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2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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OUR MISSION

The Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan International Institute encourages social, political, cultural, and economic understanding of Korea in the U-M community and beyond. Through its student and faculty support and ambitious public programming, the center seeks to increase the depth and breadth of resources devoted to Korean studies.

The Nam Center provides a historical context for the campus community and public to better understand current social and political challenges in Korea. With a history spanning more than 5,000 years, Korea boasts one of the world's oldest cultures. The Nam Center works to raise interest and awareness about this fascinating and ancient civilization.

The center supports student and faculty research and recruitment, new curriculum development, and an active colloquium series at the university, bringing eminent Korean Studies scholars from around the world to speak on diverse and complex issues. Additionally, the center provides funding for public programs such as art exhibitions, film festivals, lectures, and conferences.

Director:

Nojin Kwak, Professor and Chair Communication and Media

Nam Center Core Faculty:

David Chung, Professor, Art and Design

Hwa-Jin Kim, Professor, Law

Joan Kee, Associate Professor, History of Art

Jong-Jin Kim, Associate Professor, Architecture and Urban Planning

Dae-Hee Kwak, Associate Professor, Kinesiology

Youngju Ryu, Associate Professor, ALC

Jordan Siegel, Associate Professor, Business

Juhn Ahn, Assistant Professor, ALC

Jaeeun Kim, Assistant Professor, Sociology

Se-Mi Oh, Assistant Professor, ALC

Rory Walsh, Postdoctoral Fellow

Sangkyung Han, Lecturer, ALC

Hunjin Jung, Lecturer, ALC

Hyun-ju Kim, Lecturer, ALC

Affiliated Faculty:

Barbara Anderson, Professor, Sociology

Micah Auerback, Associate Professor, ALC

Benjamin Brose, Associate Professor, ALC

Scott Campbell, Professor, Communication Studies

Kevin Carr, Associate Professor, History of Art

Pär Cassel, Associate Professor, History

Joseph Lam, Professor, School of Music, Theater, & Dance

Linda Lim, Professor, Emerita Business

Donald Lopez, Professor, ALC

Ramaswami Mahalingam, Professor, Psychology, Women's Studies

Abé Markus Nornes, Professor, ALC

Leslie Pincus, Associate Professor, History

Martin Powers, Professor, Chinese Arts and Cultures, History of Art

Jennifer Robertson, Professor, Anthropology, History of Art

Affiliated Staff:

Sarah Heh-Young Baek, Asia Library

Natsu Oyobe, UMMA

Yunah Sung, Asia Library

Jungwon Yang, Stephen S. Clark Library

Staff:

Kate Klemm, Outreach Coordinator

Kelsey Langton, Center Administrator

Peggy Rudberg, Administrative Assistant

Evan Vowell, Program Coordinator

Student Assistants:

Promise Kim, Office Assistant

Noelle Enkema, Graphic Designer

Nam Center Postdoctoral Fellow

The Postdoctoral Fellow enriches the Korean studies community at UM by engaging in research and leading the Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows program. The Postdoc also serves as lead organizer for the annual UM-USC Korean Studies Undergraduate Exchange Conference and the International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars, along with various outreach activities throughout the year.

Nam Center Postdoctoral Fellow 2020-21

Rory Walsh

Nam Center Graduate Fellows

The Center continues to strengthen graduate commitment to Korean studies through the graduate student fellows program. This network of students meet monthly throughout the academic year. They are connected by a common interest in Korea, but their areas of study range greatly.

Committee Chair:

Youngkyun Choi, Romance Languages & Literatures and Spanish

Graduate Students:

Yeon-ju Bae, Anthropology

Cristian Casanova, Public Policy

Haely Chang, History of Art

Jieun Chang, Psychology

Rey Jeong, Stamps School of Art & Design

Hojung Joo, Political Science

Sunhong Kim, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance

Wooseok Kim, Political Science, Statistics

Hayeon Lee, Anthropology, Social Work

Samuel Byung-Deuk Lee, Biomechanics

Won Park, CSE, Computer Science

Seulgi Son, Urban and Regional Planning

Cameron White, Asian Languages and Cultures

Tony Zhang, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Post-Doc Advisor:

Rory Walsh, Nam Center Postdoctoral Fellow

NEKST Graduate Student Conference

The 8th International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars (NEKST) was held virtually across five days from May 10-14, 2021. The conference organizing committee was composed of graduate students at the University of Michigan, led by committee chair Youngkyun Choi.

