

The 3rd SNU International Conference for Contemporary Korean Studies

Korea as Method

DAY1 August 21, 2026 (Fri)

9:00-9:20	Opening Ceremony Rm.220 Samik HallChair Hyeong-Ki KWON (Director, SNU Contemporary Korean Studies) Welcoming Address Hong-il Ryu (President of Seoul National University), Jung Geung Sik (Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies)		
9:30-11:00	Track 1 Rm.210 Youngwon Hall	Track 2 Rm.230	Track 3 Rm.240
	Inventing the Real: Religion, Truth, and Boundary-Making ChairSong Chong Lee (Seoul National University) Presentations - Fifty Years of Observing New Religious Movements. What were they like? And how did they change? Eileen Barker (London School of Economics and Political Science) - The No Gun Ri Spirit: An Ethic of Witness, Moral Repair, and the Search for Meaning Hope Elizabeth May (Central Michigan University) - Koreanness in Transit: Religion, Race, and Minor Infrastructure Minjung Noh (Lehigh University) DiscussantsMinah Kim (Incheon National University)	Theorizing from South Korea, Beneath and Beyond Epistemological Binaries ChairMinyoung Kim (Yonsei University) Presentations - Settling in Hypermobility: Yemeni Humanitarian Sojourner Status Persons Beyond the Framework of Displacement Yura Hyeon (University of Tokyo) - When Tractors Met Rainbows: Exploring a New Solidarity between Farmers and LGBTQ+ Communities in South Korea Ji-Eun Ahn (University of Edinburgh) & Hyunjin Kim (Korea University) - Revising Democratic Theories through the Korean Case of Democratic Erosion and Resilience Yoonkyung Lee (University of Toronto) DiscussantsMinyoung Kim (Yonsei University)	Historical Modernity ChairJongwook Lee (Seoul National University) Presentations “Overcome by Modernity” in Colonial Korea: The Politics of History Writing and Chosŏnhak in the 1920s–30s Seungyop Shin (Handong University) - Seoul as Method: Swine, Food Waste Infrastructure, and Hybrid Urban Metabolism Ken Park (University of Virginia) DiscussantsJong-wook Hong (Seoul National University) Sungmin Yoon (Seoul National University)
11:00-11:20	Break		
11:20-12:20	Keynote Speech Beyond Western Paradigms: From Indigenization to Deprovincializing Korean StudiesYong-Chool Ha (University of Washington) Rm.210 Youngwon Hall		
12:20-13:30	Lunch Rm.220 Samik Hall		
13:30-15:00	Political Polarization and the Perils of Korean Democracy ChairJoohyung Kim (Seoul National University) Presentations - Affective Polarization and Mental Health: The Case of South Korea Gidong Kim & Seohyeon Go (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies) - Recent Changes in South Korean Party Politics Sun-Woo Lee (Jeonbuk National University) & Kyung Hoon Leem (Seoul National University) - Legitimacy Politics in Constitutional Interims: Comparing South Korean Presidential Impeachment Trials Yae-jin Sung (Chonnam National University)	Modernity and Development ChairDongwon Lee (Seoul National University) Presentations - Normalization of the State of Exception? Continuity and Change of Arrest and Custody System, 1941-54 Jong-Chol AN (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) - How Urban Environments Shape 'Guerrillas': A GIS-Based Analysis of Protest Patterns and Control Tactics in