



director's note	2
ckr welcomes new faculty	3
<i>jks</i> fall 2017	4
workshop on buddhism	5
ckr-aks regional collaboration	6
student activities	7

CKR NEWSLETTER 2017 - 18

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“In 2017-2018, CKR made significant strides in its emphasis on premodern Korean studies.”



In 2017-2018, CKR made significant strides in its emphasis on premodern Korean studies. Seong Uk Kim joined the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures in fall 2017 as Il Hwan and Soon Ja Cho Assistant Professor of Korean Culture and Religion. Professor Kim's research investigates the intersections between Buddhism and other religions in premodern Korea. He is currently completing a book manuscript focusing on the intersection between Buddhism and Confucianism during the Chosŏn dynasty. Both Professor Seong Uk Kim and Jungwon Kim, King Sejong Assistant Professor of Korean Studies, organized major conferences on premodern Korea in 2017-2018. Seong Uk Kim's international conference, "The Encounter between Buddhism and Other Religious Traditions in East Asia," brought together scholars from China, Japan, Korea, and North America to explore transnational, interdisciplinary connections key to the study of premodern religious practices in East Asia. Scheduled for May 2018, Jungwon Kim's "Archives, Archival Practice, and the Writing of History in Premodern Korea" will provide a forum for top scholars of premodern Korea to gather at Columbia and discuss papers that will later comprise a special issue of the *Journal of Korean Studies* (edited by Jungwon Kim).

We are very happy that Dr. Joowon Suh joined the CKR in fall 2017. Dr. Suh is Senior Lecturer in Korean and Director of the Korean Language Program in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. Her research interests include Korean lin-

guistics and language pedagogy, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, interlanguage pragmatics and intercultural communication. Prior to joining Columbia in 2017, she taught at Princeton University as Senior Lecturer and Director of the Korean Language Program. CKR looks forward to working with Dr. Suh to enhance Korean language/pedagogy-related programming at Columbia.

In 2018-2019, CKR will welcome So-Rim Lee as a CKR-AKS Postdoctoral Fellow. So-Rim Lee will complete her Ph.D. at Stanford in Summer 2018. Her research focuses on popular culture, neoliberalism, performance studies, and visual cultures.

CKR moved into the second year of its 5-year Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) Core University Grant (\$896,442) in 2017-2018. Working closely with the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, and the Starr East Asian Library, CKR has made use of the grant to create new graduate fellowships, as well as support student groups, adjunct teaching, Korean collection cataloging, and Korea-related programming both across Columbia and in the tri-state area via CKR's Regional Collaboration Program.

The Center for Korean Research and Columbia University Press partnered to create a new Korean Studies Book Initiative in 2017. A \$10,000 subvention will be awarded each year on a competitive basis to an author who has secured a contract from Columbia University Press for an outstanding Korea-related book in any

(continued on page 8)



CKR WELCOMES NEW FACULTY



Seong Uk Kim

The Il Hwan and Soon Ja Cho Assistant
Professor of Korean Culture and Religion

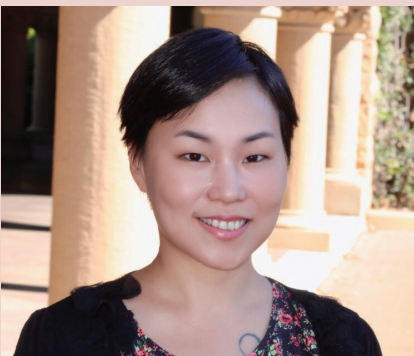
Seong Uk Kim is the Il Hwan and Soon Ja Cho Assistant Professor of Korean Culture and Religion in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. He received his Ph.D. in Korean Religions and Korean Buddhism with a subfield in East Asian Religions and Religious Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles (2013). His research interests include the intersections between Buddhism and other religions, religion and politics in modern and pre-modern Korea, and Buddhist transformation in the colonial and contemporary periods. His publications include "The Re-Invention of Korean Sŏn Buddhism in the Late Chosŏn: Paekp'a Kŭngsŏn (1767-1852) and His Three-Fold Sŏn Taxonomy," "Korean Confucianization of Zen: Ch'ŏui Ŭisun's (1786-1866) Affirmation of a Confucian Literati Approach to Buddhism in Late Chosŏn," and "The Zen Theory of Language: Linji Yixuan's Teaching of 'Three Statements, Three Mysteries, and Three Essentials.'" Before coming to Columbia, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis (2013-2014) and Harvard University (2014-2015). In his first year at Columbia, he has taught "Introduction to East Asian Civilizations: Korea," "Colloquium on Major Texts: East Asia," and "Buddhism and Korean Culture."



