ANU College of
Asia & the Pacific

ANU KOREA UPDATE 2019
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ANU Korea Institute

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ABOUT

Korea Update
The Australian National University Korea Update is the flagship biennial conference on Korea. This one-day public event in the national capital brings together key representatives from the academic and policy-making communities to discuss current socio-cultural, political, economic, and security issues related to Korea. Hosted by the ANU Korea Institute, it builds on a highly successful platform inaugurated in 2005. This year’s Korea Update focuses on diplomatic, economic and cultural developments. While the trade war is forcing Koreans to carefully reconsider their alliances, opportunities for peninsular reconciliation have opened but may close again without warning. Since support for the ROK’s ruling party is key to avoiding an impasse in resolving long-reigning tensions in the region, what is President Moon’s position regarding the interests of major powers, and what exactly are they? How much support remains for the US-ROK military alliance? What are the immediate implications of the current trade dispute with Japan? What is the role Australia can and should play? And what can we learn from Korea’s youth culture? Leading specialists from around the world will seek to shed light on these and many other questions.

The Korea Institute is sincerely grateful to both the Australia-Korea Foundation and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea for their generous support for this year’s Update.

Korea Institute
The ANU Korea Institute was established on August 15, 2008. It was the result of a joint effort by the Australian National University and South Korean steel company POSCO, which, together with Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton, Australia, provided a Korea Institute Endowment Fund (KIEF). The primary purpose of the Korea Institute was to foster a closer relationship between Australia and Korea through education, research and dialogue, especially by focusing on political, economic and security studies on Korea, while also promoting Korea’s engagement with the Asia-Pacific region. Since it was established, the Institute has bolstered existing strengths in the humanities, enhanced research in the social sciences, and promoted a more active engagement in public affairs. Its establishment was the culmination of a wide range of core activities in Korean studies undertaken at the ANU since 1994, when the ANU Centre for Korean Studies was established. Today, the Institute builds upon the important foundation the Centre laid. It does not belong to any particular school, but is affiliated with the College of Asia and Pacific Studies (CAP).

The Korea Institute seeks to support ANU projects that extend and enhance the teaching of Korean language and a wide range of Korea-related subjects to strengthen the ties between Korea and Australia, and further the field of Korean Studies globally. It aims to foster scholarship of the highest quality across the humanities and social sciences, and values diversity and inclusion, as well as open and fair debate.
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

9–9.15am

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Roald Maliangkaij (Director of the ANU Korea Institute)
Michael Wesley (Dean, College of Asia and the Pacific)
HE Baek-Soon Lee (Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Australia)

9.15–10.45am

Park Ro-Byug (International Conference of Asian Political Parties)
Challenges in Northeast Asia and ROK-Australia Cooperation

Bridget Coggins (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Precarious Negotiation: The Inextricability of Inter-Korean & International Diplomacy

Lauren Richardson (Australian National University)
Unravelling the ROK-Japan Diplomatic Dispute

Chair: Roald Maliangkaij

Morning Tea

11.15am–12.15pm

Munseob Lee (University of California, San Diego)
Government Purchases and Firm Growth: Evidence from South Korea’s Public Procurement Market

Myungji Yang (University of Hawaïi)
From Miracle to Mirage: The Making and Unmaking of the Korean Middle Class, 1960-2010

Discussant: Georgina Carnegie
Chair: Roald Maliangkaij
Lunch, at venue

1.30–2.30pm

Kyungja Jung (University of Technology Sydney)
From Patriarchal Socialism to Grassroots Capitalism: The Role of Female Entrepreneurs in the Transition of North Korea

Bronwen Dalton (University of Technology Sydney)
From Revolutionary Mother, to Breadwinner, to the Hyper-feminine Woman: Fashion and the Social Construction of Femininity in North Korea

Discussant: Alek Sigley

Chair: Roald Maliangkaij

Afternoon Tea

3–4.30pm

CedarBough T. Saeji (Indiana University Bloomington)
Idol Success: Celebrities, Perfection, and the Burning Sun

Jane Park (University of Sydney)
The Technologized Korean Woman (cutting “in Shiri and Cloud Atlas”)

Roald Maliangkaij (Australian National University)
What’s Driving Out Korea’s Drive-in Cinema?

