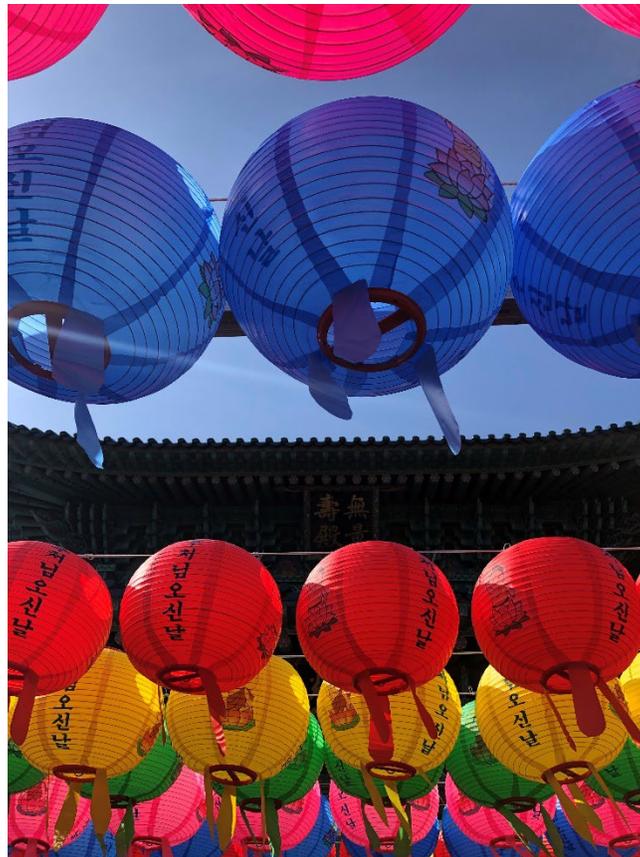


NEWSLETTER

Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg



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Volume 3 (Summer 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 the University of Heidelberg. 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 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 stood at the centre of interest for researchers in the social sciences, politics, and art history. The Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg was founded in an informal guise in 2011, with the aim of sharing 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 in East Asia – not only on China but also from a comparative perspective on Korea and Japan. The team of Prof. Anja Senz makes an important contribution to research and teaching activities

within 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 (photo above by Jaok Kwon).

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 held 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) since 2019 has enabled us to broaden the spectrum of the teaching activities by inviting renowned guest professors to Heidelberg.

In the previous Summer Semester 2022, several seminars relating to Korean Studies took place: “Homecoming and Return Migration in East Asia” was taught by Dr. Jaok Kwon & Xiaoying Jin, while “Politics and Security of the Two Koreas” was taught by Dr. In Young Min. There were also several stimulating seminars: “Transnational Mobility between Europe (Germany) and Korea: Histories and Recent Trends” was taught by Prof. Hyun Mee Kim (Yonsei University) and “North Korean Culture” taught by Dr. de Wit, Jérôme (University of Tübingen), and “How to Look at Korean Art” taught by Dr. Inhye Kang.

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

Delegation from the Academy of Mobility Humanities of Konkuk University warmly welcomed

On July 15, 2022, the Centre for East Asian Studies at Heidelberg University and Prof. Anja Senz cordially welcomed a delegation (consisting of 5 researchers) from the Academy of Mobility Humanities of Konkuk University, South Korea (<http://www.mobilityhumanities.org/main.html>). The delegation and Prof. Anja Senz held a meeting at CATS Campus regarding academic co-operation as well as future joint research.

The Academy of Mobility Humanities is a research group that is currently conducting a seven-year research project entitled: “Mobility Humanities based on the Co-evolution of Human Being and Technologies: Worlding the Human-mobility Societies in the Future”



supported by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea and the National Research Foundation of Korea. The Academy of Mobility Humanities has critically reviewed the mobility paradigms that have emerged according to social scientific research over the past 20 years. It enables the research team to create a new field of research called mobility humanities, which focuses on mobility research beyond the West, including Asia, the co-evolution of human beings and technology, and mobility research from a humanistic perspective.

At this meeting, the two organizations deepened their understanding of their respective research activities and strengthened their willingness to engage in research collaborations. In the future, both sides plan to establish a long-term research cooperative relationship on topics such as mobility, migration, and border studies to promote joint research projects, exchange researchers, joint academic conferences, and book publications. We are looking forward to more frequent communication and collaboration between the Academy of Mobility Humanities of Konkuk University and the Centre for East Asian Studies of Heidelberg University in the future.

