

CKR NEWSLETTER 2018 - 2019

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Director's Note (2018-19)

The Center for Korean Research sponsored a number of events in the 2018-2019 academic year, including a well-attended roundtable discussion bringing a group of younger scholars together from across the disciplines in Korean studies, as well as a groundbreaking workshop organized by Professor Hyaeweol Choi (University of Iowa), "Between the Sacred and the Secular: Christianity as Lived Experience in Modern Korea." Papers presented at the latter will form the basis for a special issue of the *Journal of Korean Studies*, Fall 2020.

In 2018-2019, CKR was happy to host two postdoctoral fellows, Hye Eun Choi (Korea Foundation Fellow) and So Rim Lee (Academy of Korean Studies Postdoctoral Fellow). Dr. Choi and Dr. Lee were active and vital members of the Korean studies community at Columbia during their stay. We are very grateful to them for joining us and for jointly organizing the first-ever workshop at Columbia devoted to Korean music, "100 Years of Korean Popular Music." Please see profiles of Dr. Choi and Dr. Lee in this newsletter.

The Korean Language Program (KLP) in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures continues to thrive under the leadership of Dr. Joowon Suh. We would like to congratulate Dr. Suh on her election to the Presidency of the American Association of Teachers of Korean (AATK). We would also like to welcome Dr. Ji-Young Jung to the KLP. CKR looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the KLP on the programming front in the years to come.

CKR continues to serve as the mainstay for Korea-related activities at Columbia. We would like to express our gratitude for the support provided by the M.S. Shin Family 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.



"CKR continues to serve as the mainstay for Korea-related activities at Columbia."

Yours truly,

Theresa - High -

2018-2019 Events



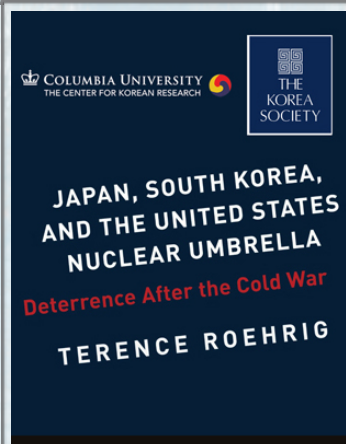
"Literature and Resistance: A Conversation with Hwang Jungeun and Song Kyung-dong"

Thursday, September 13, 2018

"Korea at a Crossroads: Japan, South Korea, and the United States Nuclear Umbrella With US Naval War College's Terence Roehrig"

Thursday, October 25, 2018

US Naval War College Professor and Asia-Pacific Studies Group Director Terence Roehrig discusses the nuclear umbrella in Northeast Asia in the context of deterrence theory and US strategy. In conversation with the Society's Stephen Noerper, Roehrig examines the role of the nuclear umbrella in South Korean and Japanese defense planning and security calculations, including the potential for either the ROK or Japan developing its own nuclear weapons.



"Legacies of Leftism in Film and Media Theory: East Asia and Beyond" Roundtable Discussion

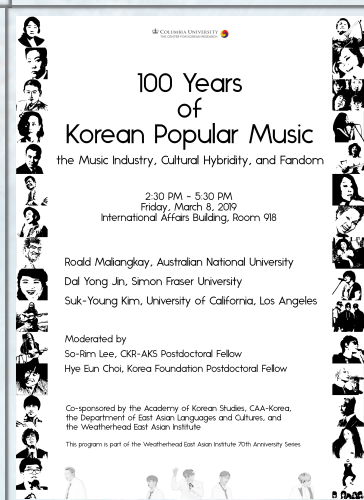
Friday, March 1 - Saturday, March 2, 2019



"Between the Sacred and the Secular: Christianity as Lived Experience in Modern Korea"

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

The papers presented at the workshop underwent collegial, constructive criticism in further strengthening their manuscript for possible publication in the special themed JKS issue volume 25, number 2.

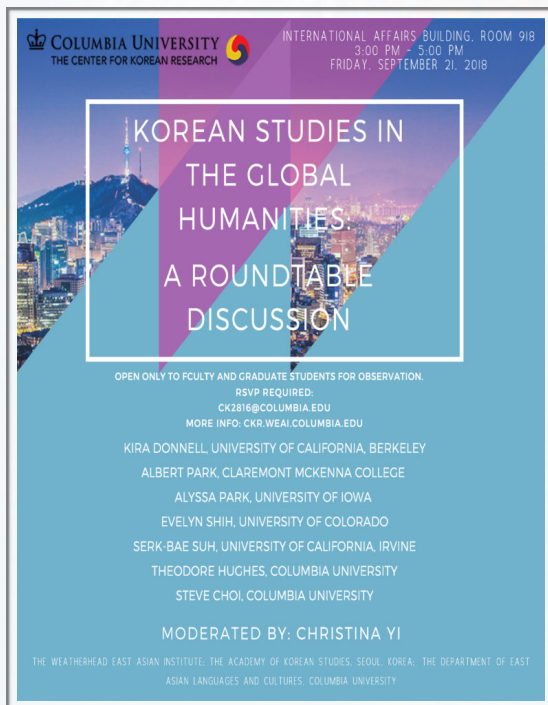


"100 Years of Korean Popular Music"