Chair: Roald Maliangkaij

Closing remarks: Roald Maliangkaij
Dr Park Ro-byug

Challenges in Northeast Asia and ROK-Australia Cooperation

The Republic of Korea is facing daunting challenges including U.S.-China strategic competition, the North Korean nuclear issue and new regional and global trends that have been influencing regional security and shared prosperity. In this regard, closer cooperation among middle-power countries like Australia and the ROK would seem to be increasingly important in enhancing stability and predictability in the Asia-Pacific region. In this talk, I seek to identify which key issues both the Korean and Australian administrations may benefit most from prioritizing.

Biography

Park Ro-byug is Secretary General of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) Secretariat. After serving as Second and First Secretary at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Switzerland (1984-87), Russia (1991-93), the US (1997-2000), and Myanmar (2000-2002), Dr Park worked as Principal Secretary and Advisor to Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon. In 2008, he became Ambassador to Ukraine and Moldova from 2008, and in 2011, he was appointed Chief Negotiator for the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with the US. From 2015 to 2017, he served as Ambassador to the Russian Federation and Armenia. Park is author of Paradigms of International Relations (in Korean; Hanul Academy, 2004) and Twenty Years of Economic Relations between Korea and Russia: 1884-1903 (in Korean; Hanul Academy, 2009).
Precarious Negotiation: The Inextricability of Inter-Korean & International Diplomacy

It is nothing new for North Korea to engage in strategic behaviour with respect to its nuclear program or military. It is new for such robust diplomatic engagement and substantive progress on security affairs to be made between the Koreas. However, despite the apparent successes of the now hundreds of working-level meetings between the Koreas, there are still a variety of obstacles to truly improved relations or inter-Korean peace. Perhaps the most pressing is North Korea’s diplomacy, or lack thereof, with the wider world. From multilateral UN sanctions to its relationship with China to its odd person-to-person diplomacy with US President Donald Trump, the way forward is anything but clear. In this presentation I will outline the current state of affairs, identify the major influences on inter-Korean diplomacy, and offer some tentative recommendations to help the engagement strategy weather this period of international tumult.

Biography

Bridget L. Coggins is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She researches the intersection of domestic conflict and international relations. Coggins’ first book, Power Politics and State Formation in the 20th Century: The Dynamics of Recognition (Cambridge 2014), explores the international politics of diplomatic recognition. She has two ongoing research efforts. One examines the international security consequences of state collapse, and is anchored by a book, Anarchy Emergent: Political Collapse and Non-Traditional Threat in the Shadow of Hierarchy. The other studies rebels’ strategic use of diplomacy in civil war. Professor Coggins is also actively engaged in US foreign policy toward Northeast Asia, especially North Korea, and contributes to a variety of media outlets. In 2013-2014, Coggins was an International Affairs Fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations in South Korea and is now a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Strategic Studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and a Non-Resident Fellow with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Korea Chair. She is a member of the National Committee on US-China Relations and the National Committee on North Korea.
History problems have long been a bone of contention in ROK-Japan relations. Yet over the past few months, they have brought the two governments to a largely unprecedented diplomatic crisis point. How can we explain this turn of events?

Many scholars and analysts have pointed to recent South Korean judicial rulings on wartime labourers by way of explanation. In this paper, however, I argue that the current diplomatic dispute is only the tip of the iceberg of a tide of activism that has been mounting since South Korea democratised in the late 1980s. Driving this activism has been the Korean victims of Japanese imperial policies, intent on exacting redress for their historical ordeals; they have been supported in this endeavour by an array of left-wing activists in Japan.

Drawing on extensive fieldwork conducted in Japan and South Korea, I argue that pressure tactics of these victims and their supporters have become increasingly effectual over time. This has manifested as a new logic for the ROK-Japan relationship: one in which citizens are now agents in shaping state-to-state interaction.

