



2007-2017



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Nam Center,

Greetings from Ann Arbor!

The 2017-18 academic year was an incredible success as we celebrated our 10th anniversary and settled into our new home at Weiser Hall. Our first decade was one of substantial growth, as many of our core initiatives evolved from infancy into robust programs. To commemorate the anniversary, the Nam Center

was fortunate to have many notable Korean Studies scholars participate in events over the course of the year, including several of our own faculty.

In summer 2017, the Center moved to the fourth floor of Weiser Hall, which recently underwent a \$49 million renovation. The building provides us the capacity to hold innovative lectures, courses, and conferences since many rooms are equipped with advanced technological capabilities. The tenth floor event space is an impressive-looking venue that overlooks campus and downtown Ann Arbor.

To kickstart the anniversary festivities, our seventh annual Chuseok Dae Party in October brought in over 500 attendees to campus to celebrate Korean Thanksgiving. The event was complete with Korean cuisine tasting, arts and crafts, as well as performances from various Korea-related student groups on campus. This was the final year of hosting the party at our previous home in the School of Social Work Building.

Also in October, we held our 2017 Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference titled "The Future is Now: Mapping Social Change in Contemporary Korea," which showcased a series of innovative, border-crossing and pragmatic conversations about the past, present, and future of Korean society. We were honored to host four distinguished keynote speakers: Tsinghua University Professor Zhiyan Cui, Korean Constitutional Court Justice Ilwon Kang, Sweet Briar College President and former Director of the Nam Center Meredith Woo, and National Assembly Member and leader of the Bareun Party Seong-Min Yoo. Their combined wealth of knowledge was invaluable to the symposium, which brought them together with a number of other esteemed panelists to discuss themes from education to politics to culture in Korea.



Jiun Bang continued her work as Nam Center Postdoctoral Fellow throughout the academic year, where in this capacity she led the undergraduate fellows' program and other core educational programming at the Center. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors. We also had the pleasure of Irhe Sohn serving as Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) Doctoral Fellow, along with Visiting Scholars Jung Yoon Choi (Yonsei University), Wan-soo Lee (Dongseo University), Hyo Won Woo (composer), and Chong-min Lee (Kookmin University).

The Nam Center was recently named a AKS Core University Program in Korean Studies, a five-year grant that provides the Nam Center the opportunity to carry out a number of initiatives that are designed to integrate research in Korean Studies with classroom teaching. The grant is also pivotal in leveraging the Center's Korean Studies networks in the Midwest. In summer 2018, the Center was also named a recipient of the U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant, which allows us the ability to provide Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships for students as well as programming that builds connections with other universities and community colleges.

You will learn more about all of these and more in this annual report, and none of these would have been possible without you. Thank you all for your support for the Nam Center and Korean Studies at Michigan.

Go Blue!

Nojin Kwak

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CENTER IN A SNAPSHOT

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.

Since the inception of the Nam Center in 2007:

60% increase in number of students enrolled in Korean language courses

300% increase in the number of Korean materials at the Asia Library

84 Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows

\$960,000 in total student funding provided by the Nam Center

NAM CENTER FACULTY

Nam Center Core Faculty

Director: Nojin Kwak, Professor and Chair, Communication Studies

Juhn Ahn, Assistant Professor, Buddhist and Korean Studies

Jiun Bang, Postdoctoral Fellow

David Chung, Professor, Stamps School of Art and Design

Sangkyung Han, Lecturer, Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC)

Hunjin Jung, Lecturer, ALC

Joan Kee, Associate Professor, History of Art

E. Han Kim, Everett E. Berg Professor of Business Administration

Hyun-ju Kim, Lecturer, ALC

Jaeun Kim, Korea Foundation Assistant Professor, Sociology

Dae-Hee Kwak, Associate Professor, Kinesiology

Se-Mi Oh, Assistant Professor, ALC

Youngju Ryu, Associate Professor, ALC

Jordan Siegel, Associate Professor, Business

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

Hwa-Jin Kim, Professor, Law

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

Joseph Lam, Professor, School of Music, Theater, and 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, Sally Michelson Davidson Professor of Chinese Arts and Cultures

Jennifer Robertson, Professor, Anthropology, History of Art

Associates

Sarah Heh-Young Baek, Asia Library

Myung Hee Kim, Asia Library

Natsu Oyobe, UMMA

Yunah Sung, Asia Library

Jungwon Yang, Stephen S. Clark Library



Yi Yu-t'ae, detail from *Wisdom, Impression, Sentiment*, 1943, ink and color on paper, each 250 x 169 cm. Courtesy of Leeum, Seoul, South Korea.

