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The Politicized Discourse and International Power Order: Dismantling the Mechanism of the North Korea Crisis

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Analysis of the North Korean crisis, aggravated by repeated missile and nuclear tests, requires an alternative perspective. Contrary to the conventional approach, which places the responsibility on North Korea and focuses on ways to control its actions, this study shifts the focus to the following questions: Why does there exist an ongoing crisis on the Korean Peninsula? And, more importantly, who benefits from it? This study examines how politicized discourse, interwoven with hidden interests and various layers of conventional wisdom, serves to perpetuate the crisis by engaging international society in a vicious cycle of reciprocal blame. More specifically, certain experts and think tanks, in connection with various interests, act as the original producers of North Korea discourse, who then utilize the media to shape international public opinion. After dismantling this mechanism of discourse politics as well as examining the relationship between the media and foreign policy in the U.S., Europe, and South Korea, the study suggests the possible role of 'knowledge' with integrity, fairness and independence in paving the way for an alternative international order which favors peace rather than conflict.

Dr. Sunghae Kim is an associate professor at Daegu University. Previously, he worked for the Korea Press Foundation as a senior research fellow. He received his Ph.D. from Penn State University in 2005, and holds two M.A. degrees both in Journalism and International Politics from the University of Georgia. Dr. Kim completed his B.A. in Journalism at Yonsei University. As a specialist in the areas of international political economy, financial journalism and media diplomacy, he published dozens of books, book chapters, and peer-reviewed research articles. Recently, he has been working on theorizing about 'news diplomacy' in relation to such issues as security and financial crisis in the global public sphere.

3:30-5:00 PM, Communications #202

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