Visiting professor: Prof. Hyun Mee Kim



The Centre for East Asian Studies at Heidelberg University warmly welcomed Prof. Hyun Mee Kim as a visiting professor, who provided a regular block seminar entitled “Transnational Mobility between Europe (Germany) and Korea: Histories and Recent Trends” during the summer semester 2022. Hyun Mee Kim is a Professor in the Department of Cultural Anthropology at Yonsei University, South Korea. Her research interests include the political economy of gender, globalization, migration, and eco-feminism. She is the author of *Cultural Translation in a Global Era* (2005, in Korean) and *We always leave home: Becoming Migrants in South Korea* (2014, in Korean) and *Feminist Lifestyle* (2021 in Korean). She also co-edited *Multiculturalism in East Asia: A transnational Exploration of Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan* (Koichi Iwabuchi and Hsiao-Chuan Hsia, 2016). Currently, she is the representative of the Ecofeminist research network “Trees and Moon”. In her class, Prof. Kim and the students discussed various topics in a lively manner such as refugee issues, student mobility, lifestyle mobility, K-pop as well as religion as a factor in migration. Within the discussion of refugee issues, Prof. Kim invited Yemeni asylum seekers who are waiting for legal recognition as refugees in Germany. Students left many warm and positive messages afterwards about Prof. Kim and her class.

First Korean Studies Master’s workshop successfully held

On July 20, 2022, the first Master’s Workshop for Korean Studies in Heidelberg took place online. Any Master’s students who are interested in or conducting research on Korean studies were welcome to this workshop, even if they were still undecided or had not yet found the right topic for their Master’s thesis. All the presenters were enrolled on the Master’s programme of Transcultural Studies. This workshop aims to encourage students to adopt interdisciplinary perspectives in their research. The presentation topics covered K-pop, Korean nationalism, environmental issues, identity issues for *zainichi*, and the question of Korean (re-)unification. Members of the Heidelberg Korean Studies working group for young scholars participated as commentators to help students develop their research ideas and thesis plans. The next Korean Studies Master workshop will be held in the next summer semester. We warmly welcome 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. 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)

- Helen Kim, “Journeying towards Independence? Korean Nurses, Gender, and their ‘Twice Migration’ to the US in the 1970s”, July 11, 2022, School of Media and Communication, University of Leeds, UK.
- Chunshik Kim, “Duale Ausbildung und duales Studium in Deutschland und Übertragbarkeit der Bildungssysteme auf Korea” (Dual Training and Dual Studies in Germany and Implementation of the Education Systems to Korea), June 27, 2022, Department of Energy Management, Dongshin University, South Korea.
- Kumiko Kawashima, “Labour Migration under Recession: A Comparative Study of Younger and Older Japanese Skilled Workers in China”, May 30, 2022, Department of Culture and Tourism Studies, Rikkyo University, Japan.
- Gracia Liu-Farrer, “The Mobility of People between Japan and China in the 21st Century”, 2nd May 2022, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan.

Publishment of *Ostasien Aktuell* Working Paper Series

The *East Asia Today Working Paper Series* serves as a forum for discussing innovative research approaches and current political, economic and social developments in East Asia as well as different exchange processes and entanglements between the region and other parts of the world. The aim of the Working Papers is to share the results of current research and to create an opportunity for further exchange. All working papers are available in PDF format and can be downloaded free of charge via the website: <https://ostasien-aktuell.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/oawp/>.

- In Young Min, “An Impossible Choice?: Past, Present, and Future of South Korea’s Independent Nuclear Arms”, *Ostasien Aktuell Working Paper*, April 2022.
- Gabriele Vogt and Anne-Sophie L. König, “Japans Altenpflege: Zukunftsstrategien im Praxistest” (Elderly Care in Japan: Future Strategies in Practice), *Ostasien Aktuell Working Paper*, February 2022.

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. It is attended by Master's, Ph.D., and Post-doc level researchers in Korean Studies. 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 receive feedback with each other on a regular basis. Here follows an introduction and presentation of our members for the most recent semester.

Presentations (SoSe 2022)

- Jihye Bae, Practice of defense for doctoral dissertation, June 3, 2022, Institute of Education Science, Heidelberg University.
- Sung Jun Hwang, "Ansätze diakonischer Sozialraumorientierung in Südkorea: Überlegungen zur Zusammenarbeit zwischen Kommunalverwaltung und evangelischen Kirchengemeinden" (Approaches to Diaconal Social Space Orientation in South Korea: Considerations on the Cooperation between Local Government and Evangelical Church Communities), May 6, 2022, Institute for Diaconal Studies, Heidelberg University.
- Jaok Kwon, "Skilled Migrants and their Encounters with different Care and Employment Regimes: Childcaring among highly skilled female Migrants from Korea in Germany", July 1, 2022, Centre for East Asian Studies, Heidelberg University.