Cover image for *Modernism/Modernity* 25:2 (April 2018)

FACULTY NEWS

Juhn Ahn, Assistant Professor, Buddhist and Korean Studies

Prof. Ahn was promoted to Associate Professor in May 2018 effective September 2018.

His book, *Buddhas and Ancestors: Religion and Wealth in Fourteenth-Century Korea*, was published by University of Washington Press in June 2018.

Prof. Ahn's edited volume, *Transgression in Korea: Beyond Resistance and Control*, was published by University of Michigan Press in 2018.

He is organizing two events in October 2018, the Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference "Religion, Politics & Happiness in Korea" as well as a lecture titled "Letting Go & Letting In: Approaches to Happiness in Korean Buddhism."

David Chung, Professor, Stamps School of Art and Design

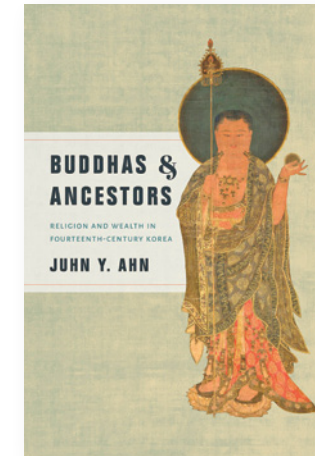
His upcoming work, the Defector Project, is currently in post-production. His work on the film was supported by the Nam Center. "Defector" is a documentary film project about North Korean refugees living in South Korea.



Joan Kee, Associate Professor, History of Art

Prof. Kee had an article published in *Modernism/Modernity* in April 2018: "Modern Art in Late Colonial Korea: A Research Experiment" *Modernism/Modernity* 25:2 (April 2018): 215-243.

Prof. Kee's piece was the first time a Korea-related article was chosen for the journal, the flagship publication of the Modernist Studies Association. Her work on the article was supported by the Nam Center.



Jaeun Kim, Assistant Professor, Sociology; Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of Korean Studies

Prof. Kim's book, *Contested Embrace: Transborder Membership Politics in Twentieth-Century Korea* (Stanford University Press) received four book awards:

- (2017) Allan Sharlin Memorial Award, Social Science History Association
- (2018) James B. Palais Book Prize from the Association for Asian Studies - Honorable Mention
- (2017) Thomas and Znaniecki Distinguished Book Award from the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association
- (2017) Book Award on Asia/Transnational from the Asia/Asian American Section of the American Sociological Association

The abridged Korean version of Chapter 3 of *Contested Embrace* has been published as part of an edited volume in *Tosi ro ingnūn hyōndai Chungguk 1: sahoi juūi sigi*. Edited by Chōl-hyōn Pak, 212-40. Seoul, Korea: Yōksa Pip'yōngsa. (2017)

Prof. Kim also won two multi-year grants from the National Research Foundation of Korea and the Academy of Korean Studies:

- Humanities Korea Plus Grant (co-investigator: "Mnemonic Solidarity: Colonialism, War and Genocide in the Global Memory Space")
- AKS Laboratory Program for Korean Studies (co-investigator of the project, "Local Agency and National Responses to Globalization: The South Jmorean Case in Comparative, Transnational and Diasporic Perspective")

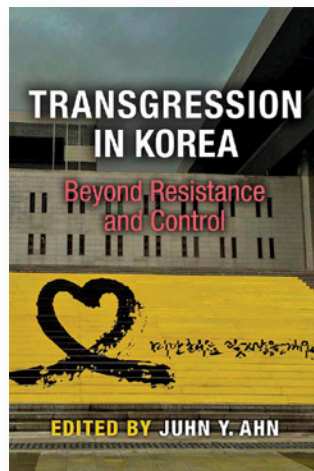
Dae Hee Kwak, Associate Professor, Sports Management, School of Kinesiology

Prof. Kwak co-edited a book titled *Sport in Korea: History, Development, Management* published by Routledge: London in 2018.