Friday, March 8, 2019

The symposium brings together three distinguished scholars in the field of media history, ethnomusicology, and cultural studies to examine the development of Korean popular music from the colonial period to the present. This program is a part of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute's 70th Year Anniversary series.

Featured Events



"Korean Studies in the Global Humanities: A Roundtable Discussion"

Friday, September 21, 2018

Composed of scholars whose Korea-related work takes a transnational approach, the roundtable discussion dealt with issues related to theoretical and archival work, as well as with thoughts on future directions Korea-related scholarship might take. The transcript will be published as a special feature in the Journal of Korean Studies volume 24, number 2.

"Feminism in South Korea: A Conversation with Professor Ju Hui Judy Han, UCLA"

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

On November 7th, Korea Focus, in collaboration with The Center for Korean Research, Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, The Morningside Post, and the Human Rights Working Group, held a conversation on feminism in Korea with Professor Ju Hui Judy Han of UCLA. Professor Han discussed the history of Korean women's movement and the feminist movement, the Gangnam Station murder case, the spy porn epidemic in South Korea, and more. During the conversation, Professor Han and the attendees were able to discuss how culture and history shape feminism in Korea differently from other countries. It was an eye-opening dialogue in which students and participants were also able to share their own stories on how sexism and backlashes on feminism affected their well-being. Professor Han ended the conversation on a positive note, saying that feminism is gaining traction in South Korea, and she expects more people to come out publicly as feminists and support the movement.



- Sarah Hong, Korea Focus's VP of Communications

Spotlight: Joowon Suh



Joowon Suh is a Senior Lecturer in Korean and the Director of the Korean Language Program at Columbia University. 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.

We would like to extend a warm congratulations to Joowon Suh on her appointment as President of American Association for Teachers of Korean (AATK) this year. AATK was founded in 1994 for all levels of teachers of the Korean language, culture, and literature in the United States of America. Joowon Suh will serve for three years until 2021 and has recently begun her term.

This is an interview with Professor Suh conducted by Leslie Junco, an undergraduate student at the School of General Studies of Columbia University pursuing a B.A. in East Asian Studies.

1. As the President of the American Association for Teachers of Korean, **what is your main goal to accomplish and how do you plan on strengthening the advocacy for the Korean language** in the U.S. at such a pivotal time of globalization?

This is an interesting and at the same time challenging opportunity for me. I have been working for the organization for the past 9 years as an officer, but this position is more meaningful in the sense that I felt tremendous responsibility as the leader of the organization. It is more so because it is the first time that a non-tenured professor is elected president, getting out of the usual standards, and for someone in my generation to hold the position. The field of Korean language education has been growing exponentially, growing with the body of students. **This changes what the profession of a Korean teacher really means.** One of my main goals is to further professionalize the field—we cannot simply accept that because there are those who speak Korean and happen to live in the U.S. that they can become Korean teachers—it's more complicated than that. Those who are coming into the field need the resources and that's what we plan on

providing, especially now that we have grown as an organization to 400 general members. It might seem small, relatively, but for the young field, it is sometimes more complex to manage than you may think.

2. You joined Columbia University in 2017, previously teaching at Princeton University. **What are your focuses as a professor and how is Columbia different from other schools from your point of view?**

The biggest difference is the graduate program and the size of the Korean language program. We cannot compare to UC Berkley, UCLA or University of Hawaii, but those are in California and Hawaii; among private universities, Columbia University is a big program and I'm still getting used to it. More students, more TAs—it's a huge undertaking. In terms of the graduate program, many more graduate students and more extensive training. **The professors are vigorously training graduate students to be professors elsewhere with a very high success rate.** The Korean language program is a very essential part of their graduate training. We're aiming to address the diverse needs and demands of the growing body of students.