Joowon Suh

Director of the Korean Language Program
in the Department of East Asian
Languages and Cultures

Joowon Suh is a Senior Lecturer in Korean and Director of the Korean Language Program in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. Prior to joining Columbia, she was at Princeton University as Senior Lecturer and Director of the Korean Language Program. Her research interests include Korean linguistics and language pedagogy, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, interlanguage pragmatics and intercultural communication. She co-authored the KLEAR Integrated Korean Workbook Series: Beginning 1 (2009), Beginning 2 (2010), Intermediate 1 (2012), and Intermediate II (2013). She is currently working in collaboration to revise the KLEAR Integrated Korean Textbook Series and to create the second edition of the accompanying workbook series. Her most recent publication also includes "English as lingua franca in multilingual business negotiations: Managing miscommunication using other-initiated repairs" in L. Grujicic-Alatrisme (Ed.), Linking discourse studies to professional practice (Multilingual Matters, 2015). She also served on the task forces that created Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Korean (2012) and College Korean Curriculum Inspired by National Standards for Korean (2015). She is currently serving her second three-year term as the Executive Secretary of the American Association of Teachers of Korean. She is also serving on the editorial boards of Korean Semantics and Language and Information Society and as a reviewer for Journal of Less Commonly Taught Languages and New York State TESOL Journal.



So-Rim Lee

CKR-AKS Postdoctoral Fellow in
Korean Studies, 2018-19

So-Rim Lee is a post-doctoral scholar with research interests in contemporary popular culture's complex embodiments of neoliberalism through performance studies and visual culture, with a focus on modern South Korea. She also researches on beauty as a mode of neoliberal governmentality, K-pop's transnationalism, everyday performance in the discourse of self-care, and the intersections between theater and visual culture. So-Rim Lee holds a B.A. in Film Studies from Columbia University, an M.A. in English Literature from Seoul National University, an M.A. in Text and Performance from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and a Ph.D. in Theater and Performance Studies from Stanford University. In her doctoral dissertation, "Performing the Self: Cosmetic Surgery and the Political Economy of Beauty," So-Rim investigates South Korea's cosmetic surgery industry and the politics of self-management in the twenty-first century. So-Rim Lee will be joining CKR faculty as the recipient of the CKR-AKS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Korean Studies for the 2018-19 academic year. She will teach "Korean Popular Cinema," a course that will survey modern Korean culture and society through Korean popular cinema. Drawing from weekly screenings and readings on critical film and Korean studies, the course will explore major topics and defining historical moments in modern Korean history post-1945.



Special Thematic Issue “The Cold War in Korean Cinemas”
Guest editor introduction by Steve Chung and Hyun Seon Park

CHRISTINA KLEIN

Cold War Cosmopolitanism: The Asia Foundation and 1950s Korean Cinema

HAN SANG KIM

Film Auteurism as a Cold War Governmentality: Alternative Knowledge and the Formation of Liberal Subjectivity

SANG JOON LEE

Destination Hong Kong: The Geopolitics of South Korean Espionage Films in the 1960s

EVELYN SHIH

Doubled Over 007: “Aryu Pondŭ” and Genre-Mixing Comedy in Korea

HYUN SEON PARK

Cold War Mnemonics: History, Melancholy, and Landscape in South Korean Films of the 1960s

JEEHEY KIM

Wandering Ghosts of the Cold War: Military Sex Workers in the Film Tour of Duty (Kömi ūi ttang)

JINHEE PARK

Departure and Repatriation as Cold War Dissensus: Domestic Ethnography in Korean Documentary

JESOOK SONG

Book Review of The Korean State and Social Policy: How South Korea Lifted Itself from Poverty and Dictatorship to Affluence and Democracy by STEIN RINGEN, HUCK-JU KWON, ILCHEONG YI, TAEKYOON KIM, and JOOHA LEE and State-centric to Contested Social Governance in South Korea: Shifting Power by HYUK-RAE KIM

