

CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Legacy of UW: *Journal of Korean Studies*

Over the history of the *Journal of Korean Studies (JKS)*, the University of Washington has played an essential role. Founded in 1969 and edited by Dr. David Mesler, the *JKS* became one of the very first publications produced in English that was devoted to the study of Korea. In 1979, under the guidance of UW historian Dr. James Palais the *JKS* continued at the UW for another 13 years. In 2004, Drs. Gi-wook Shin and John Duncan from Stanford and UCLA respectively, revived the *JKS*. Leadership transferred back to the UW in the summer of 2008.

The Center for Korea Studies is proud to have been part of the *Journal of Korean Studies*. Over the past 47 years the *Journal of Korean Studies* has

continued to be the premier journal in the field, focused on all aspects of Korea including, but not limited to, the history, art, law, culture, and society of the Korean peninsula. Since acquiring the *JKS* in the summer of 2008, the Center for Korea Studies alongside the editorial team: Editor-in-Chief Clark W. Sorensen, Associate Editor Donald Baker, Assistant Editor & Book Review Editor Joshua Van Lieu, and Managing Editor Tracy Stober, have edited and produced 14 issues of the *JKS* (2008–2016). Over 90 different authors have had their work published and over 85 books have been reviewed during this time. In 2012 the *JKS* began publishing film reviews of which the Center of Korea Studies and the *JKS* have published four. In spring 2016 the *JKS* published its first interview.



Cover of the last issue of the *JKS* published by the UW.

Over the course of the last eight years the *JKS* has grown exponentially. In 2008 the *JKS* produced 1 issue a year. In 2011, the *JKS* began producing two issues a year: a varied topic issue in the spring and a thematic issue in the fall. The fall issue this year (2016) will be the closing issue published through the UW Center for Korea Studies prior to transferring editorial leadership to the Weatherhead East Asian Institute of Korean Studies/Center for Korean Research located at Columbia University.

proud to have led the *JKS* to its current position. As a center we intend to continue to produce outstanding academic material and look forward to being active in the growth of Korea studies.

UW students, faculty, and staff have access to digital copies of the *JKS* via the UW library and Project Muse. Be sure to log on to the UW library and check us out! <https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/515>

Continued on Page 4

The UW Center for Korea Studies is

- In this issue:**
- 2 | **From The Director**
 - 3 | **Korean Peninsula Forum**
 - 4-5 | ***Journal of Korea Studies***
 - 6 | **Recent Publications**
 - 7 | **Korean Diaspora in Cuba**
 - 8 | **Korea Colloquia Series**
 - 9 | **Conferences and Workshops**
 - 11 | **Faculty News and George Long Scholarship**

About

The Center for Korea Studies fosters teaching, research, and outreach related to Korea at the University of Washington and in North America.

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From the Director

2015–16 academic year has been one of accomplishments and activity. Dr. Yong-Chool Ha, who had been on sabbatical last year, returned to full-time teaching. Meanwhile Dr. Hwasook Nam took her sabbatical. Some of the teaching on Korean history was taken over by a predoctoral student, Hayone Chung, and some was covered by Lecturer Kazumi Hasegawa who was able to stretch her teaching to cover Korea as well as Japan.

Our Korea in Asia project is coming to completion as our ten years of funding from the Academy of Korean Studies comes to a close. We completed our last international conference (for the time being), *Korea and Vietnam in the 20th Century* in fall 2015 that explored ways in which Koreans and Vietnamese sometimes see their history mirrored in each other. And we will be bringing our *Spaces of Possibility* conference volume out with University of Washington Press in the fall of 2016. We have a couple of other conference volumes in the works that we hope to complete next year as funds become available.

Speaking of books, Professor Heekyoung Cho, our professor of Korean Literature has her first book out through Harvard University Press titled, *Translation's Forgotten History: Russian Literature, Japanese Mediation, and the Formation of Modern Korean Literature*. Preliminary commentary leads us to expect a warm welcome for this book that considers how translations of foreign works affected the development of early modern Korean literature. Professor Cho has been collaborating with professors Cynthia Steele in comparative literature and Vincente Rafael in history in a cross-disciplinary research cluster called "Troubling Translations" through the Simpson Center for the Humanities in which they are investigating translation as a way of enlarging our understanding of the humanities and the social sciences and followed up last year's *K-Manhwa Conference* with a symposium at the Association for Asian Studies on Korean comics.

We all enjoyed the presence of the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in our fair city of Seattle, and all took part in panels and symposia, including Professor Ha who chaired the session "Legislative Disruptions in East Asia: A Comparative Study." I was so busy discussing manuscripts with prospective authors for the University of Washington Press that I barely managed to attend any of the sessions.

Our Speaker Series brought a number of eminent scholars of Korea from Harvard, Columbia, Baruch College CUNY, and the University of Kansas in the US, and from the University of British Columbia, University of Melbourne, Seoul National University, and Dongguk University abroad. We capped off our year with our Annual Spring Teacher's Conference bringing again Mark Peterson from Brigham Young University who spoke on Korean history, and Sung Lim Kim from Dartmouth University who spoke on Korean art.