The five-day conference featured panel presentations, workshop sessions for dissertation chapters/advanced papers, a roundtable discussion session, a professional development workshop, and an artist talk. Panel themes included Korean diasporic art, post-war authoritarian rule, gender politics, social relationships, and North Korean realities. Prominent Korean studies faculty members from across disciplines and institutions served as discussants, as well as mentors.

21 graduate students in Korean studies had the opportunity to share their research, receive feedback from Korean studies faculty members and other graduate students, as well as contribute toward building a dynamic, multidisciplinary community of future Korean studies scholars. 76 students and faculty attended the conference virtually throughout the week of events.

Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows & Undergraduate Exchange Conference

The Undergraduate Fellows program seeks to stimulate and support interest in exploring topics about Korea. The program welcomes students invested in studies on Korea, looking to become an active member of the Nam Center for Korean Studies.

2020-21 Outreach Fellows

Maggie Chen

Molly Cooke

Francesca Duong

Batoul Ghannoum

Hannah Glass-Chapman

Alison Li

Rachael McLellan

Saloni Singhal

Lola Yang

Research fellows participated in the 8th annual Korean Studies Undergraduate Exchange Conference, which was hosted virtually by the Korean Studies Institute at the University of Southern California on April 9, 2021.

2020-21 Research Fellows

Shania Allen, "On Commodifying Identity: The Multicultural Image in South Korean Media"

Susmita Dash

Heather Duval, "Kimchi-Nyeo Escapes the Corset: Hashtag Activism as a Liberatory Practice from the Patriarchal Panopticon"

Sarah Kim, "Hiding in Plain Sight: Domestic Adoption in South Korea"

Promise Kim, "The K-Beauty Canvas: A Study of Eyes and Eyebrows in Relationship to Women's Agency"

Julia Lifton, "Gods, Spirits, and the Shadow of Gender Inequality: A Study of Shamanism and Women's Status in Korea"

Malavika Sabu, "Mugwort and Amoxycillin: The Rise of a Dual Pronged Healthcare System in Korea"

Alexandra Westman, "On an Olympic Scale: the RISING Skyline of Domestic Space"

Patricia Lee, "The Role of Culture in Compliance: How Culture Affected the United States' and South Korea's Initial Enforcement of COVID-19 Measures"

2021 Sang-Yong Nam Award

The recipient of the 2021 Sang-Yong Nam Award was **Heather Duval**. The Sang-Yong Nam Award is a \$3,000 scholarship given to a University of Michigan graduating senior each year. The award honors a student whose academic achievement, citizenship, service to the community, and commitment to Korean Studies exemplify the values to which Sang-Yong Nam dedicated his life.



Summer in Korea

A gift from alumnus Chairman Dae-Won Moon (MBA, '78) provides annual awards on behalf of the Nam Center to support travel to Korea to attend Yonsei International Summer School. Students spend six weeks in the heart of Seoul to improve their fluency in Korean and deepen their knowledge of Korea. The scholarship also funds tuition, fees, field trips, and travel expenses, making a summer in Korea possible for any UM undergraduate.

2021 Recipients:

Molly Cooke
Hannah Glass-Chapman
Lauren Kim
Jin Ah Kim
Promise Kim
Curnica (Nini) Landwer
Jacob Lusk
Lauren Park
Jacob Shin

Student Funding

The following students received funding to present at or attend conferences during the 2020-21 academic year:

Ihre Sohn, Asian Languages and Cultures

Presentation: "From the Empire for Children to A World without Children: Ch'oe In-gyu's films before and after Liberation"

Jason Davis, Political Science

Presentations: "Affect, Availability Heuristics, and Trade Beliefs", and "War as an Internal Indivisibility Problem"