Biography

Lauren Richardson is Director of Studies and Lecturer at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy. Previously she taught Northeast Asian Relations at the University of Edinburgh and Keio University. Her research focuses on the role of non-state actors in shaping diplomatic interactions in Northeast Asia. Dr Richardson holds Master’s degrees in Asian Studies (Monash University) and Political Science (Keio University), and a PhD in International Relations from the ANU. She has been a visiting fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs and Keio University, a recipient of the Prime Minister’s Australia-Asia Award (2011), and a participant in the US-Korea NextGen Scholars Program (2015/16).
Dr Munseob Lee

Government Purchases and Firm Growth: Evidence from South Korea’s Public Procurement Market

Public procurement accounts for a substantial portion of the taxpayers’ money: approximately 12% of GDP and 29% of government expenditure in OECD countries. Governments are expected to carry it out efficiently and with high standards of conduct to ensure sustainable growth. I investigate unique auction system in South Korean public procurement market, and discuss how government purchases can lead firms and economy to grow. Firms that obtain short term public procurement contracts experience increased growth and activity, above the effects of the activity associated with the public contract. This is observed especially among small, young and financially-constrained firms. I investigate three potential mechanisms behind the persistent growth: (i) building a customer base, (ii) overcoming financial constraints, and (iii) learning by doing. The first two mechanisms explain how public demand provides an opportunity to grow for young and productive but constrained entrepreneurs. I draw policy implications from those findings.

Biography

Munseob Lee is an assistant professor of economics at the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy. He is also a core faculty member at the UC San Diego Transnational Korean Studies. His research focuses on macroeconomics and development. Prior to joining UC San Diego, Lee was a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and a research intern at the International Monetary Fund. He received his PhD in economics from the University of Chicago and bachelor’s degree in economics from the Seoul National University.
A/Prof. Myungji Yang

From Miracle to Mirage: The Making and Unmaking of the Korean Middle Class, 1960-2010

South Korea is the most exemplary economic “miracle” in the developing world. Explosive economic growth has established comfortable middle-class lifestyles as a norm in developed Korea. Despite this remarkable success, fewer and fewer citizens identify themselves as members of the middle class. Many perceive the standard of living to have deteriorated, and belief in the possibility of upward mobility is declining. This talk tackles the puzzle of why the celebrated middle class that was both cause and consequence of Korea’s economic development seems to have entered a period of decline. Existing scholarship argues that neoliberalism and economic restructuring has adversely affected the economic positioning of the middle class. Instead, I emphasize the role of the state in producing patterns of class structure and social inequality. By demonstrating the speculative and exclusive ways in which the middle class was formed, I argue that domestic politics, and particular state policies, have shaped the lived experiences and identities of the middle class. Drawing on primary archival sources and in-depth interviews from a year of field research, I focus on the unpredictable process inherent in the scramble for middle-class status in Korea. The talk will show how many members of the first-generation middle class in Korea were able to climb the housing ladder and achieve upward mobility, and how this process increased fragmentation within the middle class and social inequality over the long run. By doing so, I will offer a story of the reality behind the myth of middle-class formation in Korea.

Biography

Myungji Yang is an associate professor of political science at the University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa.

She earned her PhD in Sociology from Brown University in 2012 and spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Korean Studies Institute, University of Southern California, in 2015-16. Her research interests include the political economy of development, class politics and social inequality, democracy and civil society, globalization, and East Asia. Her work on the urban middle class and democracy in South Korea has appeared in Urban Studies, Sociological Inquiry, Critical Asian Studies, and Korea Observer. She is the author of From Miracle to Mirage: The Making and Unmaking of the Korean Middle Class, 1960-2015 (Cornell University Press, 2018). She is currently working on right-wing politics and activism in South Korea.
Ms Georgina M. Carnegie

