

# CKR NEWSLETTER 2019-2020

2	DIRECTOR'S NOTE
3	EVENTS
5	SPOTLIGHTS
6	JKS 2019-2020
7	STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
9	STUDENT GROUPS
10	SPECIAL EVENTS





# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Center for Korean Research (CKR) entered into the fourth year of its five-year Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) Core University Grant (\$896,442) in 2019-20. The Grant enables CKR to continue to provide financial support for Korean studies across the University and particularly for Asia-focused units such as the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and the Starr East Asian Library. We look forward to welcoming Keung Yoon Bae as the CKR-AKS postdoctoral fellow in 2020-21.

Jungwon Kim, King Sejong Assistant Professor of Korean Studies, and Seong Uk Kim, Il Hwan and Soon Ja Cho Assistant Professor of Korean Culture and Religion, have spearheaded activities and programming at CKR over the past year. Representative of their collaboration is their jointly organized speaker series, "The Formation of Postcolonial Korea through Family, Medicine, and the War" (please see below). This series will continue into fall 2020.

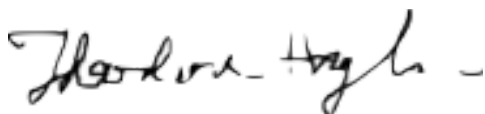
In 2019-20, CKR brought a successful conclusion to one major ongoing project and supported the formation of another. CKR housed the Journal of Korean Studies (published by Duke University Press) for the past four years. In 2019-2020, CKR oversaw the publication of two issues of the JKS (see below for the content of the issues). I would like to thank Jooyeon Kim for doing such a superb job as JKS Managing Editor for the entirety of the Journal's tenure at Columbia. The JKS has now moved to the George Washington University, with Professor Jisoo Kim as the new Editor-in-Chief. We wish her much success.

On the new initiative front, CKR supported the creation of the University Seminar on Korean Studies. This multidisciplinary Seminar is organized by three Columbia alumnae/i: Ksenia Chizhova (Princeton University); Jae Won Chung (Rutgers University); and Jenny Wang Medina (Emory University). We look forward to working closely with the new University Seminar in the years to come.

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.

A number of CKR events have been rescheduled for the coming academic year due to the COVID 19 crisis. On behalf of my colleagues at CKR, I would like to wish everyone health and safety, wherever this may find them.

Yours truly,



CKR BROUGHT A  
SUCCESSFUL  
CONCLUSION TO  
ONE MAJOR  
ONGOING PROJECT  
AND SUPPORTED  
THE FORMATION OF  
ANOTHER"

# 2019-2020 EVENTS



## CITIZEN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTH KOREA: ANALOGUE PROTEST MEDIA IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET

Olga Fedorenko, Associate Professor, Seoul National University  
Moderated by Theodore Hughes, Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies in  
the Humanities and Director of The Center for Korean Research, Columbia University

Tuesday, October 8, 2019  
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
International Affairs Building, Room 918

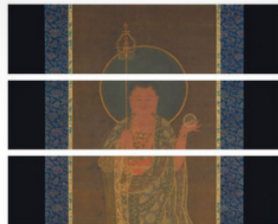
Co-sponsored by The Institute of Korean Studies, Seoul National University, Columbia University, Korea  
Foundation of East Asian Languages and Culture



## CITIZEN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTH KOREA: ANALOGUE PROTEST MEDIA IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET

with Olga Fedorenko

Tuesday, October 8, 2019



## "LOST GRAVES AND RECYCLED MOURNING SHEDS: HOW THE LATE KORYŎ ELITE TOOK THE DRAMA OUT OF AFTERLIFE"

Book Talk with Juhn Ahn  
Associate Professor of Buddhist and Korean Studies, University of Washington  
Author of *Buddhism and Korean Religion and Death in the Late Chosŏn*  
(Korea University of Washington Press, 2008)

Thursday, November 7, 2019  
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Kent Hall Lounge

Co-sponsored by The Institute of Korean Studies, Seoul National University, Columbia University, Korea  
Foundation of East Asian Languages and Culture, The  
Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, The Department of Religion



## LOST GRAVES AND RECYCLED MOURNING SHEDS: HOW THE LATE KORYŎ ELITE TOOK THE DRAMA OUT OF AFTERLIFE

with Juhn Ahn

Thursday, November 7, 2019

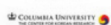


## THE CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH WORKSHOP: "BUDDHISM AND POLITICS IN KOREA"

Juhn Ahn, University of Washington  
Hwansoo Kim, Yonsei University  
Seong Uk Kim, Columbia University  
Jin Y. Park, American University

