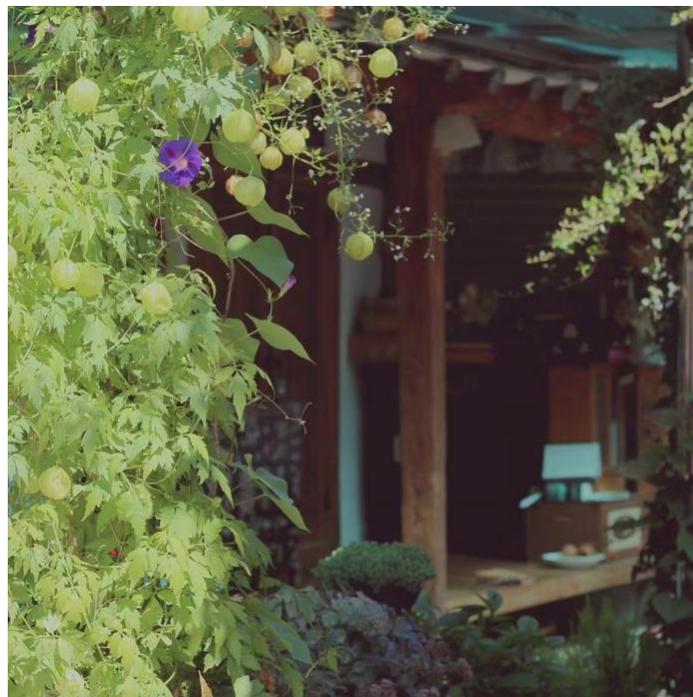


# NEWSLETTER

## Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg



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**Volume 2 (Winter 2021/2022)**

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.

## **Table of Contents**

1. Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg
2. Academy of Korean Studies Seed Research Project (2019-2022)
3. *Ostasien Aktuell* (East Asia Today)
4. Young Scholars of Korean Studies in Heidelberg
5. News
6. Individual in Focus

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## 1. Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg

Heidelberg University has long been a hub of East Asian Studies in Europe, particularly in the fields of Chinese and Japanese Studies, as well as in East Asian Art History. Although there is not yet a formal institution for Korean Studies at the University, Korea has consistently been the centre of interest from researchers in the social sciences, politics, and art history. The Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg was founded in an informal guise in 2011, in order to share ideas on Korea-related teaching and research activities in Heidelberg. Since 2014, the position of the Chair of Contemporary Chinese Studies has been dedicated to the field of social science research on Korea and Japan. This makes an important contribution to research and teaching activities in the study of contemporary Korea. In addition, aspirations for developing further research on



Korea have been strengthened by the establishment of the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) in 2019 and an interdisciplinary and transcultural perspective has been integrated into the East Asian Studies in Heidelberg.

With regard to teaching activities, the Korea Foundation has kindly supported a lecturer position for language courses since 2012. Four different levels are provided each year: Korean I and Korean III, which usually

take place in the winter semesters, and Korean II and Korean IV, which are usually in the summer semesters. Since 2016, Korea-related courses and seminars have been provided from a range of sociological, political, and historical perspectives by our researchers and professors. In addition, funding from the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) provided since 2019 has enabled us to broaden the spectrum of the teaching activities by inviting renowned guest professors (photo above by Junee Jeong, Heidelberg University).

In the previous Winter Semester 2021/22, two main seminars took place: “Globalization, Migration and Mobility in and beyond East Asia” was taught by Dr. Jaok Kwon & Xiaoying Jin, while “Korea and East Asian International Relations” was taught by Dr. In Young Min. Moreover, in addition to the regular *Ostasien Aktuell* (East Asia Today) lecture series (on which see section 3 below), there were two public lectures on Korea-related topics: “Rescuing Art History from the Nation: Late *Chosŏn* Korea between Europe and Edo Japan” by Prof. J. P. Park from Oxford University, and “Early Photography of Korea in Hungarian Collections” in East Asian Art History by Prof. Beatrix Mecsi from the Korean Studies Department at the Institute of East Asian Studies, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest.