We say goodbye to the *Journal of Korean Studies* which, after eight years, is moving to Columbia, but look forward to continuing our vigorous publication record of conference volumes and monographs on Korea.



Clark W. Sorensen

Clark W. Sorensen

Chair of Korea Studies Program and Director of the Center for Korea Studies

What is The Korean Peninsula Forum?

In an effort to meet its goals, the Korean Peninsula Forum invites prominent experts to speak at the UW Center for Korea Studies and holds annual lectures. The Korean Peninsula Forum's mission is to:

- (1) promote the peace and stability of Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia by providing an open space for discussion to develop various policy ideas and visions;
- (2) pursue a non-partisan orientation and invite different views on issues related to the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia; and
- (3) serve as an opinion-making institution regarding the Korean peninsula, Northeast Asia, and the Pacific Northwest in the United States.

The Korean Peninsula Forum 2015

“China’s Role in the North Korean Nuclear Crisis”



Secretary Chun Yungwoo is delivering his keynote speech. Photo by *SeattleN*.

The second annual Korean Peninsula Forum was held on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at the Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall. The invited speaker was Chun Yungwoo, a former diplomat of the Republic of Korea who served as the Chief Secretary of Foreign Affairs at the Blue House during President Lee Myung-bak's administration and led the Six-Party Talks on the South Korean side that culminated in the Feb. 13 and Oct. 3 Agreements in 2007. He now serves as a senior advisor at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies as well as the chairman and founder of the Korean Peninsula Future Forum (KPPFF). Secretary Chun gave a keynote speech titled, “China’s Role in the North Korean Nuclear Crisis.” The event was organized by the Center for Korea Studies and sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Seattle and the Academy of Korean Studies. Over 200 students, faculty, and community members gathered to tune into the veteran diplomat's opinion on the North Korean nuclear issue.

Whereas last year's initial presentation focused on the American view of the North Korean issue with Ambassador Christopher Hill, who was the head of the US delegation during the Six-Party talks, Chun's lecture provided a window to the South Korean perspective. He began the speech with a witty intro: “After I resigned as the chief delegate of the South Korean side, the Six-Party Talks ended,” drawing laughter from the crowd.

Secretary Chun went on to argue that it is highly unlikely for North Korea to give up its development of nuclear weapons. According to the current regime's calculation, there is no reason to do so. They suffer nearly no loss for maintaining their nuclear programs, including the sanctions from the United States or United Nations. Unless the formula comes out so that the sum of gains for giving up nuclear weapons outweigh those of maintaining it, North Korea will never abandon them. Chun argued, “The most powerful and only means to force North Korea to give up nuclear weapons is through military coercion, but it is not an easy method to undertake.”

He was also doubtful of China's role in inducing North Korea's change. Chun analyzed that despite China's stance that favors North Korea's denuclearization, it has not taken actual steps to achieve that goal nor are there realistic means to do so.

Following the talk, Dr. Donald C. Hellmann, professor of international studies and political science at the Jackson School, moderated a panel discussion and Q&A session. The Jackson school's renowned regional specialists in the fields of Korea (Dr. Clark Sorensen, Director at Center for Korea Studies), China (David Bachman), and Japan (Dr. Kenneth Pyle) responded to Chun and presented their comments on the topic. The organizer of the event, Dr. Yong-Chool Ha (Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Social Science) remarked, “After 2009, there is a lack of coherent strategy to deal with North Korea and its nuclear program. We cannot continue the current state of its isolation, but it seems that the US government is complicating the problem.”

Upon attending the forum, Consul General Moon Duk-ho observed, “The keynote speech was outstanding and the well-prepared responses from the panel distinguished the event even further. I believe the way is paved for the Korean Peninsula Forum to be formalized on a regular basis.”

Compiled by Hayone Chung



Top: Secretary Chun (third from left) and the speakers gathered for a group photo. Bottom: Audience attending the Korean Peninsula Forum at Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall. Photo by *SeattleN*.

At a Glance: JKS at the UW

The University of Washington: A Long and Well-Known History with Korea Studies

For 47 years, the *Journal of Korean Studies* has been producing scholarly knowledge related to the Korean peninsula. A total of 21 volumes have been produced during the Journal's lifetime, 16 of which were produced at the UW.

The Journal of Korean Studies was founded in 1969 as a joint effort between the University of Washington and the Dong-A Publishing Company, a South Korean publishing firm. Presumably due to lack of resources and personnel, the journal only lasted for two years.