CHEEHYUNG HARRISON KIM

Book Review of The Capitalist Unconscious: From Korean Unification to Transnational Korea by HYUN OK PARK

NAN KIM

Book Review of Korea’s Grievous War by SU-KYONG HWANG

HAERIN SHIN

Book Review of Tourist Distractions: Traveling and Feeling in Transnational Hallyu Cinema by YOUNGMIN CHOE

WORKSHOP ON BUDDHISM

feature piece by Dohee Kang, M.A.
The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

“The Encounter Between Buddhism and Other Religious Traditions in East Asia”

The workshop entitled “The Encounter between Buddhism and Other Religious Traditions in East Asia” was held in the Kent Hall Lounge on Friday, November 10, 2017. The event was sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and the Department of Religion of Columbia University, the Academy of Korean Studies, and the Columbia Alumni Association of Korea.

After the welcome remarks by Prof. Seong Uk Kim of Columbia University, Prof. Bernard Faure of Columbia University gave a keynote speech, which problematized the common association between compassion and Bodhisattva and highlighted the mysterious and supernormal characteristics of the prototype in various forms of Bodhisattva cult in China and Japan. In the first panel on Chinese Buddhism, Prof. Silong Li of Peking University discussed how Zhiyi, the founder of Tiantai Buddhism, integrated medical terminology and theories of Taoism and folk medicine when addressing diseases in his writings on meditation. Prof. Michael Como of Columbia University then explored the adaptations of Buddhist textual culture in ancient Japan by focusing on two texts: the legendary scripture said to have been copied out and buried by the Chinese monk Huisi and later recovered by Prince Shōtoku, the purported founder of Japanese Buddhism, and a temple inventory allegedly written by Shōtoku.

In the second panel on Buddhism during the Choson dynasty, Prof. Jongwook Kim of Dongguk University illustrated the philosophical arguments through which the seventeenth-century Buddhist monk Unbong Taeji asserted the superiority of Buddhism over Neo-Confucianism and concluded that the monk’s emphasis on the cultivation of the individual was tied to the importance of establishing subjectivity after the Japanese invasions. Prof. Yongtae Kim of Dongguk University demonstrated that the Buddhist account of the afterlife, absent in Confucianism and eventually shaped by Buddhist monks to accommodate the Confucian concept of filial piety, not only contributed to the survival of Buddhism in a Confucian-dominant society but also prepared the society for the advent of Catholicism. Prof. Seong Uk Kim of Columbia University focused on the intersections between Buddhism and indigenous beliefs by examining Monk Paekp’a’s manuals, which, unlike previous manuals, not only instructs that independent rituals be held for folk deities and but also makes their status equivalent to that of buddhas.



Prof. Bernard Faure delivering a keynote speech at the workshop.

THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN BUDDHISM AND OTHER RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS IN EAST ASIA

PARTICIPANTS:
Bernard Faure, Columbia University
Jongwook Kim, Academy of Korean Studies
Silong Li, Peking University
Michael Como, Columbia University
Jongwook Kim, Dongguk University
Yongtae Kim, Dongguk University
Seong Uk Kim, Columbia University
Kang Minwoo, University of Tokyo
J. Alex Muirman, Brown College

SPONSORED BY:
The Center for Korean Research, Columbia University

CO-SPONSORED BY:
The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University; Department of Religion, Columbia University; The Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul, Korea; Columbia Alumni Association of Korea

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM • Friday, November 10, 2017 • Kent Hall 403

THE CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH
REGISTER AT: cckr.columbia.edu

(continued on page 8)



CKR-AKS REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Thanks to the Academy of Korean Studies core university grant,
CKR cosponsored the following Korea-related events in the tristate area.

On October 4, Sarah Lawrence College invited filmmaker Kyung-Mook Kim to discuss his 2011 film, *Stateless Things*. During his presentation “Making the Invisible Visible: Queer Korean Cinema, National Others, and Making of Queer Space in *Stateless Things*,” Kyung-Mook Kim discussed how through his many works he explores the uncertain lives of marginalized groups of people, such as homosexuals, transsexuals, sex workers, North Korean defectors, and others, to reveal the ambiguity of boundaries lying between appearance/disappearance, visibility/invisibility, and presence/absence.

