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, II 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 alumnai: 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,

[Signature]

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
with Olga Fedorenko
Tuesday, October 8, 2019

LOST GRAVES AND RECYCLED MOURNING SHEDS: HOW THE LATE KORYŏ ELITE TOOK THE DRAMA OUT OF AFTERLIFE
with Juhn Ahn
Thursday, November 7, 2019

BUDDHISM AND POLITICS IN KOREA
with Juhn Ahn, Hwansoo Kim, Seong Uk Kim, and Jin Y. Park
Friday, November 8, 2019

THE KOREAN WAR THROUGH THE PRISM OF THE INTERROGATION ROOM
with Monica Kim
Rescheduled for Fall 2020

VISUALIZING KORYŏ BUDDHISM: NEW INSIGHTS FROM TEMPLE EXCAVATIONS
with Sem Vermeersch
Rescheduled for Fall 2020
The "Formation of Postcolonial Korea through Family, Medicine, and the War" talk series was co-organized by Jungwon Kim and Seong Uk Kim.

**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.

"**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).
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 ways did 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 interplay of domestic law and international law.

Results
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choson Korea</th>
<th>Japanese Colonial Rule</th>
<th>USAMGIK</th>
<th>Republic of Korea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>1948.07.17</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Confucianism
- Japanese colonial government initially attempted to incorporate USAMGIK governance focused on instilling principles of democracy, individualism, and rules-based legal system in the newly independent South Korean nation

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 “right” and “liberty” 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.
Editors Note

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 DeBerniere 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 Chi’ho, Bourgeois Enlightenment, and the Free Laborer
by Henry Em

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

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
"Traversing Chosŏn Society through Music"

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

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 taepyongso. 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
“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.