Friday, November 8, 2019  
1:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
International Affairs Building, Room 918

Co-sponsored by The Institute of Korean Studies, Seoul National University, Columbia University, Korea  
Foundation of East Asian Languages and Culture, The Department of Religion, Culture and Public Life, The Department of Religion



## BUDDHISM AND POLITICS IN KOREA

with Juhn Ahn,  
Hwansoo Kim, Seong  
Uk Kim, and Jin Y. Park

Friday, November 8,  
2019

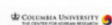


## THE CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH BOOK TALK: THE INTERROGATION ROOMS OF THE KOREAN WAR: THE UNTOLD HISTORY

Monica Kim, Assistant Professor  
New York University

Thursday, April 2, 2020  
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM  
403 Kent Hall Lounge

Co-sponsored by The Institute of Korean Studies, Seoul National University, Columbia University, Korea  
Foundation of East Asian Languages and Culture, The Department of Religion, Culture and Public Life, The Department of Religion



## THE KOREAN WAR THROUGH THE PRISM OF THE INTERROGATION ROOM

with Monica Kim

Rescheduled for Fall 2020

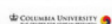


## THE CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM: "VISUALIZING KORYŎ BUDDHISM: NEW INSIGHTS FROM TEMPLE EXCAVATIONS"

Sem Vermeersch, Associate Professor  
Seoul National University

Friday, April 3, 2020  
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM  
918 International Affairs Building

Co-sponsored by The Institute of Korean Studies, Seoul National University, Columbia University, Korea  
Foundation of East Asian Languages and Culture, The Department of Religion, Culture and Public Life, The Department of Religion



## VISUALIZING KORYŎ BUDDHISM: NEW INSIGHTS FROM TEMPLE EXCAVATIONS

with Sem Vermeersch

Rescheduled for Fall 2020

# FEATURED EVENTS



## **"BREAST ILLNESSES IN KOREAN MEDICINE, 1800S-1930S"**

*Thursday, February 27, 2020*

Analyzing both scholarly and popular writings, this talk with Soyoung Suh, associate professor at Dartmouth College, examined the origins and modification of centuries-old terminologies, preferred prescriptions, and diverse therapeutic solutions of life-threatening breast illnesses. Manifested in the intellectual and material conditions of experiencing breast cancer, this suddenness enables us to contemplate the gendered medical culture of modern Korea.

The "Formation of Postcolonial Korea through Family, Medicine, and the War" talk series was co-organized by Jungwon Kim and Seong Uk Kim

## **"IMPERIAL SHIFT: RICE AND REVOLUTION IN TRANS-WAR KOREA, 1939- 1949"**

*Rescheduled for Fall 2020*

This talk with Yumi Moon, associate professor at Stanford University, revisits Korea's history under the US Occupation from a trans-war perspective and investigates the material conditions that ordinary Koreans experienced during the wartime period and after Liberation. By focusing on the problem of rice, it seeks to explain how Japan's wartime empire and the US Occupation administered the challenging task of food supply in Korea, and how this "imperial shift" influenced the course of "revolutionary" movements in the making of postwar South Korea.

## **"BEYOND THE VICTIM NARRATIVE: WOMEN AND CIVIL DISPUTES IN COLONIAL KOREA"**

*Rescheduled for Fall 2020*

In this talk, Sungyun Lim, associate professor at University of Colorado at Boulder, will provide an overview of her book, *Rules of the House*, and also briefly introduce her new research in burial sites disputes. Her book challenges this simplistic notion of colonial diminishment of women's legal rights, and examines the complex ways in which they were affected in the new family system under the colonial legal system. The book also examines civil case records from the colonial period where many women actively participated in the civil courts to claim and protect their rights.



# SPOTLIGHTS

## AATK CONFERENCE

**Thursday, June 18th – Saturday, June 20th 2020**

The Korean Language Program at Columbia University will host the organization's twenty-fifth annual conference with an expected attendance of over two hundred scholars and education professionals. The conference will be held virtually.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia Alumni Association-Korea, Korean Language Foundation, KLEAR-University of Hawaii, Hanyang University, Korea Foundation



**Joowon Suh, 9th President of the American Association of Teachers of Korean and Director of the Korean Language Program at Columbia University**

*Photography courtesy of the AATK*

## SEONG UK KIM

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

Seong Uk Kim is Il Hwan and Soon Ja Cho Assistant Professor of Korean Culture and Religion in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. Professor Kim is the 2019-2020 recipient of the Lenfest Junior Faculty Development Grant Award, awarding him \$15,000 towards his field research in Korea. His research interests include the intersections between Buddhism and other religions, as well as religion and politics in modern and pre-modern Korea. Professor Kim is currently completing a book manuscript, *"Evolving Tradition: revisiting the Buddhist-Confucian relationship in East Asia"* (tentative).