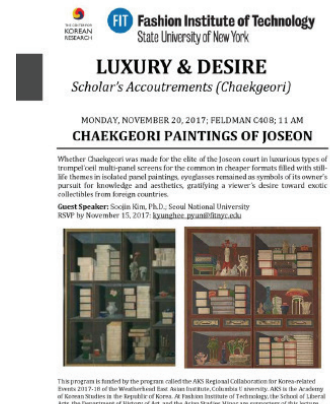
On November 20, the Fashion Institute of Technology invited Soojin Kim, Research Fellow at the Kyujanggak Institute, Seoul National University, to present Chaekgeori paintings of the Chosŏn dynasty, in relation to the themes of luxury and desire in the accoutrements of scholars. Dr. Kim explained that Chaekgeori paintings were made for the elite of the Chosŏn court with their luxurious trompe-l'oeil, multi-panel screens, filled with still-life

themes in each isolated panel paintings.

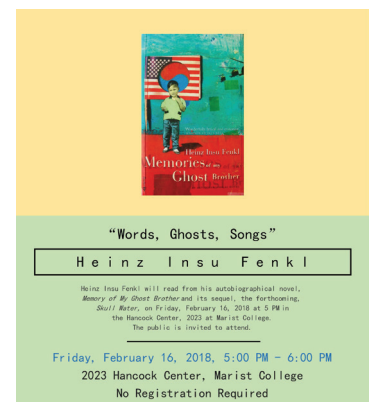
On January 4-7, the MLA Korea Executive Committee held the Korean Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Forum at the 2018 NYC MLA, providing the opportunity for scholars to share their findings and experiences on Korean language and literature studies.

On February 16, Marist College invited Heinz Insu Fenkl to read from his autobiographical novel, *Memory of My Ghost Brother*, and discuss his experience growing up in Korea as a biracial child in the 1960s.

On March 28, Stony Brook University invited Young Min Moon to present his recent painting series *Some Sense of Order*, which investigates the ideas of repetition, order, and “sense.” Since 2012, he has painted hundreds of small-size oil on canvas based on one single image: a man caught amid the act of prostration. The event began with art historian Sohl Lee’s introduction to a group of contemporary artists in South Korea who take self-conscious approaches to revisit the visual and cultural fragments of premodern tradition.



"Luxury & Desire: Scholar's Accoutrements (Chaekgeori)" at the Fashion Institute of Technology

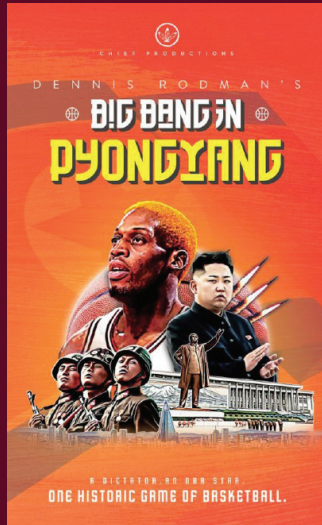


"Words, Ghosts, Songs" at Marist College



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

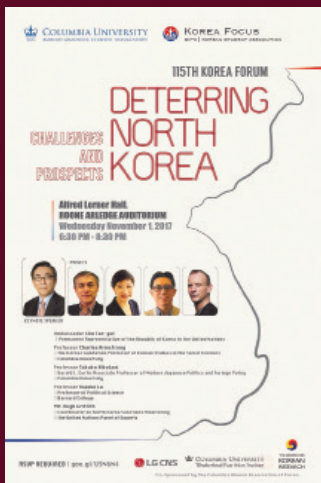
CKR continues to cosponsor Korea-related student activities on campus.