Busan during the 1979 Bu-Ma Uprising Hyuk eun Kwon (Seoul National University) - The “Archive of Exile” and Korean Democracy: Focusing on the Protest Records in TK’s “Letters from South Korea” Eunae Cho (Yonsei University) DiscussantsBong Seok Han (Pukyong National University) Jungeun Lee (Sunchon National University) Sangmi Bae (Korea University)	Korea in Motion: Rethinking Music, History, and Tradition ChairAnna Yates-Lu (Seoul National University) Presentations - Korea as Method: Reading Cold War Music History through Korean Musical Experiences from a Postcolonial Perspective Hee-sun Kim (Kookmin University) - Composer Nam June Paik and Conceptual Music With a Focus on His Symphonies Yuseon Won (Seoul National University) - Traces of Resonance: Classical Music and Cultural Transplantation in 20th-Century Korea Cellik Adams (Sogang University) - Beyond the Western Canon: Korea as the Point of Departure for Rewriting Women’s Music History? Madlen Poguntke (Seoul National University) - The Globalization of Gugak through K-pop Fusion: ATEEZ’s “The Real (Heung Ver.)” in Live Performance Junghyun Kim (Seoul National University)
	Break		
15:00-15:20	Imagine the Alternative with/through K-culture ChairJiyoung Suh (Seoul National University) Presentations - K-pop and the Global Diffusion of Korea’s Moral Economy for Fairness Jungmin Kwon (Seoul National University of Education) - Platformitization and Re-intermediation in the Rise of the Virtual Idol Industry in South Korea Haekyung Um (University of Liverpool) ‘Foreign Chicks’ Don’t Know K-Pop: Anti-Colonial Discourse and Imagined East Asianness in Chinese K-pop Fandom Mia Xinrui Liu (University of Sheffield) “Asian Imaginary” in the Andes: Bolivian Youth and the Transnational Appeal of K-Pop Sebastián Urioste (La Rochelle Université) DiscussantsGyu Tag Lee (George Mason University) Huikyong Pang (Sungkonghoe University)	The Formation of the Korean State in the Twentieth Century ChairJie-Hyun Lim (Sogang University) Presentations - Garrison Democracy? The First Constitutional Assembly and the Formation of the Post-Colonial State in South Korea Yumi Moon (Stanford University) - The Birth of Korea: Legal Issues from the Provisional Government to the Establishment of Statehood of the Republic of Korea Si Jin Oh (Kangwon National University) - The Korean Division Regime and Anti-communist State of South Korea Tadashi Kimiya (The University of Tokyo) - Hetero-Authoritarianism as Everyday Disaster: Anatomical Conformity and its “Queer” Challenges in Postwar South Korea Todd A.Henry (University of California, San Diego) DiscussantsJong-wook Hong (Seoul National University) Joon Young Jung (Seoul National University)	Korean Masculinity: Problems and Solutions ChairKyung Hee Youn (Seoul National University) Presentations (Un)mournable Masculinity and Misogyny as a Symptom Yoon Heo (Ewha Womans University) - How Do South Korean Antifeminists ‘Historicize’ Feminism? Woochang Lee (Korea National Open University) - Born Sons, Becoming Men: Masculinity in AI Media Environment Hyeong-Guk Song (Korean Broadcasting System) DiscussantsHyoung Cheol Shin (Seoul National University) Keon Hyung Kim (Seoul National University)
	Break		
15:20-17:20			