## **2. Academy of Korean Studies Seed Research Project (2019-2022)**

### **Doctoral Thesis in Process**

As part of the AKS Project, Xiaoying Jin is writing a doctoral thesis on the topic of “Global Nomads without Homeland: Korean Chinese (*Joseonjok*) through the third Migration”. Worldwide movement and mobility are today a central issue due to the rapid onset of globalization. The improvement of technology and more liberal policies on migrations in many countries have enabled increasing numbers of individuals to move and leave their homelands. The Korean Chinese community is a group of Korean ethnic minorities in China with a population of 1.7 million according to China’s most recent census. This is also the largest group within the Korean diaspora globally. Given that the global average international migration rate is only 3.6%, more than half of the population of *Joseonjok* have left their home and ventured abroad for better job opportunities, further education, and other personal and professional reasons. In related previous studies, *Joseonjok* has been discussed mainly within the framework of the Korean diaspora and the overseas Korean community. However, as Chinese citizens, the migration and mobility of *Joseonjok* also needs to be discussed as an example of Chinese migration flows since China’s liberalising reforms, policies, and the social transformation. This thesis asks three main research questions: 1) What are the trends and patterns of *Joseonjok*’s migration and mobility? 2) Among these trends and patterns, what are the reasons that *Joseonjok* travel to the third country? 3) In the third country, how do they (re)-construct their homes? By answering these questions and using ethnological methods such as semi-structured life narrations and observations, Jin’s doctoral thesis examines a new paradigm for analysing the mobility of *Joseonjok* migrants from the perspective of home-leaving and home-making and contributes to ongoing theoretical discussions on human mobility.

### **Announcement of upcoming events (SoSe 2022)**

We are fortunate to welcome a visiting professor in the Summer Semester of 2022. Prof. Hyun Mee Kim from the Department of Cultural Anthropology, Yonsei University, will give a block seminar on “Transnational Mobility between Europe (Germany) and Korea: Histories and recent Trends”. All members of CATS are welcome and encouraged to participate in the seminar.

Also, in the upcoming Summer Semester of 2022, we will be holding a Master’s student workshop on Korea-related topics. More specific information will be updated on our website soon ([https://www.zo.uni-heidelberg.de/overview/korea/index\\_en.html](https://www.zo.uni-heidelberg.de/overview/korea/index_en.html)). We are looking forward to your active participation.

### 3. *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.

#### Winter Semester Lecture Series (WiSe 2021/22)

- Hyojin Lee, “The Vulnerability of the Historical Memory on Women in Modern Korea: The Changing Narratives on Ch’oe Yöngsuk”, November 8, 2021, Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Italy.
- In Young Min, “An Impossible Choice?: Past, Present, and Future of South Korea’s Independent Nuclear Arms”, November 22, 2021, Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University, Germany.
- Ji-Yoon An, “The Family in (New) Korean Cinema”, December 06, 2021, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
- Hyun Mee Kim, “Developmentalism-based Solutions or Existential Voices? Divergent Discourses facing Climate Crisis in South Korea”, January 17, 2022, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Yonsei University, South Korea.
- Youngeun Koo, “Transnational Biopolitics and Cold War Geopolitics: Intercountry Adoption between ‘Divided’ Korea and ‘Neutral’ Sweden”, February 07, 2022, Korean Studies, University of Tübingen, Germany.

#### Announcement for New Events related to Korea in the Summer Semester 2022

- **27. June:** Chunshik Kim (Dongshin University, South Korea), “Duale Ausbildung und duales Studium in Deutschland und Übertragbarkeit der Bildungssysteme auf Korea” (online).
- **11. July:** Helen Kim (Leeds University, UK), “Journeying towards Independence? Korean Nurses, Gender, and their ‘Twice Migration’ to the US in the 1970s” (hybrid).

#### Ostasien Aktuell Working Paper Series

- The Working Papers are available in PDF format and can be downloaded free of charge from this website (<https://ostasien-aktuell.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/en/ostasien-aktuell-english/>).

#### **4. Young Scholars of Korean Studies in Heidelberg**

The Workshop for the Korean Studies Heidelberg Research Group, which is led by Dr. Jaok Kwon, was formed in 2019 and takes place monthly in both the winter and the summer semesters. There are Master, Ph.D., and Post-doc level researchers in our Korean Studies Heidelberg Research Group. It aims to provide a comfortable place for those who are conducting research on Korea-related topics to share ideas and new research topics and obtain feedback with each other on a regular basis. Here follows an introduction and presentation of our members for the most recent semester.