Nojin Kwak, Professor, Communication Studies

In addition to his directorship at the Nam Center, Prof. Kwak serves as Chair of the Department of Communication Studies. In August 2018, he was awarded a four-year, \$2.4 million Title VI grant from the US Dept. of Education. These funds are used to offer FLAS Fellowships, which provide stipends to students learning critical languages such as Korean. Title VI funding also supports Center initiatives that enlighten the community with Korea-related content, including the Nam Center Colloquium Series.

FACULTY NEWS

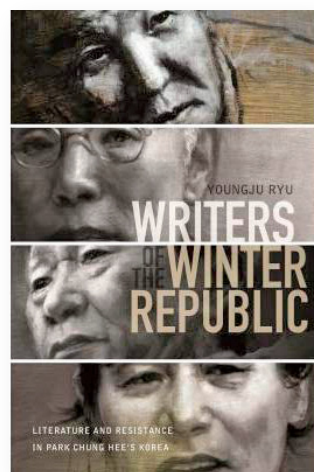


Se-Mi Oh, Assistant Professor, Modern Korean History

Prof. Oh had a book chapter published, titled: "The Cat's Cradle: Middle Class Optics of Desire in Kim Ki-Young's *The Housemaid*" in *Transgression in Korea: Beyond Resistance and Control*, ed. Juhn Ahn (The University of Michigan Press, 2018). Her work on the chapter was supported by the Nam Center.

Youngju Ryu, Associate Professor, Modern Korean Literature

In March 2018, Prof. Ryu was awarded the 2018 James Palais Book Prize of the Association for the Asian Studies at the association's



annual conference in Washington, DC for her book, *Writers of the Winter Republic: Literature and Resistance in Park Chung Hee's Korea*.

She completed work on two articles and on an edited volume, *Cultures of Yusin: South Korea in the 1970s*, which will be published by the University of Michigan Press in 2018.

Prof. Ryu also served her second term as the Director of the Korean Language Program in

AY 2017-2018 and spearheaded the Korean Language Program's student exchange initiative with Seoul National University's College English Program.

Jordan Siegel, Associate Professor, Strategy, Ross School of Business

Prof. Siegel co-authored a paper that was published in a top management journal, "Threat of falling high status and corporate bribery: Evidence from the revealed accounting records of two South Korean presidents," *Wiley Strategic Management Journal*, 22 February 2018. His work on the paper was presented at the Nam Center Colloquium Series Lecture in November 2017.

NAM CENTER POSTDOC



Jiun Bang, Postdoctoral Fellow, Nam Center for Korean Studies

"The Nam Center provides unparalleled research and professional support. During my time there, I engaged not only with the wider university

community through my piece "Islands in a Sea of Turmoil" featured in the *LSA Today* magazine, but also an audience beyond that of Michigan—via an interview with PBS NewsHour on the state of the 2018 inter-Korea summit, along with a contribution regarding an ongoing research project to the *Washington Post* "Monkey Cage." In a way, I was able to balance my pursuits in both the academic and policy discourse, which in the end, made me that much more rounded as a scholar."

Irhe Sohn, 2017-18 AKS Dissertation Fellowship Recipient



"Having spent my first semester away from Michigan, I see how the Nam Center for Korean Studies has been my home over the last seven years. The Center has provided me with a place to find colleagues, a platform for new inquiries in Korean studies, as well as generous funding to conduct my research. In particular, the AKS Dissertation Fellowship, which I was awarded during the 2017-18 academic year, has been crucial to the final stage of my dissertation writing. Thanks to the support, I was fully able to focus on finalizing the work, entitled "Enterprises of the Feeble: The Makings of Cinema in Colonial Korea," which I have defended last spring. I am very much grateful to the Center's unstinting support for this seed for my current book project, with which I am looking forward to coming back to my dear readers at Michigan in the not too distant future."

Irhe Sohn, Assistant Professor, Smith College

GRADUATE NEWS

UM Professional Networking Conference for Master's Students in East Asian Studies

April 13-14, 2018

This conference provided 15 MA students opportunities to share research with their peers and gain conference presentation experience. The conference sought participants from minority-serving institutions and universities with East Asian studies programs. MA students presented their work at the conference and engaged with leading academics and professionals active in East Asia.

The topics addressed by the student panels included education, film, identity and ideology, art and literature, and politics and security.