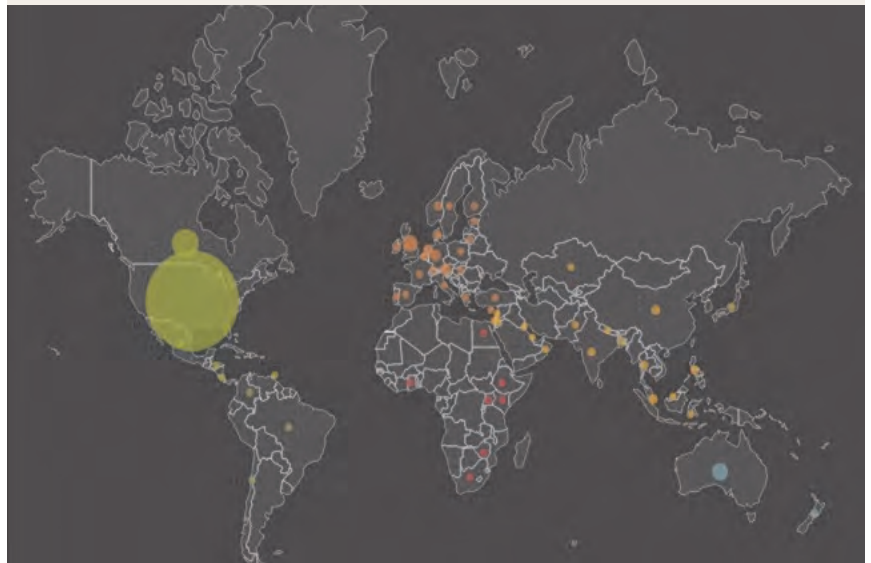
Then, in 1979, the journal was revived by Dr. James Palais, the distinguished UW professor of Korean history who single-handedly succeeded in building the UW into a stronghold in Korea studies. Despite the continued lack of resources, he managed to establish the journal to be one of the leading academic journals for in-depth research on Korea, continuing its publication until 1992. Michael Robinson, one of his students at the UW who is now a leading Korea scholar, inherited the editorship in 1988. Palais remained on the editorial board to oversee the journal.

In 1993, however, the journal faced financial difficulties and had to end its publication yet again until receiving funding from the Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford in 2004.

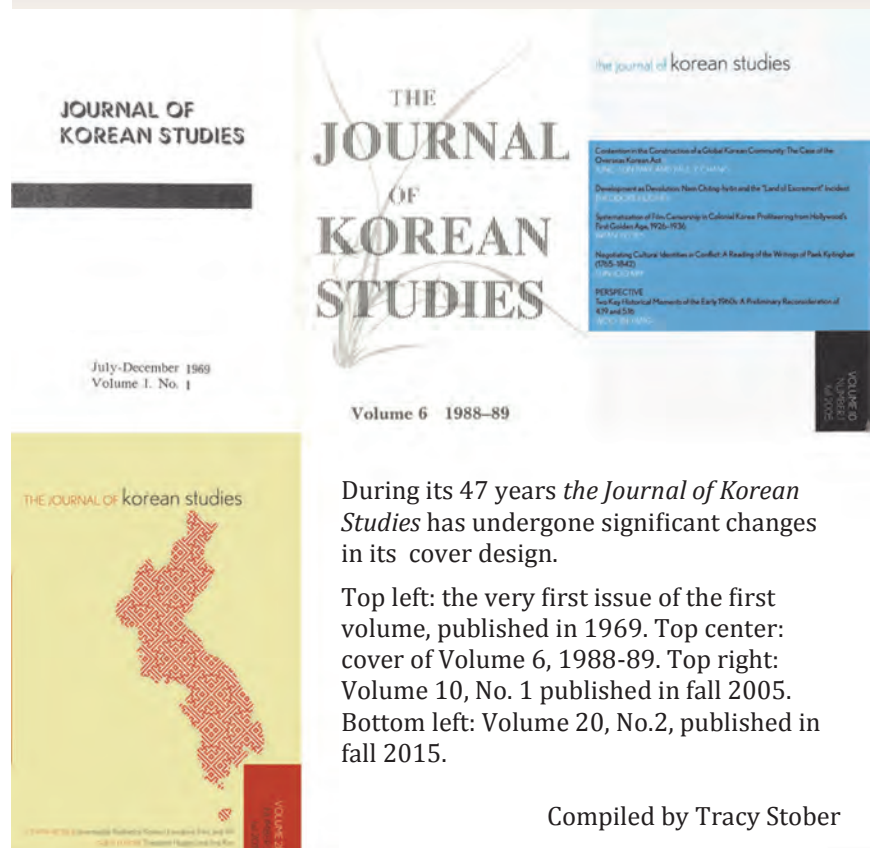
By 2008, the Center for Korea Studies obtained sponsorship from the Korea Foundation and was able to retrieve the editorship of the journal. Ever since, the journal has been spearheaded by Clark Sorensen, the chair at Center for Korea Studies at the UW. Now, the *JKS* will head to Columbia University to continue its status as a major Korea studies journal under the direction of Drs. Theodore Hughes and Charles Armstrong.

"A total of 21 volumes have been produced during the Journal's lifetime, 16 of which were produced at the University of Washington."

The Journal of Korean Studies 2011-2016
Total Downloads by Region (49,692)



Project Muse / Johns Hopkins Press Statistics January 2011–May 17, 2016



During its 47 years *the Journal of Korean Studies* has undergone significant changes in its cover design.

Top left: the very first issue of the first volume, published in 1969. Top center: cover of Volume 6, 1988-89. Top right: Volume 10, No. 1 published in fall 2005. Bottom left: Volume 20, No.2, published in fall 2015.

Compiled by Tracy Stober

Diverse Topics and Global Participation

With the generous support from the Korea Foundation The *Journal of Korean Studies* has grown exponentially since it was acquired by the University of Washington Center for Korea Studies in the summer of 2008. For over 45 years the *Journal of Korean Studies* has continued to publish outstanding research related to the Korean peninsula.

