature, and (post) colonial literature in a way that doesn't presume the inevitability of the national frameworks in which they were produced.

beyond the San Francisco system

International Conference "BEYOND THE "SAN FRANCISCO SYSTEM" Seeking a Peace Regime in East Asia

The Center for Korean Research and the North East Asia Peace Center hosted the conference "Beyond the 'San Francisco System': Seeking a Peace Regime in East Asia" on October 28, 2016. Opening remarks were given by Young-Ho Kim and Charles Armstrong, calling for a peaceful and productive discussion to resolve historical issues arising from the San Francisco System. In the first panel, "The San Francisco Treaty, History, and International Law," several documentations of the treaty were presented to show various discrepancies as evidence that Japan's annexation of Korea was done without the proper consent of the Korean Empire. It was also argued that the San Francisco Peace Treaty tacitly condoned the Japanese annexation of Korea, which gave rise to current unresolved issues between the two countries. Since Korea was not a signatory of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, Jeong-Ho Roh presented the question of whether non-signatory countries are bound to the terms of such treaties. Etsuro Totsuka related Japan's past denials of government involvement in the "comfort women" system to the country's desire to maintain the terms of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, which did not address Japan's colonization of Korea. He noted that the comfort women issue has not been resolved, citing the dissatisfaction of the victims and the voice of the international community.

In the second panel, "The San Francisco System and International Order," Haruki Wada began by discussing how the San Francisco Peace Treaty and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty allowed Japan to be a "Peace State" that is armed but does not wage war. The defect of the pacifist thinking of the Japanese, he said, was a vague sense of war responsibility and a denial of responsibility

for the colonization of Korea. Byung-Joon Jung argued that the San Francisco Peace Treaty, by not addressing issues of Japan and its neighboring countries, left legacies of unresolved disputes over territories and wartime actions. Koh Odagawa called for Japanese government relief for Korean victims of colonization and Korean victims of the atomic bombing of Japan. He said that victims of the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster were a "negative legacy" of the San Francisco system, which allowed Japan to focus on the pursuit of new wealth and full reliance on nuclear power. In the third panel, "The San Francisco System, Territory and Territorial Disputes," Dekun Hu began by showing how the Allies' agreements on territorial issues regarding Japan were shaped by their interest in the Cold War, resulting in today's territorial disputes and instability in East Asia. Fumiaki Nozoe argued that Okinawa was and remains an essential keystone in the San Francisco system, at the same time "the Okinawa problem" is a negative legacy mainly because of the dissatisfaction of the residents with the overwhelming presence of the U.S. military and the accompanying discrimination they feel from the rest of Japan. Daqing Yang presented examples of contrasting and shifting interpretations and memories of wartime and colonial events between countries. Kimie Hara pointed out that while the vague stance on territorial issues in the San Francisco treaty was a foundation for disputes, economic-driven multilateral cooperation became the "glue" for regional co-operation. She proposed considering an application of a version of the Helsinki Accords to East Asian borders.

(continued on page 8)

JKS spring inaugural issue

JKS spring inaugural issue

BEGINNING WITH ITS SPRING 2017 ISSUE, THE JOURNAL OF KOREAN STUDIES WILL BE PUBLISHED BY DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

MICHAEL KIM

**The Han'gŭl Crisis and Language Standardization:
Clashing Orthographic Identities and the Politics of Cultural Construction**

RUSSELL BURGE

The Prison and the Postcolony: Contested Memory and the Museumification of Sŏdaemun Hyŏngmuso

HEEKYOUNG CHO

Transnationality and Coloniality in the Concept of Modern Korean Literature

HWANSOO KIM

Buddhism during the Chosŏn Dynasty (1392–1910): A Collective Trauma?

URI KAPLAN

Assembling the Laity: Standardizing Lay Buddhist Affiliation in Contemporary Korea

YOUJEONG OH

Global Flows and the Changing Place Identity of Myŏng-dong

YOUME KIM

**The Impact of Korean Ambassadors' Encounters with Qing Entertainments:
Focusing on Lantern Festivals, Fireworks, Plays, and Theater Facilities**

JOOYEON RHEE

**Making Sense of Fiction: Social and Political Functions of
Serialized Fiction in The Daily News (Maeil sinbo) in 1910s Korea**

DON CLARK

**Book Review of
A Family of No Prominence by EUGENE PARK**

CHEEHYUNG HARRISON KIM

**Book Review of
Democratization and Social Movements in South Korea:
Defiant Institutionalization by SUN-CHUL KIM**

MARK CAPRIO

**Book Review of
Empire of Dharma: Korean and Japanese Buddhism, 1877-1912 by HWANSOO ILMEE KIM**



THE CENTER FOR
KOREAN
RESEARCH

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1 SPRING 2017

interview with Hyunkyu Yi

interview with Hyunkyu Yi



HYUNKYU YI RECEIVED HIS B.A. IN HISTORY FROM YONSEI UNIVERSITY (1982) IN SEOUL, KOREA, AND RECEIVED M.A. IN EAST ASIAN HISTORY FROM YONSEI GRADUATE SCHOOL (1987). HE TAUGHT KOREAN AT THE KOREAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN YONSEI UNIVERSITY FROM 1988 TO 1996. HE JOINED COLUMBIA IN 1996 AND CONTINUES TO TEACH KOREAN AS SENIOR LANGUAGE LECTURER. ALEX YE OF CKR TALKS TO PROF. YI TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES TEACHING KOREAN.