The Nam Center sponsored Dean Fealk, Partner and Co-Chair, International Labor and Employment Practice at DLA Piper. He presented to the students on prospective careers in international law, focusing particularly on Korea.

NEKST Conference

6th International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars May 11-12, 2018

NEKST is an interdisciplinary conference open to graduate students focusing on Korean studies. The two-day workshop features traditional panel presentations, workshop sessions for dissertation chapters and advanced papers, and a professional development workshop. In 2018, 18 student participants participated from the following institutions:

Academy of Korean Studies
Binghamton University, SUNY
Goethe University, Frankfurt
Fudan University
Indiana University
Leiden University
Lund University
New York University
University of British Columbia
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of Chicago
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania

STUDENT GRANTS

Summer in Korea Scholarships

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 in Seoul, Korea. 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.

2018 Awardees

Hayla Alawi, Asian Studies

Kristin HooSang, Chemical Engineering

Leyin Gan, Business Administration



Hayla Alawi "I was able to experience life in Seoul and the Korean countryside in a way that I likely would not have been able to do otherwise until much later in my life. As such, I noticed a significant increase in my language skills as I was constantly conducting interactions in Korean and my language professors abroad rigorously drilled me in speaking and listening exercises. I learned cultural nuances that cannot be taught in textbooks alone, ate delicacies such as sannakji, and visited historical landmarks."

SeAH Haiam Arts & Sciences Scholarship

The SeAH Haiam Arts and Sciences Scholarship provides awards each year to support graduate student research projects for academic purposes. This scholarship can be used to fund research travel, data collection, or fieldwork related to Korean studies.

2018 Recipients

Chelle Jones, PhD, Sociology

Wooseok Kim, PhD, Political Science; MA, Statistics



Chelle Jones (PhD Candidate, Sociology) spent 2018 in South Korea on a Fulbright research grant. Chelle's dissertation examines how LGBT people in mixed-citizenship relationships use migration as a strategy to build families and accrue capital as they navigate a transnational patchwork of LGBT rights policies. With the generous support of the SeAH Haiam research grant, Chelle was able to recruit interviews from 86 LGBT migrants living in South Korea.

Conference Travel Grants

The Nam Center provides funding for students to present at conferences:

Jason Davis, PhD Student, Political Science

2018 Annual Conference of the European Political Science Association

Maira Saltzman, PhD Student, Linguistics

Global Approaches to Multilingualism and Standardization Conference

Maxwell Tsao, BSc, Multidisciplinary Arts

Korean American Student Conference

Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows Program

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

2017-18 Research Fellows

Danielle Kim
Emily Thibeau
Hunter Zhao
Hyunju Lee
Kawthar Mohamud
Kevin Liu
Sooyeon Lee

2017-18 Outreach Fellows

Anna Alvarado
Emily Stroh
Kariana Alvarado
Kathleen Moriarty
Madeline Kwon
Marissa Moore
Shauna Paulson
Syarafina Adilah Ahmad Nasir
Taepyo (Tommy) Kim
Yejin Park

Undergraduate Fellow Grant Recipient

Kevin Liu

Korean Studies Undergraduate Exchange Conference

Organized jointly by the Nam Center and the Korean Studies Institute at the University of Southern California, the 6th annual conference was held in Ann Arbor on February 17, 2018.

Panels

- Korean Youth: Contemporary Challenges in the Educational and Political Domains
- Within & Beyond: Gender and Racial Dynamics
- Domestic Contestation & Resilient Foreign Policy Issues
- Across Media and National Borders: Imagination, Identity, Critique

Best presentation award

Max Kapur, USC

Best paper award

Sumin Kim, USC

Second place paper

Sophie Lee, UM

2018 Sang-Yong Nam Award

The Nam Center honors graduating seniors of the University of Michigan whose academic achievement, citizenship, service to the community, and commitment to Korean studies exemplifies the values to which Sang Y. Nam dedicated his life. The awards come with a \$3,000 total cash prize.

Winners

Rachel Epperly, School of Music, Theater, and Dance: Composition

Hunter Zhao, Sociology, History

2018 Sang-Yong Nam Award winners
Rachel Epperly and Hunter Zhao



"As a result of the award, I had the opportunity to thank the Nam Center and reflect on the impact it has had on my identity, work, and career path. Meeting the Nam family, learning about their lives, and thanking them directly for their contributions at the ceremony was an impactful experience that I will not forget."