In 2010 the total print run was approximately 300 print copies. In 2011 the *Journal of Korean Studies* began publishing two issues a year. In 2010, the Center for Korea Studies applied for the *JKS* and was accepted into Project Muse through Johns Hopkins University Press. Starting in 2011, issues dating back to 1969 were uploaded to the Project Muse system and were instantaneously available to intuitions around the world. By the end of this year (2016) over 50,000 articles will have been downloaded.

The *Journal of Korean Studies* has been read by scholars and students on every continent on the globe (not including Antarctica).

Over the past eight years the University of Washington Center for Korea Studies has made it their mission to produce well-rounded, diverse issues full of engaging content. Topics range from South Korean rural husbands, geese fathers, and South Korean cinema to the

Korean War, transgender issues, and North Korean culture and politics.

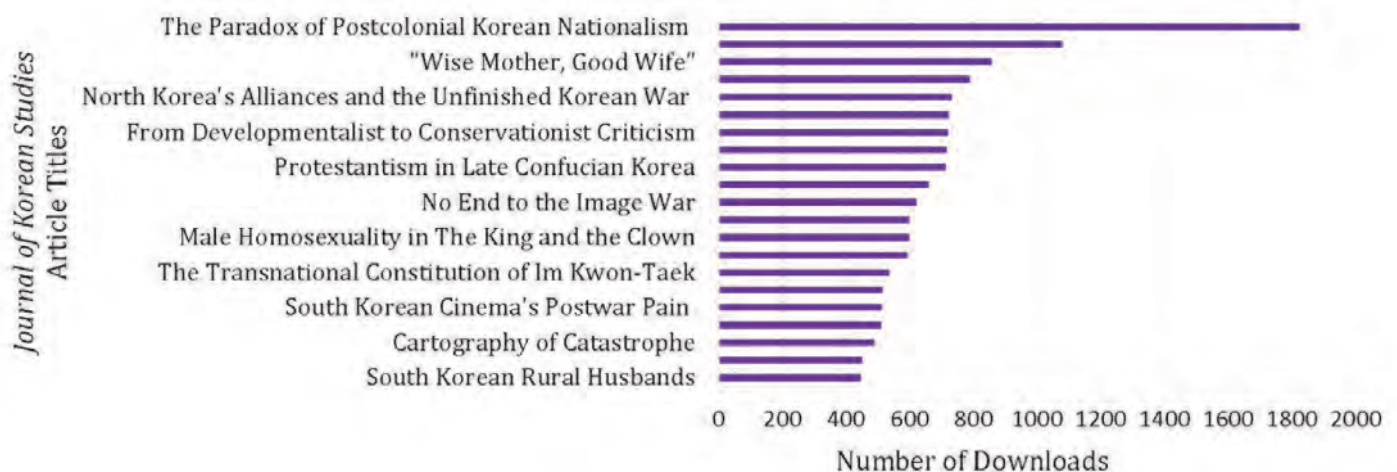
The University of Washington Center for Korea Studies has also made it a policy to actively encourage authors from around the globe to submit articles. Over the past eight years authors have hailed from South Korea, Japan, Russia, the Netherlands, the UK, Australia, Israel, France, Canada, and the United States.

Over the past eight years hundreds of scholars have participated in the production, article review process, and the submission of articles and the reviewing of Korea-related books and films. Since acquiring the *JKS* in 2008, the Center for Korea Studies has published the works of 90 separate scholars, more than the number of authors published in the first 32 years.

As stewards of the *Journal of Korean Studies*, the managing editor and the rest of the editorial team understood the necessity of having editorial board involvement and encouraged further participation by organizing an annual editorial board meeting at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference. The editorial board continues to grow. Currently there are 17 editorial board members from a highly diverse number of varying departments and institutions.

Over the past eight years, authors have hailed from South Korea, Japan, Russia, the Netherlands, the UK, Australia, Israel, France, Canada, and the United States.

Most Downloaded Articles 2011-2016



Recent Publications by Faculty



Co-edited by Clark W. Sorensen and Andrea Gevurtz Arai, *Spaces of Possibility: In, Between, and Beyond Korea and Japan*, University of Washington Press, 2016. www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/SORSPA.html

The Center for Korea Studies is pleased to announce the publication of the seventh volume in the UW Center for Korea Studies Publication Series. *Spaces of Possibility: In, Between, and Beyond Korea and Japan*, edited by Clark W. Sorensen and Andrea Gevurtz Arai is currently available for pre-sale through the University of Washington Press, both in paperback and hardcover. This fine publication has over 70 images and is printed in full cover.

The project began in the fall of 2011, with a working group of Korea and Japan anthropologists as well as literary scholars invited to the UW from across the United States. Four of the 6 members of the working group traveled together to Korea and Japan in the summer prior to do fieldwork research on topics ranging from memorials, material remains and popular representations of the colonial period in the present, regional identity, performance and tourism, popular art, global imagery, and labor activism. The workshop solidified into a 2012 conference held at the UW's Simpson Center for the Humanities, which culminated in this edited volume.