Moira Saltzman, Linguistics

Presentations: "South Korean language policy and the erasure of Jejueo," and "A Sociophonetic Study of Tones on Jeju Island"; Project: "The Jejueo Talking Dictionary"

Albert Hawks, Sociology

Presentation: "Operatic Others: The 'Man Who Dies to Live' Controversy, New Orientalism and the Global Emergence of Korean Popular Culture"

Seulgi Son, Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture

Presentations: "Food Systems Planning to Enhance Sustainability: A Case Study of Public Food Procurement Program in Seoul, South Korea," and "An Emerging Food Politics of Institutional Public Food Procurement: Government intervention and grassroots strategies"

Hojung Joo, Political Science

Project: "Prewar Protests and Civilian Killings during War: Evidence from the Korean War"

Chelle Jones, Sociology

Presentation: "LBTQ Transnational Migration to South Korea: Social Mobility, Family Building and Gender Identity Affirmation"

Youngkyun Choi, Romance Languages and Literatures

"Korean economic structure in the 1980s, focusing on the relationship between South Korean Marxism and Latin American Dependency Theory"

Jieun Chang, Psychology

Project: "A Study of Mindfulness, Dignity, the Psychological Well-being of Graduate Students in Korea"

Razi Jafri, Art & Design

Project: "Isle of Refuge"

Yeon-ju Bae, Anthropology

Presentations: "Re-voicing, de-voicing, and silence: On an emergent hierarchy among language ideologies at a Korean Buddhist temple," and "Alternative Ethics in the Politics of Knowledge and Authority: Focusing on Human-Environment Relations in China, Tibet and South Korea"

The Nam Center Colloquium Series is supported by the US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant. The series brings Korean studies faculty and other scholars from around the world to Ann Arbor to present their research interests. The 2020-21 series was held virtually through Zoom and featured lectures from former U-M Korean studies graduate students.

October 20, 2020

Michael Prentice, *Lecturer, University of Sheffield*
 “An Office of Reports: Overwork and Overwriting in Korean Business Life”

November 17, 2020

Susan Hwang, *Assistant Professor of Korean Literature & Cultural Studies, Indiana University*
 “Singing Beyond the Ivory Gates: South Korean Song Movement in the 1980s”

January 26, 2021

Ihre Sohn, *Assistant Professor of Korean, Smith College*
 “Sacred Translations: Parasite, English Subtitles, and Global Korean Cinema”

February 16, 2021

Jonson Porteux, *Associate Professor, Kansai Gaidai University (Japan)*
 “Democratization and Violence in the Korean Context”

March 2, 2021

Monica Kim, *Assistant Professor of History, University of Wisconsin*
 “The Korean War through the Prism of the Interrogation Room”

April 6, 2021

Hiroaki Matsusaka, *Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi*
 “Visions of Global Solidarity: Anti-Imperialism in Colonial Korea and the Diaspora”

April 20, 2021

Sharon (Heijin) Lee, *Assistant Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University*
 “Making over ‘The Big Reveal’: Neoliberal Multiculturalism and the Globalizing of the South Korean ‘Look’ in Medical Tourism YouTube Videos”

Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference

The Nam Center's tenth annual conference on Contemporary Korea, South Korean Film Industry, invited 29 faculty, discussants, and industry professionals to participate virtually over the course of five days from April 12-16, 2021. The event brought together scholars from major sites of Korean film and media studies research in the Anglophone world (including Canada, U.S., U.K., and Australia) with scholars from Korea and Singapore for an interdisciplinary dialogue on the diversity and complexity of the South Korean film industry. 229 individuals attended the conference globally.

Apart from faculty panels and discussions, the first day of the event featured a keynote lecture by director Kim Hong-Joon, professor at Korea National University of Arts. Additionally, the conference included an Industry Roundtable with producers Dong-yeon Won (*Along with Gods*) and Un-kyoung Park (*A Taxi Driver*) along with directors Soon-rye Im (*Little Forest*) and Kyu-dong Min (*Herstory*). The virtual event concluded with a Director's Spotlight highlighting the work of House of Hummingbird director Bora Kim, whose film was made available to view by all conference participants. Culminating from the conference will be a book series published by U-M press.