5. News

Kyonghee Lee (Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies: CATS) has completed her doctoral Dissertation

Since 2016, Kyonghee has enriched East Asian Studies and Transcultural Studies as a research fellow and a part of the HERA project EAU-TBC (East Asian Uses of the European Past) (2016-2019) and the ERC Project ENTPAR (Entangled Parliamentarisms) (2019-2021). She has also been a regular member of Heidelberg Korean Studies Working Group. She completed her PhD and successfully defended her dissertation on June 10, 2022 on the topic “Beyond Autonomy and Self-Government: The Community Compact and Local Ritualism in Choson Korea”. Now Kyonghee will be continuing her research as a member of Agriculture and the Making of the Sciences (1100-1700) working group and examining the process of mobility and formation of agricultural knowledge in Joseon at Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte). The Heidelberg Korean Studies Working Group would like to express its sincere thanks for the many years of collegial cooperation and wishes her continued success in her academic career.

Juhee Jeong awarded Grand Prize

As a Ph.D. candidate at the Political Science department as well as a member of the Heidelberg Korean Studies Working Group, Juhee Jeong’s paper on the topic “Overcoming Middle Power Framework: South Korea’s Role Positioning in Mekong-ROK Cooperation” was awarded the Grand Prize in the 2021-22 Mekong-ROK Exchange Year Student Paper Contest, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea. The following is the abstract of Juhee’s academic article.

Abstract: Mekong River, which is the ‘Mother of Waters’ that runs through China, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam has become a new frontline of strategic rivalry between the U.S and China. Amidst these geopolitical tensions, South Korea has developed its relations with the Mekong region since 2011. President Moon Jae-in, in particular, announced ‘the Mekong- Han River Declaration’ to strengthen its diplomatic ties with Mekong River Basin countries. Based on its ‘New Southern Policy’, the Moon administration indicates its ambition to expand its role in the Southeast Asian Region. South Korea, however, has continued to demonstrate its own deep-rooted ‘middle power’ framework tendency, which is insufficient to cope with complicated realities and gain support for its policy legitimacy. To overcome this limitation, this paper proposes role positioning theory, which demonstrates how a state’s foreign policy strategy should be devised based on the conjunction of narratives, speech acts, and role positions to gain support and strengthen the persuasive power of its strategy. Furthermore, this paper suggests an alternative vision of the ‘New Mekong-Han River strategy’ to develop Mekong-ROK relations into future-oriented cooperation, based on South Korea’s role as a ‘trustful economic cooperation facilitator’ and ‘reciprocal regional peacebuilder’ in security, while emphasizing the concept of ‘community’.

Latest Publications and Presentations¹

Publications

- Lee, Hyojin. 2022. *EASY HANJA 500 per la lingua coreano*. Cafoscarina.
- 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.
- Lee, Hyojin. 2022. "Swedish Documents on Korean New Woman Choi Yeong-Suk (2)," *EWHA SAHAK YEONGU* 64, pp. 225-238. (In Korean, KCI index)
- Min, In Young. 2022 "The Two Plus Four Treaty and Korean Unification," *International Journal of Korean Unification Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 1, with Susanne Pittelkow.

Presentations

- Juhee Jeong, "South Korea's Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy Analysis towards ASEAN: from President Lee Myung-bak to Moon Jae-in", May 2022, Accepted and presented at the Social Sciences Korean Studies European Network Annual Conference (SOKEN 2022) in Bologna University, Italy.
- Jeong, Juhee. "South Korea and Japan's Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis amidst the U.S.- China Rivalry", July 2022, Lecture at the DAAD scholarship meeting in Munich Technical University, Germany.
- Kwon, Jaok. "Skilled Migrants and their Encounters with different Care and Employment Regimes: Childcaring among highly skilled female Migrants from Korea in Germany", June 22, 2022, Brownbag Seminar, Asia Center, Seoul National University, South Korea.
- Lee, Hyojin, "Benevolent Art of Traditional Korean Medicine in Modern Korea", May 7, 2022, Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia 14th annual meeting, Keimyung University.
- Lee, Hyojin, "Keijō Imperial University and Fujitsuka Chikashi's Study on Korean Confucianism", May 18, 2022, At the Modern Korean Studies Forum: Modern Japan's Study on Chosun Confucianism, Yonsei University.
- Lee, Hyojin, "A Benevolent Doctor? The Rivalry between Western and Eastern Doctors in Colonial Korea", May 20, 2022, NAJAKS 11, University of Helsinki.
- Min, In Young. "Do South Koreans Support Nuclear Proliferation?", March 23, 2022, Invited lecture at Institute for the Study of the Asia Pacific, University of Central Lancashire.

¹ 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.