Oct. 24 Dennis Rodman's Big Bang in Pyongyang

Movie screening followed by Q & A with Joseph D Terwilliger (Columbia University)

Co-sponsored by *Asia Pacific Affairs Council*

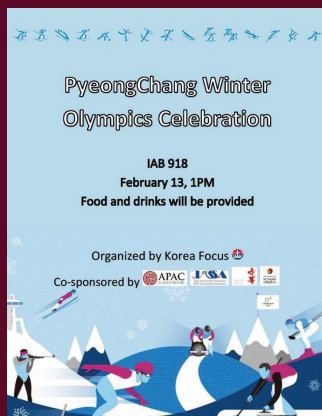


Nov. 1 Detering North Korea: Challenges and Prospects

115th Korea Forum

Speakers: Ambassador Cho Tae-yul, Charles Armstrong (Columbia University), Takako Hikotania (Columbia University), Xiaobo Lu (Columbia University), Hugh Griffith (United Nations)

Co-sponsored by *Korean Graduate Student Association, SIPA Korea Focus, Columbia Alumni Association of Korea, LG CNS, and Weatherhead East Asian Institute*



Feb. 13 PyeongChang Winter Olympics Celebration

Organized by *SIPA Korea Focus*

(continued from page 5)

In their Q & A session, the Korean professors accounted for the dominance of Confucianism over Buddhism in Chosŏn: the corruption of Buddhism as a powerful religion in the previous dynasty did not leave a good impression; Confucian scholars believed Buddhism to be at odds with ethics, since the Buddhist emphasis on the mind neglected directionality of actions; and Confucians also found Buddhism to be inconsistent with filial piety, its origins barbarian, and its claims of afterlife dubious. The professors touched on the effects of the Imjin War, during which Buddhist chanting became popular due to its accessibility and spirituality. Buddhism came to survive the rest of the Chosŏn era, partly by remaining active in the mountains, emphasizing afterlife, and embracing folk religions. The panelists explained that the significance of their panel lay in their interpretation of Chosŏn Buddhism as a religion that stayed active in private realms, as opposed to the long-held narrative of the suppressed Chosŏn Buddhism.

One of the questions raised during the Q&A session asked how Christianity came to be much more dominant in Korea now than in other East Asian countries, when Chosŏn was "the most Confucian state in East Asia." Prof. Jongwook Kim suggested that the very dominance of Neo-Confucianism led to its downfall. He also pointed to a certain commensurability between Confucianism and Christianity, recalling the Neo-Confucian concept of Supreme-Ultimate explored in his talk and pointing to its parallels with the Christian heaven. Prof. Yongtae Kim added that the concept of equality in Christianity appealed to the people under the hierarchical system of Confucianism. Prof. Jongwook Kim further explained that the American presence after liberation largely contributed to the spread of Protestantism.

In the third panel on Japanese Buddhism, Prof. Kenryo Minowa of University of Tokyo challenged the claims that either Shinto and Buddhism was dominant in premodern Japan and suggested the ways in which both religions sustained their identities without dominating each other by analyzing the ceremonies at Kōfukuji and Ho-onji. Prof. D. Max Moerman of Barnard College explored the rituals of sutra burial performed by the priests at the Ise Grand Shrine, a Shinto shrine dedicated to the guardian deities of the royal family.

Present as a learner and an interpreter at the conference, I was happy to see that Korean Buddhism was finally well-represented at an event on East Asian Buddhism. Thanks to the Center for Korean Research, sponsors, engaged audience, and panelists--half of whom traveled all the way from Korea, China, and Japan--the event was a great success.

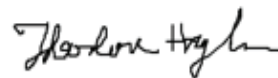
(continued from page 2)

academic discipline and covering any time period. We are happy to announce our first title for the Initiative, *Colonizing Language: Cultural Production and Language Politics in Modern Japan and Korea*, a groundbreaking work by Christina Yi (University of British Columbia).

Also on the publishing front, the *Journal of Korean Studies* (<http://jks.weai.columbia.edu/>), housed at CKR, has now fully transitioned to its new publisher, Duke University Press. We look forward to working closely with Duke over the coming years. I would like to thank Jooyeon Kim, CKR Assistant Director and JKS Managing Editor, for her leadership during this transition process.

CKR continues to expand its activities, locally, nationally, and internationally. We are very grateful for the support provided by the M.S. Shin Fund, the Columbia Alumni Association of Korea, the Academy of Korean Studies, the Korea Foundation, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute.

Yours truly,



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
THE CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH



CKR Newsletter 2017-18 issue

Director: Theodore Hughes
Assistant Director: Jooyeon Kim
Design Editor: Alex Ye
Workshop on Buddhism feature: Dohee Kang

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
YoungJin Brian Kim
for the front page cover picture.
([instagram.com/foto_jinb](https://www.instagram.com/foto_jinb))