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THE JOURNAL OF KOREAN STUDIES

JKS Volume 23, Number 2, October 2018

Thematic Issue: Science and Literature in North and South Korea

Guest Editors: Christopher P. Hanscom and Dafna Zur

Literature and Science: The State of the Field in Korean Studies
Jongyon Hwang

As the Crow Flies: Yi Sang's Aerial Poetics
John Kim

Fantasy, the Final Frontier: Making Science Moral in Postwar North Korean Youth Culture
Dafna Zur

The Neurocognitive Criminology of Avenging Memories: Dissociative Violence in Young-ha Kim's The Mnemonics of a Murderer
Haerin Shin

The Posthuman and Transboundary Imagination in Contemporary Korean Literature: Considering the Works of Pae Myŏnghun and Yun Ihyŏng
Namkyung Yeon

Between Science and Politics: Science Fiction As a Critical Discourse in South Korea 1960s-1990s
Sunyoung Park

Encountering the Alien: Alterity and Innovation in North Korean Science Fiction since 1945
Benoit Berthelier

Monstrous Science: The Great Monster Yong'gari (1967) and Cold War Science in 1960s South Korea
Chunggang Kim

Madness, Medicine, and Masculinity in Kim Tongin's "Oh, the Frail-hearted"
Yoon Sun Yang

Book Reviews

Protest Dialectics by Paul Chang
Reviewed by Sun-Chul Kim

Curative Violence: Rehabilitating Disability, Gender, and Sexuality in Modern Korea by Eunjung Kim
Reviewed by Jesook Song

Korean American Pioneer Aviators: The Willows Airmen by Edward T. Chang and Woo Sung Han
Reviewed by Jang Wook Huh

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3. As a student learning the Korean language, I admire the work and effort you put into the creation of the various Korean textbooks, and also thank you of course. **What are the main differences between the KLEAR textbooks and other Korean learning aids available?**

The KLEAR textbook series is published by the University of Hawaii Press and they're one of the best selling textbooks since it can be used for self-study and is clear and easy to follow. The first edition was published in 1998 and the authors of the first edition worked on it for five years. The second edition published in 2008 and the upcoming third edition by the next generation researchers including myself are also the products of multiple-year endeavor. In the states, one cannot publish a Korean textbook as easily; the process in Korea is shorter and have more manpower, whereas here, professors are teaching full-time. Also, these textbooks are written for English-speaking students, with explanations in English. Students may not notice the interesting way of explaining the grammar points, but linguistics definitely do—it is not taught based on linguistic theory—it is pedagogically structured. Students don't have to know the whole picture right away, making it more accessible.

"Students may not notice the interesting way of explaining the grammar points, but linguistics definitely do—it is not taught based on linguistic theory—it is pedagogically structured."

4. There is an exponential interest in the Korean culture in the U.S., as you know. How do you see the Korean language transforming in the upcoming years and **what advice would you give the Korean language teachers and professors, but also the students who are exploring this field?**

In my personal opinion, I think it is very important to be open-minded. Is the Korean language the most inventive language? I don't want to claim that. We also have to embrace all forms of language, like internet language. People used to speak the same form of the language, more or less, in Korea, but not anymore. The older generation no longer fully understands the younger generation's use of the language. There is a tendency for teachers to go, "you can't teach that," but yes, you must. **It is a socio-linguistic aspect of the language that makes language teaching even more interesting and stimulating.** Students relate to the language of the present time and want to use it right away. We have to get out of that traditional, conventional thought of being proud of the Korean culture no matter what—I am and it is to me—but I know at the same time we cannot simply argue that it is the best culture or language in the world. We have to use the community resources to reach the students to use the language outside of the classroom. Korean popular culture brought in interested students, but it will go away at some point. What we are left with is very important, the students, their varying needs. We have to entice the students to the country and its culture to a deeper level through the language. ❖

Spotlight: New Faculty

Ji-Young Jung

This year we welcome Ji-Young Jung, lecturer of the Korean language at Columbia. She received her Ed.M. (2002) and Ed.D. (2009) in Applied Linguistics from Teachers College, Columbia University. Her research interests include intercultural pragmatics, discourse analysis, foreign language pedagogy and heritage language acquisition. She has taught all levels of Korean for the last thirteen years, including Korean for Heritage Speakers and language-and-content courses such as Current Korean Media and Advanced Readings in Korean (using contemporary Korean literature). Prior to coming to Columbia in 2018, she taught at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently co-authoring Accelerated Korean I and II for the KLEAR Korean Textbook Series (University of Hawai'i Press).