# THE JOURNAL OF KOREAN STUDIES

JKS VOLUME 24, NUMBER 1, OCTOBER 2019

**Thematic Issue:** Archives, Archival Practice, and the Writing of History in Premodern Korea

**Guest Editor:** Jungwon Kim

## Editor's Note

Archives, Archival Practice, And The Writing of History In Premodern Korea: An Introduction

*by Jungwon Kim*

## Articles

Archival Practice in Premodern Korea: Recordkeeping as Archive and as Historiography

*by Sem Vermeersch*

Culling Archival Collections in the Koryŏ-Chosŏn Transition

*by Graeme Reynolds*

Compiling Diplomacy: Record-keeping and Archival Practices in Chosŏn Korea

*by Sixiang Wang*

Silencing the Culture of Choson Buddhism: The Ideology of Exclusion of the Chosŏn Sillok

*by Sung-Eun Thomas Kim*

The Late Choson Korean Catholic Archives: Documenting this World and the Next

*by Franklin Rausch*

Vernacular Itineraries: Korean Letters from Family to National Archive

*by Ksenia Chizhova*

Vernacular Story in and as Archives: (Re)Making Xingshi yan Stories in Early Modern China and Korea

*by Yuan Ye*

## Korean Studies in the Global Humanities: A Roundtable Discussion Transcript

## Book Reviews

Living on Your Own: Single Women, Rental Housing, and Post-Revolutionary Affect in Contemporary

South Korea *by Jesook Song*

*Reviewed by Robert Oppenheim*

Reconstructing Ancient Korean History: The Formation of Korean-ness in the Shadow of History *by*

*Stella Xu*

*Reviewed by Christopher J. Bae*

Pop City: Korean Popular Culture and the Selling of Place *by Youjeong Oh*

*Reviewed by So-Rim Lee*

Dynamic Korea and Rhythmic Form *by Katherine In-Young Lee*

*Reviewed by Stephanie Choi*

Rat Fire: Korean Stories from the Japanese Empire *edited by Theodore Hughes, Jae-yong Kim, Jin-kyung*

*Lee, Sang-kyung Lee*

*Reviewed by Immanuel Kim*



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Intertwining the "Traditional" and the "Foreign": The Evolution of Divorce Rights in Modern South Korea

Stephanie Choi, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University

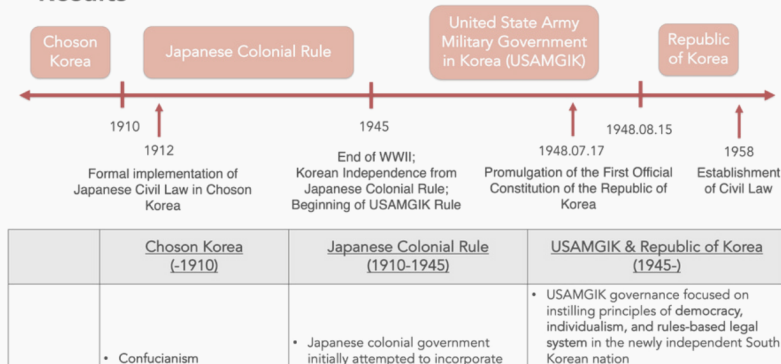
### Research Question

•In what way(s) does foreign occupational rule influence the occupied state's legal system, governance, and values?

### Introduction

•South Korea has been under continuous foreign occupation throughout its period of "modernization" in the 20th century – first under Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945), then immediately followed by the United States Army Military Government in Korea (USAMGIK) after its independence from Japan (1945-1948). Considering this unique history of continuous foreign occupation, this study explores the evolution of the legal institution in South Korea particularly as it pertains to the rights of women, focusing on the development of divorce law as the primary

### Results



### Conclusions

•Japanese colonial period inadvertently led to the establishment of South Korea's first formally standardized judicial process for addressing divorce-related grievances in court that was accessible to women.

•While USAMGIK does not seem to have interfered directly in the creation of the constitution or legal codes of the modern South Korean nation, its key principles – democracy, individualism, and rules-based legal system – were instilled into the constitution as core values of the nascent nation, thereby steering future divorce-related court decisions away from traditional Confucian thought towards emphasis on one's individual "rights" and "liberties" in line with the constitution.