DAY2 August 22, 2026 (Sat)

9:30-11:30	East Asian International Relations from the Perspectives of Small State’s History ChairJong-Hak Kim (Seoul National University) Keynote Speech - China and Its Dependencies: A Formation of the Notion of “Sovereignty” in Modern East Asia Takashi OKAMOTO (Waseda Univ.) Presentations - Rethinking Early Modern Korea ~Japan Relations from Tsushima Toru ISHIDA (The Univ. of Shimane) - Meiji Japan’s relations with Ryukyu and other small states in late 19th and early 20th centuries Marco TINELLO (Kanagawa Univ.) - Small States in International Law and International Politics: Conflicting International Legal and Political Debates over Japan’s Establishment of a Protectorate over the Korean Empire Mayuko MORI (Tokyo Woman’s Christian Univ.) DiscussantsJin A Kang (Hanyang University) Sinhyeok Jung (Seoul National University)	[Book Talk] Capitalism in South Korea, 1945–2025: Compressed Development, Decompression, and Diverging Convergence (Oxford Univ. Press) ChairHyeong-ki Kwon (Seoul National University) AuthorKeun LEE (Seoul National University) DiscussantsYong-Chool Ha (University of Washington) SamOck Park (Seoul National University) Hagen Koo (University of Hawai’i at Mānoa)	Finding Voice at the Margins: Religion, Citizenship, and the Struggle for Legitimacy in Korea ChairEsther Ghim (Seoul National University) Presentations - Resistance in the Periphery of South Korean Protestantism: A Critical Examination of Critical Insider Movements Seung Min Hong (International Christian University) - Korean Design as Method: Trajectories of Design as a Technology of Citizenship Oxana Jeoung-Rakova (Seoul National University) - When Gender Becomes Care: Anti-Gender Mobilization and the Reorganization of Citizenship in South Korea Hana Kim (University of Hawai’i at Mānoa) - Practicing Secularism in Korean Popular Culture: Revisiting the Religious Critiques on Chu Homin’s Along with the Gods Yeonwoo Joh (Yale University) DiscussantsJi Ae Seo (Seoul National University) Marie Koh (Seoul National University)
11:30-13:00	Lunch Rm.220 Samik Hall		
13:00-15:00	Hallyu as Platform ChairSeok-Kyeong Hong (Seoul National University) Presentations - Hallyu as Platforms in a Globalized 21st Century : from a cultural form to a socio-cultural ecosystem Dal Yong Jin (Simon Fraser University) - An Epistemology of Convergent Multiplicity and Breakthrough: 'Korea as Method' and the Praxis of the Korean Wave Eun-Jeung Lee (Free University of Berlin) - Korea as a Platform of Normative Translation Oul Han (Sogang University) - Writing Korea: Relational Authorship and the Politics of Meaning-Making in Korean Television Drama Sookeung Jung (Free University of Berlin)	Korean Political Economy ChairHyunji Kwon (Seoul National University) Presentations - Policy Incapacity by Design? President, Parties, and the Politics of Social Reform in South Korea Timo Fleckenstein (The London School of Economics and Political Science) - Middle-Income Trap and High-Income Transition: Is South Korea a Rare Case of Success or a Case of Exceptionalism? Nahee Kang (King’s College London) - Labour in Korea’s Green Energy Transformation: The Missing Dimension of Statecraft Christopher Khatouki (University of New South Wales) DiscussantsMyung-Joon Park (Korea Labor Institute) Hyeonseok Park (National Assembly Futures Institute) Kahee Jo (University of Sheffield) Joonkoo Lee (Hanyang University)	What can K-Philosophy be? Innovative and decolonial approaches on conceptualizing Korean philosophy as an epistemic resource for global debate ChairJeanhyoung Soh (Seoul National University) Presentations - Philosophy as Narrative and Korean Philosophy Seonhee Kim (Ewha Womans University) - Korean Philosophy in the Anthropocene: Questioning the Human Condition Sunghwan Cho (Wongwang University) - Neo-Confucian Challenge to Ancient Greece: Yi In-Jae’s Reinterpretation through Li Boreum Kim (Anyang University) - The Non-Existence of Korean Philosophy in Global Philosophy Sool Park (Hildesheim University)
15:00-15:20	Break		
15:20-16:50	Purifying the Sacred: Religion, State Power, and the Politics of Classification ChairHae-young Seong (Seoul National University) Presentations - Symptoms, Not Causes: A Structural Account of New Religious Movement Misconduct and State Response in Contemporary Korea Song Chong Lee (Seoul National University) - Towards a Sociology of Korean Buddhism: What Comes after Purification? Sem Vermeersch (Seoul National University) - Beyond the Myth of Transparency: Korean Politics, Shamanism, and Relational Ontology Dongkyu Kim (Sogang University) DiscussantsSoong-Ky Baek (Sahmyook University)	A Thanatology of Contemporary Korean Society ChairJaeho Kang (Seoul National University) Presentations - Political Theology and Permanent Melancholy: A Consideration from the Commemoration of Gwangju May 18 Uprising Hang Kim (Yonsei University) - Capital’s Two Death Drives: Post-Apocalyptic Imaginaries in Snowpiercer and Concrete Utopia Seung Cheol Lee (Seoul National University) - Framing K-Time: Prolonging the Death of the Ppalli-ppalli Life Dongshin Yi (Seoul National University)	Lives at the Margins of Contemporary South Korea ChairSojeong Park (Hanyang University) Presentations - Calibrated Non-Encounter: Officetel Urbanism and the Organisation of Everyday Solitude in Korea Sunwoo Kim (Goldsmiths, University of London) - Perfumed Ecologies, Disability, and Atmospheres in Korea Seon Shim (University of British Columbia) - Beyond Relationlessness: Muyŏn’go and the Politics of Posthumous Relationality in Contemporary South Korea Jueun “June” Lee (Harvard University) - Aging as Authenticity: Temporal Expertise and Digital Femininity in South Korea’s Senior Influencers Hojin Song (California State University Monterey Bay) DiscussantsMinseo Cho (University of Wisconsin-Madison) Yeran Kim (Kwangwoon University)
16:50-17:10	Break		
17:10-18:10	Closing Roundtable Rm.210 Youngwon HallChair Dongshin Yi (Seoul National University) Presenter Hong-Jung Kim (Seoul National University), TBA		
18:10-	Closing Reception Rm.220 Samik Hall		



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