Ms Georgina M. Carnegie is the Managing Director of Carnegie Enterprises. Carnegie Enterprises works with companies particularly those specialising in natural resources, agribusiness and infrastructure development to develop sustainable partnerships and build international networks. Clients and projects span the globe from the Sentient Group (a global private equity firm); Iron Road in the development of an iron ore mine in South Australia; Mawson Resources, a Nordic Arctic exploration company developing the flagship Rompas and Rajapalot gold projects in Lapland and Finland, and Ferrometals in the development of strategic mining rights to manganese resources located in the heartland of Brazil’s soybean industry. In these and other advisory projects clients draw on her considerable skill and experience in international risk assessment, high-level government liaison, and international debt/equity strategies.

Ms Carnegie is a member of the EmNet Advisory Committee at the OECD (the Development Centre’s Emerging Markets Network). She has long worked in Asia having established AsiaFax the first daily corporate information service in the region. She serves as a member of the Executive Board of the Australia Korea Business Council, the Australia Taiwan Business Council, and a member of the Advisory Council of Asialink, at Melbourne University. An economist and experienced corporate director, Ms Carnegie holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.
Dr Kyungja Jung

From revolutionary mother, to breadwinner, to the hyper-feminine woman: Fashion and the social construction of femininity in North Korea

As dress is a discursive daily practice of gender, we focus on the practice of femininity as shown through North Korean women’s fashion choices. We argue that North Korea’s socioeconomic transformation has had a profound and yet under-appreciated impact on the social construction of femininity. Drawing on forty-five in-depth interviews with North Korean refugees, interviews with regular visitors to North Korea and NGO workers, as well as our own field notes from trips to North Korea, we analyse changes over three discernible (yet overlapping) economic periods: the 1960s-1990s pre-famine period; the mid-1990s to late 2000s grassroots capitalism era; and the current Kim Jong Un period of quasi-capitalism. We argue that images of women in state propaganda have been shaped primarily by male leaders, but norms of femininity have shaped, and also been shaped by, women themselves. That is, the recent trend for North Korean women to dress in hyper-feminine styles can be explained in terms of women remaking themselves and planning their future lives.

Biography

Kyungja Jung is Senior Lecturer in the Social and Political Sciences, UTS. Kyungja’s academic interests are experientially grounded in and inspired by her involvement in women’s activism in Australia and Korea. She was a major founding member of the first rape crisis centre in South Korea and she actively participated in the design and delivery of the Ewha Global Empowerment Program, a residential education program for young women leaders from a range of developing countries, funded by UN Women. Jung’s research has been published in prestigious academic journals, including Sexualities, Women’s Studies International Forum, Asian Survey, Asian Journal of Women’s Studies. She is author of Practicing Feminism in South Korea: The Women’s Movement Against Sexual Violence (London: Routledge, 2014) and co-author of Sex Trafficking or Shadow Tourism?: The Lives of Foreign Sex Workers in Australia.
A/Prof. Bronwen Dalton

From Patriarchal Socialism to Grassroots Capitalism: The Role of Female Entrepreneurs in the Transition of North Korea

Since the collapse of North Korea’s command economy in the 1990s, a large number of women have become entrepreneurs. This remarkable feature of North Korean marketisation cannot be adequately explained by female entrepreneur (FE) deficit premises, which highlight women’s supposed shortcomings in what is considered a male enterprise. Based on in-depth interviews with female North Korean defectors, and viewing entrepreneurship as a catalyst for socio-cultural change, our research questions how FEs emerged in North Korea and whether women’s market participation influences gender relations, or attitudes toward the North Korean regime. There have been noticeable changes in gender roles, son preference and choice of marriage partners. Our findings suggest that female entrepreneurship has the potential to both challenge and support the North Korean system. This research significantly advances scholarship on gender and entrepreneurship by adopting a constructionist approach to gender and transcending the prevalence of descriptive analysis of gendered entrepreneurial practices.