•Institutional change regarding women's divorce rights in South Korea occurred not only with foreign influence, but also with South Koreans' active engagement with



## STEPHANIE CHOI

Stephanie Choi is a senior at Columbia University double majoring in East Asian Languages & Cultures and Political Science. Her senior thesis project was an intersection of all things that sparked her interest throughout the course of her studies at Columbia: international affairs, women's studies, and legal history. In continuation of this project, she hopes to pursue a career focused on advancing women's rights through law and foreign policy.

She was selected and presented at the Columbia Undergraduate Research Symposium on her thesis project: *Intertwining the 'Traditional' and the 'Foreign': Implications of the Shift from Polygamous to Monogamous Marriage on Women's Rights in Post-Colonial South Korea*. She was also selected for the 2018-2019 Weatherhead East Asian Institute's Undergraduate Training Grant. Her poster presents the preliminary findings of the research she conducted in preparation for her thesis project the summer before her senior year.

# THE JOURNAL OF KOREAN STUDIES

JKS VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2, MARCH 2020

## Editor's Note

## Articles

Leaves of Regret, Flowers of Gloom: Mourning Ghosts and Crafting a Theatre of Han in the Dream  
Journey Narrative  
by Sookja Cho

Hard Road to Heaven: Bearing the Weight of Soul Judgment in Korea's First Bible Commentary  
by Debernieri Janet Torrey

Temporalities of Tonghak: Eschatology, Rebellion, and Civilization  
by Seungyup Shin

Philip Jaisohn the Political Evangelist, 1896-1898  
by Young-chan Choi

Japan's Education Policies in Korea in the 1910s: "Thankful and Obedient"  
by Andrew Hall

Killer Fables: Yun Ch'iho, Bourgeois Enlightenment, and the Free Laborer  
by Henry Em

Visualizing History: Truthfulness in North Korean Art  
by Min-Kyung Yoon

Creating a "Home Away from Home": Korean Women's Performances of the Imaginary American Home  
at the U.S. Military Clubs in South Korea, 1955-1964  
by Yu Jung Lee

Female Intersubjectivity: Violence, Women, and Elegy in Lee Chang-dong's Poetry  
by Jung Ja Choi

## Book Reviews

Engineering Asia: Technology, Colonial Development, and the Cold War Order edited by Hiromi Mizuno,  
Aaron S. Moore, John DiMoia, and Christopher Gerteis  
Reviewed by Tomoyuki Sasaki

Heroes and Toilers: Work as Life in Postwar North Korea, 1953-1961 by Cheehyung Harrison Kim  
Reviewed by Suzy Kim

Eating Korean in America: Gastronomic Ethnography of Authenticity by Sonia Ryang  
Reviewed by Seungsook Moon

We would like to announce that the *Journal of Korean Studies* will now be housed at the George Washington University. The Editor-in-Chief is Professor Jisoo Kim. We congratulate her on her editorship and express our gratitude to her for assuming this leadership position in the field. We would like to thank the many colleagues in Korean studies who have kindly given their time and effort to the *Journal* over the past four years as authors, book reviewers and anonymous reviewers. We are also grateful to those who have mentored us and given advice as we proceeded. Thank you all.



# STUDENT GROUPS



## FILM SCREENING: "STREET NEW YORKERS"

Monday, November 11, 2019

KoreaFocus held a panel discussion with Moses Jeon, the founder of the homeless shelter in Flushing, followed by an award-winning KBS documentary that followed the lives of Korean immigrants who are a part of the homeless community in New York City. Attendees enjoyed and participated in a lively discussion about the film.

## TASTE OF ASIA

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

In collaboration with APAC, Taiwan Focus, JASSA, SEASI, and GCI, KoreaFocus prepared traditional Korean cuisine to the table. Over 60 School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) students came to experience the taste of Asian culture.

