

# NEWSLETTER

## Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg



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The newsletter “Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg” aims to share information around Korea-related teaching and research activities, such as lecture series, workshops, and publications at Heidelberg University. In addition, we consider how the university is connected to Korea by introducing individuals in various sectors, such as research, politics, economy, and culture, in the section “Individual in Focus”. The newsletter will be published twice per year.

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## 1. Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg

Heidelberg University has a long-standing reputation as a prominent center for East Asian Studies in Europe, particularly in the fields of Chinese and Japanese Studies, as well as East Asian Art History. While a formal institution dedicated solely to Korean Studies has not yet been established at the University, Korea has consistently captivated the interest of researchers across various disciplines, including social sciences, politics, and art history.



The Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg was informally founded in 2011 to foster the exchange of ideas concerning Korea-related teaching and research initiatives at the university. Starting from 2014, the Chair of Contemporary Chinese Studies has been expanded to encompass social science research in the realm of Korea and Japan. This shift has significantly contributed to research and instructional undertakings in the study of contemporary Korea. Moreover, the

establishment of the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) in 2019 has invigorated the aspiration to develop further research on Korea. This development has introduced an interdisciplinary and transcultural perspective that has been seamlessly integrated into the broader context of East Asian Studies at Heidelberg University.

In the realm of teaching activities, the Korea Foundation has graciously sponsored a lecturer position for language courses since 2012. Each year, four different levels are offered: Korean I and Korean III, typically conducted during the winter semesters, and Korean II and Korean IV, which are generally available in the summer semesters. From 2016 onward, a range of Korea-related courses and seminars have been delivered, covering sociological, political, and historical perspectives, and led by our dedicated researchers and professors. Furthermore, the financial support from the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) since 2019 has allowed us to expand the breadth of our teaching activities by inviting esteemed guest professors (photo above by Xiaoying Jin, Heidelberg University).

During the preceding Summer Semester of 2023, notable main seminars in the field of Korean Studies were offered. "Foreign Policy of the Republic of Korea: Past and Present" was led by Juhee Jeong, and another seminar titled "East Asian International Relations: Korean Peninsula and Beyond" was instructed by Dr. In Young Min.

## 2. *Ostasien Aktuell* (East Asia Today)

“East Asia Today” (*Ostasien Aktuell*) is a regular series of lectures and discussions organised by Prof. Dr. Anja Senz and her team at the Institute of East Asian Studies at the Heidelberg University on political, economic and social developments in the Chinese-speaking world as well as in Japan and Korea. A list of current and former lectures as well as the working papers are available on our website: <https://ostasien-aktuell.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/en/ostasien-aktuell-english/>.

### Summer Semester Lecture Series (SoSe 2022)

- Klein, Axel. „Zur Rolle organisierter Religion im politischen System Japans“10. May: Axel Klein, May 10, 2022, Institute for East Asian Studies, Duisburg-Essen University, Germany.
- Prentice, Mike. “Infrastructures of Distinction in Corporate South Korea”, June 5, 2022, School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield, UK.
- Saikia, Amrita. “Tibetan Women-in-Exile in India: Construction of the Idea of the Tibetan Nation and Contributions to Tibetan Nationalism”, June 12, 2022, Department of Sociology, University of Science and Technology, India.
- Kim, Wonsub. “Building a Welfare System through Bounded Learning: A Case Study of Korean Long-term Care Insurance”, June 19, 2022, Department of Sociology, Korea University, South Korea.
- Haddad, Mary Alice. “Environmental Politics in East Asia”, East Asian and Environmental Studies, June 26, 2022, Wesleyan University, Australia.
- Wallenwein, Febienne. “Rice Terrace Landscapes and their Traditional Cultivation as Resources for Regional and Local Development? Insights into Socio-cultural and Economic Transformations of the Hani Rice Terraces in Yunnan Province”, July 19, 2022, Heidelberg University, Germany.