Biography

Dr Dalton is the Director of the Masters of Not-for-Profit and Social Enterprise Program at the University of Technology Sydney. Dr Dalton completed her PhD at the University of Oxford, where she was awarded the Oxford University Larkinson Award for Social Studies and was the recipient of the British Vice-Chancellors Committee Overseas Research Scholarship and the Korea Foundation Scholarship. Dr Dalton also has a BA from the Australian National University and a MA from Yonsei University, Korea. She has served on the Boards of the Department of Foreign Affairs’ Australia Korea Foundation; the National Volunteering Research Advisory Group; Volunteering NSW and Volunteering Australia and the US’ Association for Research on Non-profit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA). She is the Regional Vice-President, Oceania of the International Council of Voluntarism and Civil Society and the current Vice President of the Korean Studies Association of Australasia. She was a Director of the National Korean Studies Centre (NKSC) (1993 - 1996) a consortium of La Trobe University, Monash University, Swinburne University of Technology and the University of Melbourne. Dr Dalton has focused her interests on North Korea. In 2014 she was awarded an ARC Discovery grant titled “North Korea’s Quiet Transformation: Women in the Rise of the Informal Market”. This is the first major research project to investigate the role played by women in the emergence of a nascent capitalist economy in North Korea.
Mr Alek Sigley

Mr Alek Sigley is an Australian graduate student who has studied Korean Literature at Kim Il Sung University, North Korea’s foremost research institute. He is also a founder of Tongil Tours, a tour operator specialising in educational tourism to North Korea for the last six years. As one of only four Western foreign students and the only Australian resident in the entire country, Alek has gained a level of firsthand experience of North Korea matched by few other outsiders. He is one of the few to blog about life as a foreigner in North Korea.
Dr CedarBough T. Saeji

Idol Success: Celebrities, Perfection, and the Burning Sun

The septet BTS has explosively driven Western awareness of Korean popular music (K-pop), building on the success and popularity of previous groups. Before the dominance of BTS the arguably best known boy group, internationally, was the quintet Big Bang. In this article I contrast the celebrity images of success performed by members of both BTS and Big Bang. Specifically, I argue that the exposure of bad behavior and even crimes by Seungri of Big Bang, a scandal often referred to as “Burning Sun” after the club where the first wrongdoing was uncovered, initially seemed like an opportunity to reduce fan expectations that idols be perfect. One approach to the scandal would have been to underline human fallibility and challenge demands for perfection. However, the opposite occurred, leaving idols if anything under greater pressure than before. I attribute this to timing—the scandal broke just as BTS truly took off in the West. The enormous BTS fan club or ARMY, BTS’s company Big Hit and corporations BTS represents, and the Korean government cooperated to distance BTS from Burning Sun and preserve K-pop (and Korea’s) image. To that end ARMY promoted the idea of the idol as perfect to a growing audience, while media play in Korea sought to paint Burning Sun as a case of bad apples using obfuscation, and misdirection—an approach that worked on some international audiences but widened a rift between domestic and international fans who found pleasure in fantasies of perfection and exoticism.

Biography

Dr CedarBough T. Saeji has an MA in Korean Studies from Yonsei University, and a PhD in Culture and Performance from UCLA. Saeji has taught Korean Studies at University of British Columbia, Korea University, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and is now a Visiting Assistant Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington. Publications have appeared in edited volumes on women in traditional performing arts, Korean screen cultures, theatre in Asia, and intangible cultural heritage and journals including the Journal of Korean Studies, Korea Journal, Acta Koreana, Pacific Affairs, Asia Theatre Journal, and Asia Pacific Journal. Saeji is currently co-organizing a conference and journal special issue on Korean hip-hop, and co-editing a volume on Korean tradition.
This talk explores the figure of the technologically modified Korean woman in two films: the first South Korean blockbuster film, Shiri (1999) and the multi-narrative Hollywood film, Cloud Atlas (2012). In both films, Korea embodies an anachronistic projection of the future through the “failed” geopolitical status of North Korea and the dystopic nightmare of a reunified Korea. At the same time, they project the image of a futuristic “cool Asia” that is enabled by and sold through the “success” of South Korean soft culture — hallyu. Within both films, the figure of the technologized Korean woman expressing her agency through beauty, violence, and love illuminates the contradictions that undergird these binaries.