Spaces of Possibility engages with spaces in, between, and beyond the national borders of Japan and Korea. Some of these spaces involve the ambiguous longings and aesthetic refigurings of the past in the present, the social possibilities that emerge out of the seemingly impossible new spaces of development, the opportunities of genre, and spaces of new ethical subjectivities. Museums, colonial remains, new architectural spaces, graffiti, street theater, popular song, recent movies, photographic topography, and translated literature all serve as keys for unlocking the ambiguous and contradictory—yet powerful—emotions of spaces, whether in Tokyo, Seoul, or New York.



Heekyoung Cho, *Translation's Forgotten History: Russian Literature, Japanese Mediation, and the Formation of Modern Korean Literature*, Harvard University Asia Center, 2016. www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674660045

Translation's Forgotten History investigates the meanings and functions that translation generated for modern national literatures during their formative period and reconsiders literature as part of a dynamic translational process of negotiating foreign values. By examining the triadic literary and cultural relations among Russia, Japan, and colonial Korea and revealing a shared sensibility and literary experience in East Asia (which referred to Russia as a significant other in the formation of its own modern literatures), this book highlights translation as a radical and ineradicable part—not merely a catalyst or complement—of the formation of modern national literature. *Translation's Forgotten History* thus rethinks the way modern literature developed in Korea and East Asia. While national canons are founded on amnesia regarding their process of formation, framing literature from the beginning as a process rather than an entity allows a more complex and accurate understanding of national literature formation in East Asia and may also provide a model for world literature today.

Reviews

“Innovative and concise, *Translation's Forgotten History* exemplifies the strengths of comparative literary studies since the coming of postcolonial scholarship.”

—Lydia H. Liu, Columbia University

“*Translation's Forgotten History* powerfully unpacks the overlooked translation and retranslation regimes central to the formation of modern Korean literature in the early 20th century.”

—Theodore Hughes, Columbia University

“*Translation's Forgotten History* provides a particularly welcome new perspective on literary dynamics in 20th century East Asia by examining Korean intellectuals' translations and appropriations of Russian prose through Japanese-language translations.”

—Karen Thornber, Harvard University

Korean Diaspora in Cuba: Their Untold History



Korean immigrants gathered at a baby's birthday party on April 8, 1951. Photo by Alfredo Garcia.

In conjunction with the establishment of the Korean Cuban photo collection and its exhibit in the East Asia Library, the monthly Korean book-talk program, "Book Sori," organized by Korea studies librarian Hyokyoungh Yi, invited Ms. Martha Lim Kim to discuss her book, *Coreanos en Cuba* (Koreans in Cuba) on Saturday, March 19th, 2016.

Martha Kim is an established academic who taught at the University of Matanzas and is also the daughter of late Cheontaek Lim (Ernesto Lim), a first-generation Korean Cuban who was a strong community leader as well as an independence activist and educator. She wrote *Coreanos en Cuba* with her husband and Cuban historian, Raul Ruiz. Building on her father's compilation of Korean Cuban history, they incorporated additional data such as public records, news articles, and oral history from Korean immigrants to complete a rich chronicle of their early struggles.

Ms. Kim spoke at length about the process of Korean Cuban immigration, which began in the early 20th century. In order to flee the dire state of poverty in Korea, a country with weak industries, backward agriculture, and widespread unemployment, those who were seeking jobs were attracted to labor traffickers' advertisements for contract labor in Yucatan, Mexico. But they found the situation in the new land destitute. They were distributed among the landowners like commodities, to work and live at farms with very poor conditions. As their contracts expired and the laborers were left without jobs, the prospect of better conditions in Cuba led the immigrants to consider a second move. In the 1920s, Cuba was one of the leading developing nations in Latin America; following World War I, the decline in the production of sugar in Europe prompted a sugar rush on the island. By 1921,

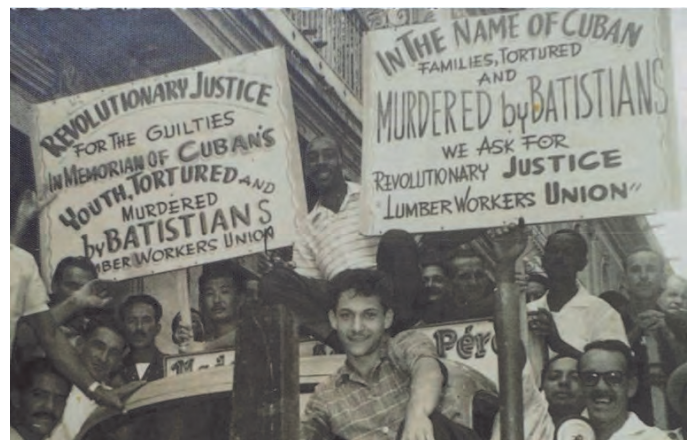
about 300 Korean immigrants found their way into Cuba searching for yet another hope of prosperity. Due to the subsequent revolution and the international isolation of Cuba, they were the first and only diaspora of Koreans that arrived.