THE JOURNAL OF KOREAN STUDIES

JKS Volume 24, Number 1, March 2019

Kwisin in Chosŏn Literati Writings: Multi-layered Recognition, Cultural Sensibility and Imagination

Keysook Choe

The Story of the Eastern Chamber: Dilemmas of Vernacular Language and Political Authority in Eighteenth Century Chosŏn

Sixiang Wang

The Making of a Foreign National Language: Language Politics and the Impasse between Assimilationists and Language Nationalists in Colonial Korea

Daniel Pieper

Singing Katiusha: Tolstoy's Resurrection in 1910s Korea

Susanna Lim

North Korea's Marxism-Leninism: Fraternal Criticisms and the Development of North Korean Ideology in the 1960s

Thomas Stock

Are North Korean Compatriots 'Korean'? The Trifurcation of Ethnic Nationalism in South Korea during the Syngman Rhee Era (1948-1960)

Bumsoo Kim

Book Review Essay

Strategies, Struggles, and Sites of Transformation in Korean Political Economy

Jamie Doucette

Book Reviews

Contested Embrace: Transborder Membership Politics in Twentieth-Century Korea by Jaeun Kim

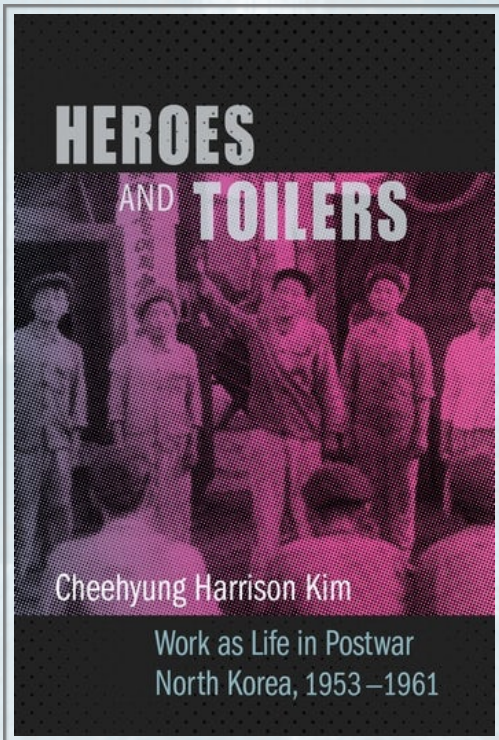
Reviewed by Han Sang Kim

South Korea at the Crossroads: Autonomy and Alliance in an Era of Rival Powers by Scott A. Snyder

Reviewed by Stephen Noerper

CKR-CUP Book Series Initiative

The Center for Korean Research at Columbia University and Columbia University Press have partnered to create a Korean studies book initiative. 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 academic discipline and covering any time period. This year, CKR is pleased to announce the publications of **Christina Yi's** *Colonizing Language: Cultural Production and Language Politics in Modern Japan and Korea* and **Cheehyung Harrison Kim's** *Heroes and Toilers: Work as Life in Postwar North Korea, 1953-1961* published by Columbia University Press. With this series we hope to advance Korea-related scholarship in the social sciences and humanities.



Harrison Kim's *Heroes and Toilers: Work as Life in Postwar North Korea, 1953-1961* published by Columbia University Press. With this series we hope to advance Korea-related scholarship in the social sciences and humanities.

Heroes and Toilers: Work as Life in Postwar North Korea, 1953-1961

Cheehyung Harrison Kim

Date of Publication: November 2018

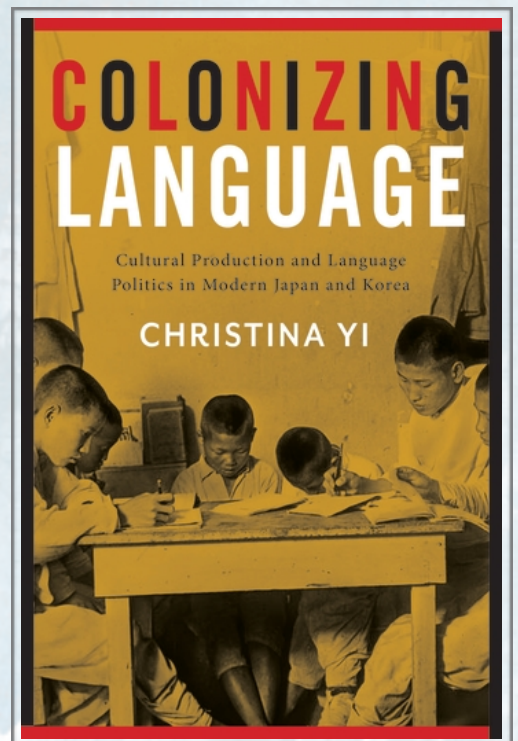
In search of national unity and state control in the decade following the Korean War, North Korea turned to labor. Mandating rapid industrial growth, the government stressed order and consistency in everyday life at both work and home. In *Heroes and Toilers*, Cheehyung Harrison Kim offers an unprecedented account of life and labor in postwar North Korea that brings together the roles of governance and resistance.