Played by transnational and diasporic actresses Bae Doona and Kim Yun-jin, the protagonists have bodies that have been altered through cloning and cosmetic surgery to serve the state. Using these technologies, they instead betray the state, threatening the cohesion of the nation. In the end, they choose to sacrifice themselves to save those they love, allaying the threat they pose to dominant systems of power, even as they gesture toward alternative, utopic futures. I bring together scholarship on techno-orientalism, beauty discourses, and cultural representations of modern Korean women to show the complex ways in which the ontological and cultural mixedness of these films, the female protagonists, and the stars who play them highlight the internal divisions within Korean and Korean diasporic identity.

**Biography**

Jane Chi Hyun Park is a cultural studies scholar trained in literary and media studies. Her work examines the social impact of popular culture on changing notions of race and gender, focusing on media representations of East Asian and Asian diasporic identities. Jane’s book, *Yellow Future: Oriental Style in Hollywood Cinema* (Minnesota University Press, 2010) explored how East Asia became more visible in Hollywood films in the late twentieth century with the economic rise of Japan, China and the NICs and the global appeal of Asian popular culture. Her research on film, media, and popular culture has been published in a wide range of journals including *Cultural Studies*, *World Literature Today*, *Asian Studies Review*, and *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* as well as a number of anthologies. She is currently working on a project on representations of diasporic Korean women in popular media.
A/Prof. Roald Maliangkay

What Drives Out Korea’s Drive-in Cinema?

Movie audiences tend to develop a preference for venues that meet their practical needs and may associate their social class or that which they aspire to. Even if that association implies a limited selection, experiencing a movie in the company of a preferred kind of audience, whose socio-political views one expects to have much in common with, has considerable attraction. In the case of shopping malls and multiplexes, the multitude of defining markers mitigates undesirable associations with a particular social group. But what factors drive the popularity of drive-in theatres where audiences enjoy a movie through the shaded windscreens of their own set of wheels? Since it first arrived in 1994, the format has been very popular throughout South Korea. Although the number of venues has dropped since 2007, when as many as sixty existed around the country, today 26 drive-in theatres are still in operation. What kind of audiences do these venues attract, and why? And why has their popularity decreased over the past decade? I explore the practical and social factors that have driven the theatre format in Korea.

Biography

Roald Maliangkay is Associate Professor in Korean studies and Director of the Korea Institute at the Australian National University. Fascinated by the mechanics of cultural policy and the convergence of major cultural phenomena, Maliangkay analyses cultural industries, performance and consumption in Korea from the early twentieth century to the present. He is author of Broken Voices: Postcolonial Entanglements and the Preservation of Korea’s Central Folksong Traditions (University of Hawai‘i Press, 2017), and co-editor of K-pop: The International Rise of the Korean Music Industry (Routledge, 2015). He is currently working on a project entitled “Accelerating Movements: The Introduction of Modern Time Management in Japanese Colonies.”
KOREAN STUDIES AT ANU

The ANU is one of the world’s foremost institutes for the study of Korean history and culture. In ANU teaching and research, our scholars engage with a wide variety of issues and themes from the nineteenth century to the present. Courses analyse developments in Korean history and culture from decidedly different viewpoints and discuss issues related to, for example, social movements, economic mobility, gender imbalance, and popular culture. Supported by a strong network of peers across the College of Asia and the Pacific, and the vast resources of libraries in the ACT, the ANU Korean Studies program accommodates a broad range of topics and methodologies.

The ANU offers both a minor and a major in Korean studies. ANU students interested in a solid grounding in the study of Korea’s fascinating history and culture are encouraged to contact us at: cap.student@anu.edu.au. Please note that knowledge of the Korean language is not required for any of the courses that fall under the Korean Studies minor, but students with at least a working knowledge of the language will be encouraged to apply it in their coursework.

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