##### **New Activity**

Previously in the workshops for the Korean Studies Young Scholars Group, each researcher had been required to present an academic paper. But this semester we attempted to start a new kind of activity. Dr. Jaok Kwon organized a discussion on sharing information which is designed to support young scholars to learn more about academia in Germany and in general. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021, we gathered together online for our monthly meeting as always. Since all of the current researchers are at completely different stages of their Ph.D. and academic careers and that all participants have distinctive educational backgrounds, more information sharing is needed. In this workshop, we spoke about must-do and must-know things in an academic career, such as support for academic research funding applications and independent project applications, book publications, journal publications, the publishing market in Germany, and the research career development in Germany and in other countries. In the future, besides these activities, we will try to explore other related topics to make our Korean Studies group a more dynamic, beneficial, and productive platform.

##### **Presentations (WS 2021/2022)**

- Jihye Bae, “Reconciliation vs. Nationalism, Democracy vs. Monarchy: A Comparative Analysis of History Tests of German Abitur and Korean College Scholastic Ability Test”, November 5, 2021, Institute of Education Science, Heidelberg University.
- Xiaoying Jin, “Global Nomads without Homeland: Korean Chinese through the Third Migration”, January 14, 2022, Centre for East Asian Studies, Heidelberg University.
- Juhee Jeong, “South Korea’s Role-taking amid the USA-China Rivalry: Assessing President Moon Jae-in’s New Southern Policy towards ASEAN”, February 4, 2022, Institute for Political Science, Heidelberg University.

## **5. News**

### **(1) 9. Tagung der Vereinigung für Koreaforschung (VfK) e.V. im deutschsprachigen Raum**

The biennial VfK conference was held on October 1-2, 2021 in virtual form in Hamburg in Germany. In this conference, scholars from Heidelberg participated in two panels: Jaok Kwon organized a panel entitled “Transnational Mobility” together with the presenters Xiaoying Jin and Jingyi Lee (Free University of Berlin), while the chair and discussant of the panel was Prof. Jérôme de Wit (University of Tübingen). In this panel, Kwon delivered a paper entitled “Creating Aspirations of Youth for Transnational Mobility: Neoliberal Developmental State and Youth Overseas Employment Programs in South Korea” and Xiaoying Jin gave a paper entitled “Integration of Immigrants and Nation-State Building of Origin Country: A Comparative Analysis on Overseas Diaspora Narratives of South Korea and China”. Another panel was entitled “Ideas of Politics in Korea Past and Present: Traditional Governance and Contemporary Foreign Policy”. In this panel, Kyonghee Lee from the Institute for Transcultural Studies presented a paper entitled “Who governs whom for whose sake?: Ideals of government in Chosŏn Village Compacts”, while Juhee Jeong from Institute for Political Science presented a paper entitled “Role-making and foreign policy analysis of South Korea regarding ASEAN”. Prof. Hannes Mosler from the Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Duisburg was selected as the President and Dr. Jaok Kwon will serve as the Vice-president of the Vereinigung für Koreaforschung e.V. im deutschsprachigen Raum (Association for Korean Studies in German-speaking Countries). The next conference will be held in October 2022 at the University of Duisburg.

### **(2) Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen Graduate Workshop**

On February 18-19, 2022, the University of Tübingen hosted the third Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen Graduate Workshop. On February 18, the workshop was introduced by Prof. You Jae Lee, who is the Director of the Department of Korean Studies of the University of Tübingen, and Sang Hee Bae, who is a Ph.D. candidate in Korean Studies at the University of Tübingen and one of the organizers of the workshop. Seven Ph.D. candidates from the three universities presented their current research within various fields of Korean Studies. Among them, three Ph.D. candidates from Heidelberg University presented their research topics: Jihye Bae from the Institute of Educational Science presented a paper on her thesis “History Education for the Past? for the Future! A Comparative Analysis of History Education in Germany and South Korea”, Juhee Jeong from the Institute for Political Science presented a paper on “South Korea’s Role-taking amid the U.S-China Rivalry: Assessing its ‘New Southern Policy’ towards ASEAN”, and Xiaoying Jin from the Centre for East Asian Studies presented a paper on “Global Nomads without Homeland: Korean Chinese through the Third Migration”. The Fourth Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen Graduate Workshop will be hosted by the Goethe Frankfurt University in 2023.