Colonizing Language: Cultural Production and Language Politics in Modern Japan and Korea

Christina Yi

Date of publication: March 6, 2018

With the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1894, Japan embarked on a policy of territorial expansion. Acquisition of Taiwan occurred in 1895, soon followed by the annexation of Korea in 1910. Assimilation policies in Japan's colonies led to a significant body of literature written in Japanese by colonial writers by the 1930s. After its unconditional surrender to the Allied powers in 1945, Japan abruptly receded to a nation-state, establishing its present-day borders. Following Korea's liberation, Korean was claimed as the national language of the Korean people, and Japanese-language texts were purged from the Korean literary canon. At the same time, these same texts were excluded from the Japanese literary canon, which was reconfigured along national, rather than imperial, borders.



Postdoctoral Fellows

So-Rim Lee



So-Rim Lee is CKR-AKS Postdoctoral Fellow. Her research interests are in contemporary popular culture's complex embodiments of neoliberalism through performance studies and visual culture, with a focus on modern South Korea. So-Rim also researches on beauty as a mode of neoliberal govern-mentality, K-pop's transnationalism, everyday performance in the discourse of self-care, and the intersections between theater and visual culture. So-Rim 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 in Korea*, So-Rim investigates South Korea's cosmetic surgery industry and the politics of self-management in the twenty-first century. So-Rim joined our faculty as the recipient of the CKR-AKS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Korean Studies for the 2018-19 academic year. She will be teaching "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. So-Rim Lee will be co-organizing with Dr. Hye Eun Choi the upcoming CKR symposium "100 Years of Korean Popular Music." She is also currently working on an article on Korean ASMRtists on YouTube for an upcoming critical anthology on Korean media studies titled, *The Korean Television Reader*.

Hye Eun Choi

Hye Eun Choi is a Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. She received her Ph.D. in History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her M.A. in Asian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. At Columbia, she is revising her dissertation into a book manuscript, tentatively titled, *Inventing Modern Sound Culture: The Transnational Recording Industry in Colonial Korea (1910-1945)*. Her project traces the modern transformation of sound culture in colonial Korea, focusing on the recording industry at the intersection of Japanese imperial rule and the globalized capitalist economy.

Dr. Choi wrote to CKR to discuss her upcoming projects and academia in the works to look forward to in the upcoming year.



...Continued on page 11

"My project further demonstrates how Korean sound professionals situated in this coeval soundscape negotiated, cooperated, and competed to produce records in various music and narrative genres, which combined global and regional influences."



- The Korean K-pop group, BTS at the 2019 Grammy Awards, *Variety Magazine*

"I am currently revising my dissertation into a book manuscript for publication. For this project, I examine the birth of the Korean recording industry within the Japanese Empire against the backdrop of the globalized capitalist economy. I argue that the profit-seeking of transnational record companies played the most significant role in the creation of the recording industry in Korea as well as in East Asia as a whole. My project further demonstrates how Korean sound professionals situated in this coeval soundscape negotiated, cooperated, and competed to produce records in various music and narrative genres, which combined global and regional influences. In doing so, I foreground the individual agency of sound professionals in the formation of modern Korean sound culture.

Last semester, I had the excellent opportunity to discuss my dissertation in a meeting of Dr. Theodore Hughes's graduate seminar. I received very insightful comments from Dr. Hughes and his students, which have been greatly helpful in revising my project. In addition, I have revised and submitted one of my dissertation chapters for publication. Dr. Jungwon Kim's comments were invaluable for this.

Thanks to the generous support of the Center for Korean Research and EALAC, my book manuscript workshop is scheduled in early May. Dr. Charles Armstrong has brought together a group of eminent scholars, including Dr. Kim Brandt, to provide me with in-depth feedback to help improve my project. I look forward to the workshop very much. Dr. So-Rim Lee and I are co-organizing a symposium titled "100 Years of Korean Popular Music," which is scheduled to take place in the spring. The scholars taking part in this symposium are Drs. Roald Maliangkay, Dal Yong Kin and Suk-Young Kim. They will give talks on Korean popular music within broad economic, political, and cultural trajectories. Discussion subjects will include the music industry, cultural hybridity, and fandom." ❖



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
THE CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH



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