Rachel Epperly

Korean Studies e-School

The Korea Foundation (KF) Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) e-School program, in its fifth year, is comprised of thirteen universities in the Midwest. Using video conferencing technology, faculty at the various member institutions are able to offer Korea-related courses online to participating universities.

In academic year 2017-18, over 300 students enrolled in 11 classes, ranging from “Traditional Korean Poetry” to “Korean War in Fiction & Film.” The first graduate course was offered to e-School this AY, “Historiography of Modern Korea,” at the University of Wisconsin.

KF e-School Fellowships

Ten students enrolled in e-School courses were selected as fellowship recipients to attend Yonsei International Summer School.

Makayla Cherry, Ohio State University

Victoria Chow, University of Maryland

Grace Jun, Pennsylvania State University

Lucas Kerstetter, Pennsylvania State University

Dennis Kim, University of Michigan

Chaewon Lee, Indiana University

Shauna Paulson, University of Michigan

Callie Rhoades, Indiana University

Daniela Sofia Saez Cabezas, University of Maryland

Daiki Yanagawa, University of Maryland

Summer in Michigan Program in English Language

The Summer in Michigan Program in English Language (SIMPEL), in its fourth year, is an intensive four-week academic English experience for students affiliated with Ajou University in Suwon, Korea. The program is sponsored by the College of Literature, Science and the Arts at the University of Michigan, offered jointly by the English Language Institute and the Nam Center for Korean Studies.

Thirty student participants in 2018 received a solid grounding in all areas of American academic English and an introduction to student life at the University of Michigan. The experience culminated in a capstone project in which students research a topic and display their findings in a poster presentation. This program is enriched by the participation of ten U-M students who worked as cultural liaisons to act as peer language mentors, and a guide to life at the university.

2018 Summer in Michigan Cultural Liasons:

Kevin Chen

Brendon Cho

Angelica Eagle

Rachel Epperly

Miri Kim

Edina Lee

Christopher Letteer

Thomas McBride

Rachael McLellan

Alexandra Westman

Ajou students and Cultural Liasons participated in a high-ropes obstacle course at the U-M Radrick Challenge Program



“I was looking forward to interacting with students from Korea and exchanging culture, but what I didn’t expect was to make friendships that last until today”

Rachael McLellan (second from left)

INITIATIVES

Asia Library

Dawn Lawson, Head

Yunah Sung, Korean Studies Librarian & Head, Asia Library Technical Services

Sarah Heh-Young Baek, Information Resources Cataloging Specialist, Korean Cataloger

Myung Hee Kim, Information Resources Assistant Senior, Korean Acquisitions

Acquisitions

- Over 5,700 volumes of Korean language books and 150 DVDs were added from July 2017 to June 2018.
- In total, the Library holds 70,000 books in Korean language along with 2,000 Korean visual materials housed in the Askwith Media Library.
- The Library currently subscribes to 9 Korean language databases and 3 online newspapers.
- In 2017, the Library received 20 framed prints of photographs taken by Dr. Margaret Condon Taylor. These photos were taken in 1969 by Dr. Taylor, a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea, who captured the rapidly evolving Korean lifestyle in the face of modernization.

Events

- **The 2017 Workshop on Korean Data Services**, a first-of-its-kind workshop, provided comprehensive and up-to-date resources on Korean data at a time when the demands for data resources in the fields of Korean studies and digital scholarship have increased rapidly.
- **The Taylor Collection** was loaned to Stanford University, where the East Asia Library hosted an exhibition in Summer 2018.

Clark Library

Jungwon Yang, International Government Information and Public Policy Librarian

Her article, "The 2017 Workshop on Korean Data Services: useful data resources for Korean data reference" was published in Trends in Overseas Korean Studies Libraries (September 2018). She attended the 2017 Workshop on Korean Data Services thanks to Nam Center funding.

Korean Language Program

Youngju Ryu, Director

KLP Faculty:

Sangkyung Han

Hunjin Jung

Hyun-ju Kim

Seoul National University Exchange

KLP students engage in online exchanges with students at Seoul National University throughout the year.