### (3) Presentations and New Publications<sup>1</sup>

#### Publications

- Bae, Ji-hye & Se-byong Yoon. 2022. "Analysis of World History Contents Composition and Questions in German History Textbooks: Focusing on Chinese History", *Journal of Curriculum and Evaluation*, 25(1): 79–101. <https://doi.org/10.29221/jce.2022.25.1.79> (in Korean).
- Kwon, Jaok. 2021. "Mobility, Refugees, and Gender from the Third World and Implication for Asia: An Analysis of Refugee Politics in Germany", Edited by Kodamaya Shiro, Sato Akira and Shimada Haruyuki, *Approach to Development Studies: Reading Global South from the World View*, Tokyo: Minerva Shobo Librairie, pp. 89-101 (in Japanese).
- Kwon, Jaok. 2022. "A critical Assessment of Democratic Labor Unionism in South Korea from a Feminist Standpoint", Edited by Angela B. Cornell and Mark Barenberg, *The Cambridge Handbook of Labor and Democracy*, New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, pp. 293-305 (in English).
- Lee, Hyojin. 2022. "Scientizing Traditional Medicine: Cho Hŏnyŏng and Kim T'aejun's Debates in Newspapers on Traditional Korean Medicine in the 1930s", *Journal of East Asian Cultural Interaction Studies* Vol. 15, 2022 (forthcoming).
- Lee, Hyojin. 2022. "The Vulnerability of the Historical Memory on Women in Modern Korea: The Changing Narratives on Ch'oe Yŏngsuk", *Asian Woman* (under review).
- Lee, Kyonghee Lee. 2022. "The Dawn before One-Party Dominance: South Korea's Road to Party Politics under the Supreme Council for National Reconstruction, 1961–1963," Edited by Ivan Sablin and Egas Moniz Bandeira, *Parties as Governments in Eurasia, 1913-1991: Nationalism, Socialism, and Development*, Taylor & Francis Limited (in English).
- Lee, Seul-ki & Ji-hye Bae. 2021. "An Analysis of Competency-based Art Curriculums in Germany with a Focus on Process Competency and Content Area", *Art Education Research Review*, 35(4), 27–46 (in Korean).

#### Presentations

- Bae, Ji-hye. "History Education for the Past? For the Future! A Comparative Analysis of History Education in Germany and South Korea", February 18-19, 2022, 3th Koreaforschungskolloquium im süddeutschen Raum: Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen (online).
- Jeong, Juhee. "Role-making and Foreign Policy Analysis of South Korea regarding ASEAN", October 1-2, 2021, 9th Tagung der Vereinigung für Koreaforschung (VfK) im deutschsprachigen Raum, Hamburg University, Germany (online).

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<sup>1</sup> The names of all authors and presenters were written with the surname first and the given name second, with comma between them. The names were listed in alphabetical order.

- Jeong, Juhee. "South Korea's Role-taking amid the US-China Rivalry: Assessing its 'New Southern Policy' towards ASEAN", February 18-19, 2022, 3th Koreaforschungskolloquium im süddeutschen Raum: Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen (online).
- Jin, Xiaoying. "Integration of Immigrants and Nation-State building of Origin Country: A comparative Analysis on Overseas Diaspora Narratives of South Korea and China", October 1-2, 2021, 9th Tagung der Vereinigung für Koreaforschung (VfK) im deutschsprachigen Raum, Hamburg University, Germany (online).
- Jin, Xiaoying. "Global Nomads without Homeland: Korean Chinese through the Third Migration", February 18-19, 2022, 3th Koreaforschungskolloquium im süddeutschen Raum: Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen (online).
- Kwon, Jaok. "Creating Aspiration of Youth for Transnational Mobility: Neoliberal Developmental State and Youth Overseas Employment Programs in South Korea", October 1-2, 2021, 9th Tagung der Vereinigung für Koreaforschung (VfK) im deutschsprachigen Raum, Hamburg University, Germany (online).
- Kwon, Jaok. Discussant, "Korean-German Relations", November 18, 2021, Institute of Independence and FU Berlin, 2021 (online).
- Lee, Hyojin. "Korean Traditional Medicine Met Western Medicine: Transformation of Korean Traditional Medicine Studies during Colonial Period", Kick-off International Workshop: Religions, Thoughts, and Health in Asia, October 26, 2021, Ca' Foscari University (online).
- Lee, Hyojin. "The Vulnerability of the Historical Memory on Women in Modern Korea", Guest lecture, November 8, 2021, Heidelberg University (online).
- Lee, Hyojin. "A History and a Future of Cultural Interaction Studies: The Story of a Graduate", Guest speaker, November 13, 2021, Kansai University (online).
- Lee, Kyunghye. "Who governs whom for whose sake?: Ideals of Government in Chosŏn Village Compacts (*Hyang'yak*)", October 1-2, 2021, 9th Tagung der Vereinigung für Koreaforschung (VfK) im deutschsprachigen Raum, Hamburg University, Germany (online).
- Min, In Young. "Back to the Future?: Premodern History and Contemporary Strategic Thinking in South Korea", 2021 Early Career Researchers and Graduate Students Conference on East Asia, September 2-3, 2021, University of Edinburgh (online).
- Min, In Young. "The Dog that Doesn't Bark: Domestic Social Norms and Public Debate on Nuclear Weapons in South Korea", IKSU Annual International Conference, January 7-8, 2022, Central Lancashire University (online).