Previous conferences in the series have included Korean division literature, religion and happiness, the phenomenon of Hallyu in the age of social media, transgressive practices in Korean society, the politics of sports, cultural products of the Yushin era, new communication technologies, economic and demographic changes in families, and large social changes in present-day Korea.

Korean Studies Manuscript Workshop for Junior Faculty

The Nam Center holds its annual manuscript workshops virtually in May 2021, to offer pre-tenure scholars in Korean Studies, preparing a book-length manuscript or other similarly substantial academic publication, with an opportunity to further develop their manuscripts for publication by offering participants the opportunity to receive constructive critical feedback on their manuscripts by senior faculty mentors.

Three junior faculty were chosen for the workshop:

Jun Hee Kwon, Sacramento State
"Borderland Dreams: Korean Chinese Migrant Bodies, Money, and Time"

Susan Hwang, Indiana University
"Uncaged Songs: Culture and Politics of Protest Music in South Korea"

Ji Young Kim, Queens College
"From Traitors to Citizens: Colonial Collaboration, Cold War, and Post-liberation Korean Literature"

Korean Studies e-School

Fall 2020 Courses:

Introduction to Korean Civilization

Juhn Ahn, *University of Michigan*

Dating, Sex, and Marriage in Korea

John Finch, *Indiana University*

The Koreas: Korean War to the 21st Century

Charles Kim, *University of Wisconsin*

Kingdoms, Queendoms, and Collectives

Rory Walsh, *University of Michigan*

Film Culture in Korea

Se-Mi Oh, *University of Michigan*

Spring 2021 Courses:

Imagining Disaster: Korea and the Apocalyptic Modern

Jae Won Chung, *Rutgers University*

Making Places in Seoul: History of Urbanism & Development

Pil Ho Kim, *Ohio State University*

Korea and the United States 1882-Present

David Fields, *University of Wisconsin*

Topics in Korean Culture: Current Affairs

Hangtae Cho, *University of Minnesota*

Understanding Korea, Korean Society, and the Korean Language

Susan Strauss, *Penn State University*

Fall 2020 Paper Award:

Natalya Cohen and Kyera Kirtz, *Indiana University*

“Drag Queens in South Korea”

Erica Roach, *University of Maryland*

“Memories of Teenage Violence: A Case Study on Nostalgia of Korean Gangs in Sunny and Pacchigi!”

Miaoran Jiang, *University of Wisconsin*

“Reimagining a Third Space of Reconciliation in Pacchigi!”

Shuheng Zhang, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*

“The Invisible Female Warrior”

Podcast

The Nam Center piloted a podcast with a mini-series called, “Reclaiming the City in Korea.” The series was hosted by Francisco E. Sanin, Professor of Architecture at Syracuse University, with guests Hyungmin Pai, architectural historian, critic, curator, and Professor at the University of Seoul, and Dr. Judy Ju Hui Han, artist, activist, and Assistant Professor of Gender Studies at UCLA. Together, they provided interdisciplinary angles on architecture’s artistic power to influence development in Korea. These podcasts were used at Syracuse University and in University of Michigan classes taught by Se-Mi Oh, Assistant Professor of Modern Korean History, as they discussed the Venice Biennale curated by Hyungmin Pai and the architectural representations of history with Dr. Judy Ju Hui Han. The goal was to provide more interaction between students and the artists/their work, and also to increase the artists’ public reach.

The podcast mini-series was made available on multiple platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Pocket Cast, Radio Public, and more.

Korean Cinema *NOW*

The 2021 Nam Center film series offered free films virtually through the Michigan Theater throughout the winter term. Films were screened in Korean with English subtitles and were available for download within screening dates.

March 19-21, 2021

Peninsula (반도, 2020)

March 26-28, 2021

Beasts Clawing at Straws (지푸라기라도 잡고 싶은 짐승들, 2020)

April 2-4, 2021

Hitman: Agent Jun (히트맨, 2020)

April 9-11, 2021

Kim Ji-Young: Born 1982 (82년생 김지영, 2019)

April 12-17, 2021

House of Hummingbird (벌새, 2018)

Chuseok Party

The tenth annual Chuseok Party was held virtually October 4-9, 2020, to celebrate Korean Thanksgiving. Over the course of the celebration, virtual attendees participated in events and activities, including learning about the history of Chuseok, K-Pop dance tutorial, taekwondo workshop, University of Michigan Museum of Art tour, Korean book reading, and movie streaming.