Hardships continued with the decline of the Cuban economy and the subsequent nationalization of labor laws that made employment very difficult for immigrants. Though the social transformations brought forth by the new revolutionary government in 1959 established equal civil and employment opportunities, it disintegrated Korean immigrant families who lost their link to each other. Through intermarriages with the local population and adaptation to Cuba, Korean immigrants increasingly lost their ties to their homeland.

Ms. Kim closed her talk by discussing the new movement to create more solidarity among Korean Cubans beginning in the mid-1990s. Today, more than a thousand descendants have reconnected with their ethnic identity. The Korean Presbyterian Church of Seattle played a big role in this; they sent missionaries to teach the Korean language in Cuba to 3rd and 4th generation Korean Cubans, which led to an increasing cultural awareness and solidarity among Korean communities. Others such as Juan Jose Kim funded and organized Korean language programs at the University of Havana as well as helped establish the Korean museum in Havana.

Hyokyoungh Yi remarked, "As a librarian, I hope to collect and preserve the records of Korean Cuban immigrants in a more systematic way. For instance, it would be very meaningful to obtain oral history from the later generations who are living in Cuba today."

Compiled by Hyokyoungh Yi and Hayone Chung



Jerónimo Lim Kim (Im Umyo), holding the poster on the left in a protest with Cubans against Batista's government, 1959. Photographer unknown.

Since the summer of 2015, the East Asia Library (EAL) at University of Washington has collected a little more than 100 digital photographs from Korean Cuban immigrants in Cuba. Most of the photographs are black and white and are related to the earlier generations of Korean Cuban immigrants. Due to the lack of official diplomatic relations between South Korea and Cuba, it has been difficult to obtain resources regarding Korean Cuban immigrants. EAL hopes that this digital photograph collection and webpage will help those who need to research this topic. The collection can be accessed at the following link: <http://depts.washington.edu/korcuban/>

2015–16 Korea Colloquia Speaker Series



Audience members attentively listen to Ross King's lecture, "Out of the Margins." Photo by Hayone Chung.



Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015

Jae-woong Yun

Dongguk University, South Korea
"Characteristics of Shamanism in Modern Korean Poetry"



Wednesday, Mar. 9, 2016

Kyoim Yun

University of Kansas
"Fire and Fury: The Cheju Rebellion of 1901"

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015

Anthony D'Costa

University of Melbourne, Australia
"After-Development Dynamics: South Korea's Contemporary Engagements with Asia"



Tuesday, Mar. 29, 2016

Youngmi Kim

Central European University, Hungary
"The 2016 Parliamentary Election in South Korea"



Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015

Karen Thornber

Harvard University
"Tackling Stigma: Leprosy and the Case of Yi Ch'ongjun"

Thursday, Apr. 14, 2016

Nicholas Harkness

Harvard University
"The Pragmatics of a Trans-Pacific Sermon"

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2015

Theodore Hughes

Columbia University
"Proletarian Intimacies: North Korean Literature and the 'War to Liberate the Fatherland'"



Thursday, Apr. 21, 2016

Ross King

University of British Columbia, Canada
"Out of the Margins: The Western Wing 西廂記 Glossarial Complex in Late Chosŏn and the Problem of the Literary Vernacular"



Tuesday, Mar. 1, 2016

Myung-koo Kang

Baruch College, City University of New York
"Japan's Past, Korea's Future? A Korean Model of Financial Liberalization and Its Consequences"

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Keun Lee

Seoul National University, South Korea
"The National Innovation System (NIS) for the Catch Up and Post-Catch Up Stages in South Korea"

Korea and Vietnam in the 20th Century

On November 6–7, 2015, the Center for Korea Studies sponsored a conference with support from the Academy of Korean Studies titled, “Korea and Vietnam in the 20th century.” Both bordering on China and highly influenced by Chinese civilization, Korea and Vietnam have gone through the 20th and 21st centuries looking over their shoulders at each other, often identifying with the vicissitudes of each other’s history. Paper presenters came from the US, South Korea, and Vietnam, and the conference focused on four subjects: intellectual interaction between Korea and Vietnam and the mirroring narrative in which Vietnamese or Koreans see themselves in the other; empire and belonging; history, legitimacy, and north/south splits; and interactions and influence of the US on Korea and Vietnam. Presenters and discussants were as follows: Clark Sorensen (University of Washington), Judith Henchy (University of Washington), Hazel Hahn (Seattle University), Joshua Van Lieu (LaGrange College), Chi P. Pham (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences), John P. DiMoia (National University of Singapore), Balazs Szalontai (Korea University), Phan Thi Thu Hien (Vietnam National University), and Michele Thompson (Southern Connecticut State University).



A Report of the Conference By Dr. Balazs Szalontai

While small in size, the conference provided a comprehensive overview of past and present linkages between Korea and Vietnam in a variety of spheres (war, politics, economy, culture, historiography, health care, and tourism), from the early 20th century to today. The papers, diverse as they were in topics, were interconnected in multiple ways. For instance, two papers were focused on the events of the Vietnam War (from a South Korean and a North Korean perspective, respectively), a third examined the South Korean and Vietnamese literary memories of the war, while a fourth raises the possibility that in 1975, the renewal of South Korean interest in “the fall of Vietnam” (which Kim Künsu attributed to “government corruption, social and political conservatism, unwillingness to reform state and society through the study of various fields of Western learning, and a general apathy on the part of the Vietnamese people”) was at least partly stimulated by the collapse of the Saigon regime, an official ally of the South Korean state. Three papers covered various aspects of intellectual life (historiography and literature), partly overlapping with the three papers focused on the ideas, images, and emotions generated by colonialism. Four papers analyzed the direct interactions between the two countries and/or Korean and Vietnamese views of the other nation, while two presentations provided parallel descriptions of comparable Korean and Vietnamese conceptions and situations.