6. Individual in Focus

In this section, we introduce an individual who is connected to Korea and Heidelberg in various ways such as through academia, politics, economy, and culture. On this occasion we introduce Prof. Hyun Mee Kim, a prestigious anthropologist as well as the visiting professor from Yonsei University in South Korea during the summer semester 2022. She provided a seminar on transnational mobility between Europe and Korea at Heidelberg University. Our doctoral candidate Xiaoying Jin interviewed Prof. Hyun Mee Kim.



Jin: How was the teaching in Heidelberg comparing to it back in South Korea?

Kim: The biggest difference between seminars in South Korea and Germany is that how the students see teachers and position themselves in the class. Students in Korea often care about how they would be viewed by teachers. They are concerned that professors will judge them for the remarks that they make. Thus, as a professor, I should be very careful about not being too authoritative towards them. Here in Germany, it was impressive that students are very open to ask questions and share their opinions. I felt like as if the time during

the seminar flew by because of the active participation from the students. It was a very refreshing experience for me as someone who has been in academia for about 25 years in South Korea.

Jin: One of the main focuses of the Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) cluster is an interdisciplinary approach. Do you think this approach is useful as a teaching as well as a research method?

Kim: It was a great opportunity for me to observe how professors from diverse academic backgrounds are working together closely and building a collaborative research and teaching system. I think that interdisciplinary approach is an attractive research method. In the meantime, we should pay more attention to the following points: the first question is whether students fully understand the meaning of 'interdisciplinarity' and whether they are ready to make use of this approach in their own research. Related to the first point, the second question would be whether the professors themselves were trained as researchers as well as teachers to teach their approaches to the students. I suppose that professors themselves usually have no experiences of learning this approach as a student, since it is a relatively new concept. I suppose that it would be a challenge as well as an assignment for teachers including me to deliver the concept to the students, not only as 'knowledge' but also as 'experience'.

Jin: What were your impressions of Heidelberg as a researcher and as an individual?

Kim: As a researcher, it was impressive for me to see that there are many advertisements on the seminars and conferences on the street. I could see that Heidelberg University is actively engaging with the local society to disseminate the results of research and share their ideas with them. As a living space, I think that Heidelberg is a very attractive city to live in. I am from Seoul, which is one of the mega cities in Korea. Everyone including me is just busy catching up with in everyday life rather than having a certain sense of belonging to the place they live in. When I live in Heidelberg for one month, I noticed that people 'work', but they 'live' at the same time: people have a good work-life balance with defined working hours. Also, I enjoyed the clear air in Heidelberg. I would love to visit Heidelberg some day again for a longer period, so that I could get to know more about life as an individual as well as a researcher.

Jin: You are currently conducting research on refugees. Did your stay in Heidelberg or Germany provide an opportunity to further develop your research on refugees?

Kim: Needless to say, Germany is one of the countries which has actively accepted refugees. For me, it was very impressive to see that local governments play a significant role in various matters concerning refugees such as studying, working, and residing, so that they could settle down and eventually become integrated into the society in a smooth manner. In the meantime, it was surprising for me to hear from some Yemeni refugees that they are required to stay in refugee residency until they obtain refugee status. A social integration of refugees would only be possible through understanding the systems and daily lives of the host society. Even though I fully understand that the German government has no choice but to make the asylum seekers stay in refugee residence due to the large scale of refugees as well as the lack of space for these new settlers, I think that we should raise a question about the function of camps in terms of the social integration of refugees. To make refugees stay in camps could result in a strengthening of the traumas they have and give them a sense of isolation from the host society.

Jin: Could you give some advice to students on how scholars could develop research interests?

Kim: First of all, I would like to point out the fact that country-specific research is no longer a main trend. By making a distance from a nation-state framework, we could further broaden our insights. It is important to study the unique worlds of life in which various global and local forces combine, collide, and interact with each other while crossing the boundary of a nation-state. Secondly, we should change our minds about 'methodological nationalism'. Thus, in my opinion, many researchers need a lot of methodological training regardless of their academic boundaries. Students should try to learn how to do fieldwork,

how to get in touch with theories, and how to develop their own ideas from the conventional theories.

Jin: Do you have any advice for the students in Heidelberg?

Kim: As an anthropologist, I have conducted many empirical studies. Empirical study is not a private or exclusive experience of certain groups. The characteristics of certain groups are embedded in the society. I think that it is necessary for us to understand why and how conceptual tools emerge in a certain context and what phenomena can be explained by using those concepts. Furthermore, we should attempt to refute, expand, and revise them through critical thinking. Through this process, we can learn how to accumulate the knowledge of the tools, how to create our own toolboxes, and how to gain insights into understanding a society with these tools. In specific, this approach would be useful for the students who conduct research in regional/area studies as well as transcultural studies.