Signature Artist Residency

The 2020 Artist in the Classroom was Peggy Myo-Young Choy, Associate Professor of Dance and Asian American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Choy hosted a virtual dance workshop with University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance (SMTD): Peggy Myo-young Choy “AGE OF FIRE”: Women of the Scarred Earth. Peggy also offered a summer workshop on Qigong and invited students and community members from various places in the U.S., including Los Angeles, CA; Manoa, HI; Milwaukee, WI; and New York, NY. There were 147 registrants from across the USA.

Heung Coalition Event Empire’s Afterlives: Legacies of Militarization and Cultural Politics in Korea

E. Tammy Kim, a freelance reporter and writer for The New York Times, and Eunsong Kim, Assistant Professor of English and an affiliate faculty of the Department of Cultures, Societies and Global Studies at Northeastern University, came together virtually to discuss “transpacific entanglements” with U.S. neoliberalism, militarization, and racism that South Korea’s own position reveals.

Visiting Scholars

Hyunshin Park (PhD), *Associate Professor*, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Dongduk Women’s University

Daebak 3 is all-male K-pop/Hip-Hop dance crew at the University of Michigan. They actively perform in major dance and cultural events around campus year-round and occasionally create dance covers. Korea is currently a world-renowned country for its progress and achievements in breakdancing.

Element 1 is the only breakdancing club at U-M. Breakdancing is an art form that allows for musical creativity to naturally flow out of a person.

Female Gayo is an official female K-Pop dance team under the Korean American Student Association.

Korea Leadership Group aims to connect the various Korean communities at the University of Michigan by increasing interactions with alumni, hosting social networking events, and serving as a stepping stone for those interested in developing professional skills and personalized career opportunities. They focus on spreading awareness of Korean culture and the recognition of influential Korean leaders in and out of Michigan through various career fairs and an annual leadership Summit.

Konnect is a co-ed K-pop group that aims to provide a space for all those interested in dance to come together and have fun. They provide opportunities for all interests and levels to showcase dance. They host K-pop dance tutorials at the Mason Hall posting wall, post member spotlights on Instagram, and have a performance subunit that performs at various events around campus.

The **Korean International Student Association** is an organization that promotes the unity and well-being of Korean students at U-M. KISA organizes a series of cultural and social events that bring incoming and current students together.

K-motion is a Korean pop dance group that performs at various events held on campus. Their purpose is to create lasting relationships through dance as they participate in these events. The group specializes in popular Korean pop songs.

The **Korean American Student Association** promotes Korean and Korean-American awareness and culture through academic, political, and social activities by interacting with surrounding communities.

The **Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association** was established to give young, intelligent students opportunities to connect with professionals and develop a broader career foundation as scientists and engineers.

The **Korean Student Association - Graduate** is for Korean graduate students, visiting scholars, research fellows, and the faculty community on campus to generate greater interaction within the community and to increase awareness about the Korean culture outside the community.

The **Korea Business Club** at Ross School of Business is a graduate student organization open to all MBA students who are interested in Korean cultures, communities and businesses. KBC provides information, resources, tools and guidance to members for careers in Korea and promotes a deeper understanding of Korean business culture within the Ross community.

Liberty in North Korea's purpose is to foster leadership development through the understanding of refugees and the North Korean people. The group coordinates a range of events that are educational and creative and also raises funds to bring back refugees hiding in China in order to raise awareness.

Seoul Juice is a Korean American singing and instrumental cover group.

Sinaboro is a Korean Traditional Drumming Group, founded in 1998, and has had members of all backgrounds learn and perform samulnori. Sinaboro seeks to share Korean culture with the Ann Arbor community and beyond through samulnori.

Michigan Taekwondo Club is a student-run club that teaches the fundamental aspects of taekwondo. The team competes across the country as well as locally.