The purpose of this paper is to examine the development of South Korean nationalism from the 1940s to the 1950s focusing on the question of who was included in, and who was excluded from, the "imagined" boundaries of "Koreans." Specifically, by analyzing newspaper articles of Chosun Ilbo and Dong-a Ilbo from the establishment of the Korean government on August 15, 1948 to the 1950s, this paper will show that, as a result of the Korean War (1950-1953) and the ensuing consolidation of the division of Korea, the "imagined" boundaries of "Koreans" at the societal level have changed gradually from "inclusive" ones which include not only "South Koreans" but also "North Koreans" and overseas Koreans (such as Koreans in China, Koreans in the U.S.S.R. and Koreans in Japan) to "exclusive" ones which include "South Koreans" only. This suggests that, by imagining a new "imagined community" of South Koreans, the South Korean society has tried to implement the "nationalist principle" which demands the congruence between the national and the political boundaries.

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1:30-3:00 PM, Thomson Hall 317
Thursday, June 4, 2015