*Many thanks to Ho Young Lee, Former President of KoreaFocus, and Yina Ha, President of KoreaFocus*



OCTOBER 16, 2019

# Special Event: gamin

Musician Gamin Kang

Photography by Leslie Junco

## "Traversing Chosŏn Society through Music"

**A special musical performance by gamin,  
a *piri*, *saenghwang* and *taepyeongso* soloist,  
and moderated by Hye Eun Choi**

**FEATURED IN  
THE COLUMBIA SPECTATOR**

*Written by Bella Bromberg*

<https://bit.ly/2vsZYu7>

The CKR held its first music concert on October 16th, titled "Traversing Chosŏn Society through Music." It was a solo performance by gamin, a renowned New York City-based Korean traditional musician, in which she played three Korean wind instruments, *saenghwang*, *piri*, and *taepyeongso*. The program consisted of two sections: three court music pieces and three examples of folk music. The concert was moderated by Hye Eun Choi, a visiting scholar at Columbia University, who explained how the sociocultural structure of Chosun shaped its music along with an introduction of each piece in the program. The performance was followed by a Q&A session, where gamin answered questions about the process of learning traditional music notation, written in classical Chinese, as well as her personal aspirations.

Gamin is a designated *Yisuja*, a title granted by the South Korean government for expert performers of Important Intangible Cultural Asset No. 4, Court and Royal Military Music. She was also the second principal *piri* player in the National Gugak Orchestra from 2004 – 2010. The concert was co-sponsored by The Academy of Korean Studies-Seoul Korea, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and the Department of Music at Columbia University.

Gamin's current recording project with Innova records is *Nong* (弄), an ancient Korean term meaning "to play," and the central idea of the project will be discovering new ways of playing between musical instruments and forms from different cultures. Brought together by a mutual fascination for fusing musical traditions from around the world with contemporary classical music in the US, Gamin and her collaborators seek to introduce instruments and concepts from traditional Korean music to American audiences through the commission, recording, and distribution of chamber music that incorporate elements of both traditional Korean and Classical music. For more information and upcoming performances, please visit her website: [gamin-music.com](http://gamin-music.com)



# UNIVERSITY SEMINAR ON KOREAN STUDIES



## "STAGING KOREAN DIASPORA: UNCHARTED BORDER AND IDEOLOGICAL DISORIENTATION"

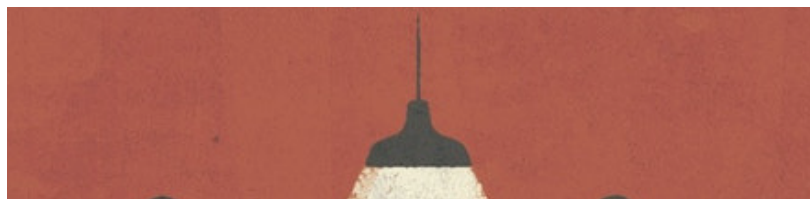
*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Miseong Woo's research attempts to redefine diaspora from the 21st-century perspective and investigates unique characteristics of Koreans' diasporic experience and sentiments embedded in cultural production and consumption. As South Korea rapidly becomes a multicultural society that is transitioning from a traditional ethnocentric country of kinship to a globalized society of citizenship, Koreans' collective desire to understand the nation's history and restructure its racial, national, and cultural identity is exploding. This research investigates new theatrical undercurrents and unique Korean diasporic subjects whose experiences illustrate the problematic remnants of Korea's troubled twentieth-century history.

## "THE KOREAN WAR THROUGH THE PRISM OF THE INTERROGATION ROOM"

*Rescheduled for Fall 2020*

Through the interrogation rooms of the Korean War, this talk with Monica Kim demonstrates how the individual human subject became both the terrain and the *jus ad bellum* for this critical U.S. war of 'intervention' in postcolonial Korea. In 1952, with the US introduction of voluntary POW repatriation proposal at Panmunjom, the interrogation room and the POW became a flashpoint for an international controversy ultimately about postcolonial sovereignty and political recognition. Tracing two generations of people across the Pacific as they navigate multiple kinds of interrogation from the 1940s and 1950s, this talk lays out a landscape of interrogation – a dense network of violence, bureaucracy, and migration – that breaks apart the usual temporal bounds of the Korean War as a discrete event.





## **CKR NEWSLETTER 2019-20 ISSUE**

DIRECTOR: THEODORE HUGHES

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: JOOYEON KIM

DESIGN EDITOR: LESLIE JUNCO

THE CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH

420 WEST 118TH STREET, 9TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10027

CKR WEBSITE: [CKR.WEAL.COLUMBIA.EDU](http://CKR.WEAL.COLUMBIA.EDU)

E-MAIL: [CKRINFO@COLUMBIA.EDU](mailto:CKRINFO@COLUMBIA.EDU)

THE COVER IMAGE IS OF GYEONGHUI LINE  
FOREST PARK IN HONGDAE, SOUTH KOREA,  
TAKEN BY LESLIE JUNCO OF CKR.