### 3. Academic Activities

#### Publications

- Kwon, Jaok. 2023. "Book Review: Asia and Postwar Japan: Deimperialization, Civic Activism, and National Identity, Harvard University Press", *European Journal of East Asian Studies*, 22 (1): 89-91.
- Kwon, Jaok. "Skilled Migrants and their Encounters with different Care and Employment Regimes: Childcaring among highly Skilled Female Migrants from Korea in Germany", *Social Sciences* (under review).
- Kwon, Jaok (forthcoming). *The Aspiring Middle Class: Housewifization, Rural Women and the Developmental State of South Korea in the 1960s-1970s*, London: Routledge.
- Kwon, Jaok (forthcoming). "Modern Family Capitalism in South Korea", edited by Markus Pohlmann and Friederike Elias, *International Management Studies: Nine Country Studies on Career Paths and Leadership Orientations in Top Management*, Springer.
- Kwon, Jaok (forthcoming). "Japan's Flashback to traditional Capitalism", edited by Markus Pohlmann and Friederike Elias, *International Management Studies: Nine Country Studies on Career Paths and Leadership Orientations in Top Management*, Springer.
- Kwon, Jaok (forthcoming). "Korean Newcomers in Germany: The changing sociodemographics of Korean Immigrants", edited by Yonson Ahn, *Cross-border Interactions and Encounters between Germany and Korea in the New Century*, Lexington Books.
- Lee, Hyojin. 2023. "Kūndaegi ūiryo yulli rosōūi Insul ūi chaet'ansaeng [A Study on 'Insul (An Art of Benevolence)': Formation of Korean Medical Ethics in Modern Korea]," *Korean Journal of Medical History* (A&HCI, SCOPUS).
- Min, In Young Min. 2023. "The Ukraine War and the Two Koreas," *CATS Arena*, No. 4.

#### Presentations and Events

- Jeong, Juhee. "Transposing Miracle from the Han River to the Mekong River? Revisiting role of South Korea's Economic Development to Mekong River Basin Countries", Accepted and Presented at the International Institute of Korean Studies (IKSU) Annual International Conference Series (IKSU 2023), April 2023, University of Central Lancashire, UK.

- Jin, Xiaoying. “Mobilities of People and beyond under the Flows of East Asian International Relations”, Lecture at the Main Seminar: East Asian International Relations: Korean Peninsula and Beyond, June 28, 2023, Heidelberg University.
- Kwon, Jaok. “Skill in the Migration Policy in Germany and the Change Landscape of the Korean Migrants”, May 31, 2023, The Academy of Mobility Humanities, Konkuk University, South Korea.
- Min, In Young Min. “Korea’s Place in the Sinocentric World Order: Chosŏn’s Quest for Security as Being,” Invited talk, July 5, 2023, Leiden University, Netherland.

## 4. News

### Interactions with Partner University



After the delegation from Konkuk University's Academy of Mobility Humanities visited Heidelberg in the previous year, two of our research members had the privilege to reciprocate the visit to Konkuk University in the current year. On May 31st, Dr. Jaok Kwon from the Centre for Asian and Transcultural

Studies was warmly invited as a guest lecturer by the Academy of Mobility Humanities at Konkuk University. During the visit, she delivered a thought-provoking presentation titled "Migration Policy in Germany and the Changing Sociodemographics of Korean Immigrants".



On August 2nd, one of our doctoral research members, Xiaoying Jin, from Heidelberg, was extended an invitation as a guest to take part in a colloquium organized by Konkuk University's Academy of Mobility Humanities.

### Publication Grant (The Academy of Korean Studies, 2023-2024)

Dr. Jaok Kwon has been awarded a publication grant by the Academy of Korean Studies for a collaborative project titled 'Transnational Civic Engagements and Identity Formation among Korean Migrants in Germany.' This endeavor involves Dr. Sang Hui Nam from Bamberg University. The project's primary aim is to publish a special issue in *ASIEN: The German Journal of Contemporary Asia*, one of the most esteemed journals in the realm of Asian Studies in Germany. The special issue will delve into the subject of transnational civic engagements among Korean migrants in Germany and will bring together researchers from diverse disciplines within the humanities and social sciences across Germany. The overarching goal of this initiative is to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Germany in 2023.