In one way or another, each paper was based on original research, such as the textual analysis of literary and historiographical works, and the examination of wartime South Korean publications, colonial Japanese shipping

yearbooks, and declassified archival documents. The three discussants were either Korea or Vietnam specialists, rather than scholars familiar with both countries, but the comments from the audience (which were particularly lively during the discussion of cultural topics) could neatly fill any perceived gap.

All in all, the conference represented a very stimulating effort to overcome the occasionally rigid barriers of area studies, in which Korea is usually linked with the various Northeast Asian states (Japan, China, and less frequently Mongolia), while Vietnam is commonly grouped together with the Southeast Asian countries (with particular respect to Indochina and the organization of ASEAN). It would be definitely worth expanding the scope of research to additional fields, such as South Korean economic activities in post-1990 Vietnam, the Vietnamese-South Korean security dialogue in ASEAN Plus Three, or the views that pre-colonial Confucian Korean and Vietnamese observers held about each other. For instance, I strongly hope that sooner or later, a Korean or Vietnamese scholar will kindly explain why Vietnamese Emperor Minh Mạng, irritated as he was by Qing protocolary preference for Chosŏn Korea over Nguyễn Vietnam, went so far as to make the following uncomplimentary reference to the other Confucian monarchy: “Korea as a country of literature and worthy men is definitely not worth discussing.”¹

In my impression, this conference, though somewhat belatedly, proved Minh Mạng wrong. Evidently, there have been a number of Korean and Vietnamese intellectuals who found the other country worth discussing.

¹ Alexander Barton Woodside, *Vietnam and the Chinese Model: A Comparative Study of Vietnamese and Chinese Government in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988), 243.

2016 Association of Asian Studies: Comics Panel

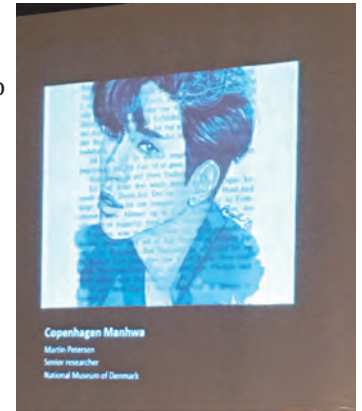
The Association of Asian Studies (AAS) annual conference was held in Seattle this year (March 31-April 3, 2016) and Heekyoung Cho organized a panel on Korean comics, titled “Comics: Medium, Politics, and Culture.” Comics has been an important part of Korean popular culture and is more so with the emergence of the webtoon (Korean webcomics) in the 21st century. Nonetheless, comics is one of the least studied cultural fields in Korean culture. Cho organized this panel to open up an interdisciplinary discussion on this understudied research topic. Incorporating comparative perspectives, this panel as a whole explored diverse aspects of Korean comics as an important medium of popular culture and addressed cultural implications that comics generate in Korean society and beyond.



Heekyoung Cho gives a presentation on Korean Webcomics at the Association of Asian Studies. Photo by Hayone Chung

The panel consisted of three presenters. Emily Hall (Ph.D. student in History, UW) explored the editorial cartoon as a liminal space that allows for the voicing of political and social meaning while simultaneously disrupting these meanings through discomfort, laughter, and ambiguity. Through ethnographic study of Danish consumers of East Asian popular culture and Korean comics, Martin Petersen (senior researcher, National Museum of Denmark) identified new processes of cultural negotiation and linked them to a discussion of affective communities of producer-consumers in Denmark.

Heekyoung Cho examined the thriving new industry of Korean webcomics (webtoons), discussing it as a new form of graphic narrative that has driven greater innovation in aesthetic form than is the case with US and Japanese webcomics cultures.



Presentation slide by Martin Petersen (National Museum of Denmark). Photo by Hayone Chung

Annual Spring Teachers' Conference

The tenth annual spring Teachers' Conference was held on Saturday, May 7th. Thirty-six K-12 teachers from the greater Seattle area school districts including Seattle, Bellevue, Issaquah, Tacoma, Edmonds, and Bothell visited the University of Washington for a one-day intensive workshop on Korea studies. Speakers were invited from across the nation to present their up-to-date research in their respective areas.

Prof. Clark Sorensen, director of Center for Korea Studies and the chair of Korea Studies Program at the University of Washington, discussed South Korea's contemporary engagement with other Asian nations. Prof. Mark Peterson who heads the Korea studies program at the Brigham Young University delivered two lectures, one on the historical and contemporary points of contention in South Korean society and the other about the classical form of poetry, *sijo*. He provided exercises that the teachers can use in classrooms to teach their students how to write a *sijo* poem.