## 6. Individual in Focus

In this section, we introduce an individual who is connected to Korea in various ways such as through the academy, politics, economy, and culture. On this occasion we introduce Curie Park, a BA exchange student in Sociology from Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul.

### Q: Self-introduction



A: I am Curie Park, an exchange student from South Korea. I arrived in Heidelberg at the end of February 2021. My home university is Sungkyunkwan University, which is the oldest university in Korea, similarly to Heidelberg! I major in Sociology and I am very interested in themes such as gender, media content, and cultural studies.

### Q: What persuaded you to come to Germany?

A: I chose specifically Heidelberg rather than Germany in general because I was inspired by Weber's theories while I was doing my major studies. I thought that studying at the very university where he studied and taught would be very inspiring. I also wanted to experience the student culture in Germany and was especially keen to share thoughts about the cultural and social differences between Europe and South Korea with students.

### Q: What have you learned from the experience of living and studying in Germany?

A: So far I have been able to share unique and inspiring insights about the cultural differences between South Korea, Germany and other European countries. The topic I have especially enjoyed talking about was how stereotypes are shaped by certain nationalities, races, or ethnicities. I learned that, to understand a different culture, communicating and being involved with the people native to the culture is very important.

### Q: What has been your impression of Germany?

A: My life in Heidelberg can be well explained by the words such as 'independent', 'free', 'easy-going' and 'peaceful'. After living in Seoul for 4 years, I was quite exhausted from the efficient but rapid and hectic atmosphere. The social pressure to constantly do and achieve things made me depressed and overwhelmed because, even though my life was

restless, I felt as if I was not accomplishing enough. Having an international group of friends made me realize that I was never too late to do anything and that there are so many more opportunities and different ways to lead a life outside Korea. I also felt more independent and freer because people cared much less about what others do here in Germany, and even if they do, they wouldn't express their judgments out loud.

However, I have to say that confronting racism is part of living in Germany as an Asian woman. It may not have been that frequent, but there were moments where strangers would expect me to react in a certain way when they randomly shouted "*Ni hao*" or "*Konnichiwa*". Despite the fact that "Asian" culture cannot be generalized, there were some who tried to find a simple explanation that applies to every "Asian" culture. It has also not been that easy to connect with German student communities without being able to speak fluently in German.

**Q: Do you have any tips and suggestions for Korean students who would like to come to study in Germany?**

A: I would definitely recommend students to learn the German language before coming to Germany. It would not have been too difficult to carry out daily life in Heidelberg even if I didn't speak any German, but it was certainly more convenient to know the basics. Also, most of the courses in the Sociology department and various internship opportunities required fluency in German. So, if one wants to make the most out of these opportunities and studying experiences, learning German is a must.

**Q: What are your future plans after graduation/exchange?**

A: After my exchange year I will get an internship or continue learning German. Then I will go back to Korea to graduate, and, after that, I am planning to find a job opportunity in Europe. I would like to continue my studies, especially in the area of culture and the creation of cultural contents, because I am very interested in how such contents influence people's perceptions of society from a particular culture. However, I would first like to build up a stable income and experience Europe as a worker in the marketing sector because marketing is very closely linked to the theme that I am interested in.

**Q: Your thoughts on Germany/EU - South Korea relationship.**

A: The EU is not only one of the most important markets to South Korea but also a very important ally in diplomacy as well. South Korea's position in international relations is peculiar, as it is connected to very complex and diverse geopolitical situations. Therefore, it is important for South Korea to strengthen its relationship with the EU. I would suggest that the relationship between the EU and South Korea has an optimistic future so long as the relationship is taken seriously and viewed as a mutual alliance.