Nam Essay Contest

The contest honors the memory of Elder Sang-Yong Nam, a benefactor whose generosity and personal dedication helped create momentum for the establishment of the Korean Language Program at the University of Michigan in the early 1990s. Students write an essay on a given topic and the best essays are recognized with scholarship awards of up to \$200 at the annual celebration in April.

Korean Language Awards

The best student performances in each class are recognized at the annual celebration in April. Awardees receive a book prize.

Awardees:

First-Year: **Grace Chu, Jia Xu, Meredith Ostermann**

Second-Year: **Shania Allen, Kristin HooSang, Junhyung Shim**

Third-Year: **Rachel O**

Fourth-Year: **Narith Ta**

OUTREACH

Single Shard

The fifth annual "Korea from a Single Shard" provided area teachers with the opportunity to expose their students to Korean culture through literature and art. Students were able to view ceramics related to Korean celadons through a docent-led tour of the Woon-Hyung Lee and Korea Foundation Gallery at the U-M Museum of Art.

Participating schools

Algoma Christian School
Byron Center Christian School
Dieck Elementary School
East Kentwood High School
Forest Elementary School
Hutchinson Elementary-Middle School
Kensington Woods
Madison Carver Academy
Momentum Elementary
Pattengill Elementary
South Lake Middle School
Waterford Kettering

Korean Cinema NOW

Showcasing the best and brightest of contemporary popular Korean cinema, the 2018 Nam Center film series offered free films at Michigan Theater throughout the winter term. Films were screened in Korean with English subtitles. In total, the film series brought in over 900 attendees.

1/13/2018 *A Taxi Driver* (택시운전사, 2017)

1/20/2018 *On the Beach at Night Alone*
(밤의 해변에서 혼자, 2017)

1/27/2018 *Anarchist from Colony* (박열, 2017)

2/3/2018 *The World of Us* (우리들, 2016)

2/10/2018 *Our President* (노무현입니다, 2017)

3/10/2018 *The Villainess* (악녀, 2017)

3/31/2018 *The Bacchus Lady* (죽여주는 여자, 2016)

4/7/2018 *Jane* (꿈의 제인, 2016)

4/21/2018 *The Battleship Island* (군함도, 2017)





National Assembly member
and leader of the Bareun Party,
Seong-Min Yoo

2017 Perspectives on
Contemporary Korea
Conference Keynote Speaker

EVENT CALENDAR

Chuseok Party

10/1/2017

The 2017 Chuseok Dae Party was the seventh annual celebration of Korean Thanksgiving at the Center. Over 600 attendees had the opportunity to experience Korean culture, cuisine, and arts.

International Institute Round Table

11/6/2017

“A New Look at an Old Issue: Implications of North Korea’s Provocations”

Panelists:

Robert Axelrod, University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Political Science

Kristina Daugirdas, University of Michigan Law School

Inyeop Lee, Spring Arbor University

John Park, Harvard University Kennedy School for Public Policy

Sara Pozzi, University of Michigan College of Engineering, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences

Attendees: 50

2017 Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference

11/17-18/2017

“The Future is Now: Mapping Social Change in Contemporary South Korea”

In recognition of the Nam Center’s 10th anniversary, the 2017 Perspectives Conference showcased a series of innovative, border-crossing and pragmatic conversations about the past, present and future of Korean Society. Panel speakers included esteemed theorists and practitioners across the domains of education, politics, economy, culture, regional relationships, and the law.

Keynote speakers:

Tsinghua University Professor **Zhiyuan Cui**, Korean Constitutional Court Justice **Ilwon Kang**, Sweet Briar College President and former director of the Nam Center **Meredith Woo**, and National Assembly member and leader of the Bareun Party, **Seong-Min Yoo**.

Attendees: 150

An Accidental Photographer: Seoul 1969

12/7/17-1/12/18

University of Michigan alumna **Margaret Condon Taylor** (Psychology PhD) curated a month-long exhibition at the U-M Institute for the Humanities with the collaboration of Associate Professor Youngju Ryu (Asian Languages and Cultures) and Professor David Chung (School of Art & Design). Her photographs were taken in Seoul in 1969, a time of changing scenes of ordinary Korean life in a rapidly modernizing society. The exhibition was inaugurated with a public lecture by Assistant Professor Se-Mi Oh (Asian Languages and Cultures) on December 8, 2018.