Q. What made you decide to become a Korean language instructor?

A. After I received an M.A. in East Asian History from Yonsei University in 1987, I wanted to study in America to work toward a doctorate in modern Chinese history. While I was preparing for my study abroad, my colleagues suggested that I teach at the Yonsei Korean Language Institute to subsidize my studies, and there I discovered the joys of teaching Korean. I taught at Yonsei from 1988 to 1996, and half that time I taught Korean to the U.S. military in Korea. I was also invited to teach the I Corps in Tacoma, Washington for a brief three months, which was a valuable experience. By that time, my career path had seriously deviated from my initial plan of studying Chinese history in the U.S. But I didn't mind. I enjoyed interacting with the diverse student body — while many students were either Korean Americans or from Japan and China, we also had students from all around the world. This was mostly due to the 1988 Olympics and the U.S. military in Korea.

"I HOPE MY STUDENTS COME TO THINK OF LEARNING KOREAN AS FUN, TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY WOULD RECOMMEND THE LANGUAGE TO THEIR PEERS."

Q. How did you come to Columbia University?

A. Around 1996, one of my colleagues suggested I apply for a language instructor position in the US, so I applied to Columbia and was accepted. I came alone to this university in the summer of 1996; my wife, along with my two young daughters, came the following year. I have been teaching Korean at Columbia ever since — 21 years.

Q. Tell us about your approach to teaching the Korean language.

A. My main goal is to help my students attain language proficiency. I find that building a horizontal relationship with them works best: to always think from their point of view, not to be condescending, and to approach each student as a friend. Since I myself struggled to learn Japanese, Chinese, and English, it helps to put myself in their shoes in order to understand the difficulties they face. It also helps that my two daughters are in their early twenties, so I can ask their opinion on how to keep the learning material interesting to students of their age. I am mindful of the recent surge of popularity in Hallyu to prospective Korean learners, so I try to incorporate K-pop, K-drama, and other forms of media into the curriculum. I hope my students come to think of learning Korean as fun, to the extent that they would recommend the language to their peers.

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 5)

In the fourth panel, "The San Francisco System, Legacies, and Beyond," Young-Ho Kim said that the San Francisco treaty was being challenged by the future it created; the system is sandwiched between the two opposing forces of a Civil Asia that questions the past and "the Japanese tendency to revise the pre-war past." Myung-Lim Park discussed the possibility of creating a "perpetual peace template" for East Asia and said the best way may be a "mezzo community of sovereign states." Alexis Dudden showed a map of Japan released by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2014 in 12 languages that includes all disputed territories designated as part of Japan. She said the map challenged the legitimacy of the San Francisco treaty system and was an effort by Japan to get other countries to accede to its territorial claims.

Reviewing the panels, Carol Gluck urged participants to consider the historicity of the events they were discussing and cautioned against "retroactive moralizing." She said that territorial and historical disputes are used for domestic political reasons that can promote nationalism and hate and called for a focus on individual victims and for academia to use data on how to manage memory for the purpose of ameliorating conflict. Elazar Barkan of Columbia University stated that Asian countries have viewed history as its main conflict but should instead examine real interests. He emphasized that the first challenge was to recognize that history is political.

(continued from page 7)

Q. What are your goals for the future? What would you like to say to students who are learning Korean?

A. When I hear my students have become successful in academia it makes me feel proud; some of my older students have already become professors in Korean studies. It is my goal to keep creating more resources for prospective Korean studies graduate students and support the Korean language program at Columbia. Korean research will grow increasingly important with the growth of Korean economy and culture. The expanding number of TOPIK applicants is a sign of this; another immediate sign is that most of the students taking Korean language at Columbia are of non-Korean ethnicity. I encourage my students to become experts in Korean and inspire them to participate in Korea-related research, so that they contribute to the field. I say to my students: work hard, and develop a sense of purpose by asking yourselves why you want to study Korean. Finally, I would like to encourage my colleagues to continue their contributions to the Korean language program.



THE CENTER FOR
KOREAN
RESEARCH

CKR Newsletter 2016-17 issue

Director: Theodore Hughes
Senior Program Coordinator: Jooyeon Kim
Design Editor: Alex Ye
Events Editor: Hannah Story Brown

The Center for Korean Research
420 West 118th Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10027

CKR website: ckr.weai.columbia.edu
JKS website: jks.weai.columbia.edu
e-mail: ckrinfo@columbia.edu

Special thanks to the Tina Kim Gallery
for providing us with the artwork
by Young Woo Kwon and to
all contributors to our newsletter.