For lunch, the participants enjoyed a Korean buffet-style meal with kimbab, bulgogi, chapchae, squash salad, and kimchi out on the sunny quad garden as they watched taekwondo performances by Cho's Taekwondo Family Center.

The session continued with Youngdae Kim's (UW, ethnomusicology) enticing talk on cultural appropriation and authenticity in contemporary Korean pop music, especially in the genre of hip-hop. Prof. Sunglim Kim (Dartmouth) delivered the last presentation of the day, introducing an interesting genre of Korean still life painting called *ch'aekkori* and traced its origins to the Renaissance style of painting from Europe and its transmission through missionaries stationed in China in the 18th century.

This is an annual event held in the spring quarter of each year. Teachers at all levels between K-12 are welcome to participate. They receive free teaching materials, lesson plans for social studies, history, language, and art, as well as free reference books, and six clock hours.

For more information, visit the website at the following link: <http://jsis.washington.edu/korea/k12/>



Youngdae Kim (top) and Sunglim Kim (below) are giving engaging talks on Korean culture to K-12 teachers in the greater Seattle Area. Photo by Hayone Chung.

Faculty News

Dr. Yong-Chool Ha Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Social Science, Jackson School of International Studies



Dr. Yong-Chool Ha organized and participated in numerous academic conferences this year. On December 10–11, 2015, he participated in the roundtable, “After ICCEES 2015: The Future of Japanese Slavic-Eurasian Studies” sponsored by the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center at Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan. He discussed how to prepare and develop Russian studies in Northeast Asia over the next 60 years.

Dr. Ha also joined the kick-off symposium at the National Institutes for the Humanities of Japan (NIHU) program, held on January 23–24, 2016 in Osaka, Japan. He presented the paper, “Why Northeast Asian States have not seen the Emergence of Cross-Border Cooperation: Reflections from the 1980s to Today.” At the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) conference in Seattle, he presided as the chair of the session “Legislative Disruptions in East Asia: A Comparative Study” on April 2, 2016.

He is a recipient of multiple fellowships as well. Dr. Ha was endowed with the Korea Foundation Visiting fellowship from April 2015 to September 2015, as well as the Writing Research Fellowship from the Asia Center at Seoul National University between September 2015 and September 2016.



George Long Fellowship

Letter of Appreciation

by Matthew VanVolkenburg

I feel very fortunate to have been awarded the George Long Fellowship from the UW Center for Korea Studies for the 2015–16 school year. During this first year of pursuing an MA the fellowship’s generous support has allowed me to broaden my knowledge of South Korean history by studying Japanese and North Korean history, to improve my Korean language skills, to view Korean society through the lenses of anthropology and comparative politics, and to maintain a 3.95 GPA while doing so.

I have long had an interest in Korean perceptions of Western culture and media depictions of Westerners in Korea, as well as the frictions that accompany the US military presence there. My aim during my final year of the MA program will be to research and write about the suppression of Western-influenced rock and folk music in South Korea in 1975 and 1976, via a crackdown on marijuana smoking by musicians, and place it in the context of social purification and political repression at the height of Yusin authoritarianism. To

Dr. Heekyoung Cho Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Literature

Dr. Heekyoung Cho’s first book, *Translation’s Forgotten History: Russian Literature, Japanese Mediation, and the Formation of Modern Korean Literature* was published by the Harvard University Asia Center in 2016. Fellowships for university teachers from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from the American Council of Learned Societies enabled her to concentrate on finishing that project and getting it published during the academic year 2014–15. Her article, “Transnationality and Coloniality in the Concept of Modern Korean Literature,” was accepted and will be published in the *Journal of Korean Studies* in Spring 2017.

Her interest in translation studies is continuously being enriched, particularly through collaborations with UW colleagues. Her proposed cross-disciplinary research cluster titled “Troubling Translations” with Cynthia Steele (Comparative Literature) and Vicente Rafael (History) was made possible thanks to support from the Simpson Center for the Humanities during the academic year 2015–16. The group has been organizing workshops and talks by leading scholars in the field and has also created a micro-seminar for graduate students in the spring of 2016.

As aforementioned, she organized a panel on Korean comics and presented a paper on Korean webcomics for the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) annual conference, held in Seattle, March 31–April 3, 2016. In early May 2016, she attended the conference “Translation Theory Today” to present a paper about translation and ethics.



this end, during the 2015–16 school year I have written a review of literature related to this topic, translated pertinent articles and presented on them in a Korean-language class, and researched and written about the genealogy and ongoing influence of the concept of *tongdo sögi* (Eastern way, Western technology), which Park Chung Hee himself made reference to while justifying the 1975 crackdown. Over the next year this writing will be incorporated, along with the results of further archival research, into a thesis on this little-researched topic. From there I intend to pursue a PhD in Korean history.

Matthew VanVolkenburg received his BA in history from the University of Guelph and lived in South Korea for 14 years. During this time he taught English in the public school system, was on the council of the Royal Asiatic Society, Korea Branch for four years, and wrote the Korea-related blog “Gusts of Popular Feeling” for over ten years. He also had his writing published in various Seoul-based newspapers and magazines, as well as the *Journal of Korean Law*.



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