Attendees: 750

North Korea as Artistic Inspiration

2/9/2018

Professor **Suk-Young Kim** (Theater Department, University of California, Los Angeles) gave a lecture on the image, myth, and the past of North Korea to contextualize the story presented by the play *You for Me for You*. Through close comparative analysis of the first known North Korean dissident musical, *Yoduk Story*, and Mia Chung’s *You for Me for You*, this talk explored the empowering process as well as the artistic limitations of confronting trauma.

Attendees: 85

You For Me For You

2/15/18-2/18-18

Presented by the School of Theater, Music, and Dance, *You for Me for You* is a play about what happens when two devoted North Korean sisters who become physically separated while trying to cross the border into South Korea. Written by Mia Chung, *You for Me for You* is a riveting look at the two contrasting cultures on the Korean peninsula.

Suwon City Chorale

3/26/2018

The Suwon City Chorale (SCC) performed for the public at Mendelssohn Theater. The SCC is world renowned, participating at international festivals such as the 4th World Symposium on Choral Music and the Oregon Bach Festival. This was part of a three-campus tour (Ohio State University and Bowling Green University) organized by KF.

Dr. James Kim, SCC Guest Conductor

Ha Ju Young, Choir Manager

Eunyoung Jang, Korea Foundation Deputy Director

Attendees: 175

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

9/27/2017

Jaeun Kim, Assistant Professor, Sociology

"Contested Embrace: Transborder Membership Politics in Twentieth-Century Korea"

11/1/2017

Jordan Siegel, Associate Professor, Business

"Threat of Falling High Status and Corporate Bribery: Evidence from the Revealed Accounting Records of Two South Korean Presidents"

11/8/2017

Se-Mi Oh, Assistant Professor, ALC

"Writing History Through Photography: Kojong's Funeral of 1919"

12/6/2017

David Chung, Professor, Art and Design

"Homelands of the Imaginary"

1/31/2018

Juhn Ahn, Assistant Professor, ALC

"Wealth as Pen and Death as Story in Medieval Korea"

2/21/2018

Dae Hee Kwak, Associate Professor, Kinesiology

"From 1988 Seoul to 2018 Pyeongchang: What Have We Learned in Hosting Mega Events"

3/14/2018

Youngju Ryu, Associate Professor, ALC

"Yusin Redux: Satire and Democratization in South Korea"

3/28/2018

Jisoo Kim, Professor, History, George Washington University

"Crime of Violence: Forensic Medicine, Dead Bodies, & Legal Culture in Chosŏn Korea"

4/4/2018

Nojin Kwak, Professor and Chair, Communication Studies

"Kakao Talk, Rumors, and Political Engagement in Korea"



Hong Sung-dam, detail from
Cherry Blossom Outing.
Courtesy of the artist.

STUDENT GROUPS

Element 1 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. Korea is currently a world-renowned country for its progress and achievements in this art form.

Female Gayo Female Gayo is an official female K-Pop dance team under the Korean Student Association.**KISA** The Korean International Student Association is an organization that promotes the unity and well-being of Korean students at the University of Michigan. KISA is committed to inform and assist incoming students so they can have a smooth adjustment to their new collegiate environment. In order to achieve this goal, the group hold a series of cultural and social events that bring incoming and current students together.**K-Motion** 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 we participate in these events. The group specializes in popular Korean pop songs.**KSA** The Korean Student Association exists to establish and maintain a community that promotes Korean and Korean-American awareness and culture through academic, political, and social activities by interacting with the surrounding communities both on and off campus.**KSA - Graduate** The Korean Student Association - Graduate is a nonprofit organization for Korean graduate students, visiting scholars, research fellows and faculty community on campus, which add up to approximately 1000 people, to generate greater interaction within the community and to increase awareness about the Korean culture outside the community.**KBC** 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.**KSEA** The Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association was established in 2011 to give young, intelligent students opportunities to connect with professionals and develop a broader career foundation as scientists and engineers. The group promotes academic networking and fellowship among Korean-American students and professionals engaged in engineering, science, and related fields.**Kopitonez** Kopitonez is a co-ed Asian-interest A Cappella group at the University of Michigan. The student group sings a variety of music originating from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and more.**LiNK** 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.**Sinaboro** 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** 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.

Nam Center for Korean Studies

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