

KOREAN

STUDIES PROGRAM



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FALL 2006



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

KORYO SARAM-THE UNRELIABLE PEOPLE, PREMIERS IN THE FALL

I am happy to report that *Koryo Saram-The Unreliable People*, a one-hour documentary created by the Korean Studies Program (KSP) will make its international premier at the Smithsonian Institution's Sackler Gallery in Washington DC on October 29. This documentary, which has taken two years to make, is the result of an extensive collaboration between units in the International Institute and within the university. We were fortunate to have access to some of the lowest paid but highest skilled workers to be found in the country: the UROP (Undergraduate Research and Opportunity Program) and work-study students who streamed in and out of the KSP offices on the third floor of the International Institute. These individuals worked on a multitude of tasks: sorting through primary documents and film footage in Russian, Korean and English; translating oral interviews in many languages, some of which were even archaic; finding relevant footage on the Internet; and helping with film editing in every way possible. After the premier in Washington DC, the documentary returns to Ann Arbor for a screening at the Michigan Theater on November 6, and the main questions that the documentary raises will be further discussed the next day, in an international conference called, "Routes into the Diaspora," organized by the Humanities Institute, the Center for International and Comparative Studies, and KSP.

The documentary chronicles a relatively obscure episode in 1937 when Stalin ordered the emptying of the Soviet Far East of some 200,000 Soviet Koreans who had settled there. With one or two days notice, he had them packed into crowded cattle cars which were sent off to the unsettled steppe country of Central Asia 3,700 miles away. This incident served as a grim opening salvo for a series of massive ethnic cleansings and deportations that followed, involving Germans, Ukrainians, Poles, Jews, Tartars, Chechens, and many others.

The deportation of the Soviet-Koreans is an important marker in the history of ethnic policies in the Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin, and in the development of modern Central Asian states-not to mention, of course, in modern Korean history. As Stalin ordered the removal of every person of Korean origins from the Soviet Far East, for good measure he also murdered

every Korean who was connected to the Comintern. One cannot help wondering what would have happened to modern Korean history if one or more factor had changed. For instance, if the Korean communist leadership in the Soviet Union had not perished in the Great Terror, would it not have been parachuted into North Korea by the Soviets in the aftermath of World War II? Would someone from the ranks of the Comintern-connected Koreans have ruled the roost in North Korea and not Kim Il Sung? If so, is it possible that North Korea might have ended up looking more like a garden-variety Soviet satellite, rather than what it became, a beleaguered nationalist regime held together by a cult of personality?

The answers, it turned out, were not only unanswerable, but un-researchable. There are to date very few secondary sources available on the deportation of the Soviet-Koreans, and the primary documents and photos remain uncollected and catalogued. So, two faculty members of KSP-Professor David Chung of the School of Art and Design, me and camera man, Matt Dibble-set out for Kazakhstan, to collect and archive primary materials on this lost history and to film the survivors of the deportation and their descendents. What we accumulated was the world's first digital archive on the Soviet-Koreans, including their oral histories, all translated from Russian to English, now searchable via our website at: <http://www.koryosaram.net>. With materials as compelling as these, the film was born. It is directed and co-produced by David Chung, well-known as an artist and film-maker; filmed and edited by Matt Dibble; and Professor German Kim of the Kazak State University, who served as a historical consultant. He is in residency at the Institute for the Humanities this fall as a Mellon fellow. I had the good fortune to work with this great crew as the executive producer for the film.

The term *Koryo Saram* means Korean person and is how Soviet-Koreans refer to themselves. Beginning in the 1860's, Koreans began to move into what is now Russian territory due to harsh economic conditions and famine in Korea. By the 1900's 60,000 Koreans were settled in Russia near Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. The Japanese annexation of Korea in 1910 brought



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a new wave of refugees and by the 1930's almost 200,000 Koreans were in the Russian Far East. Stalin designated them enemies of the state and "unreliable people". Like the Germans, they were kept separated in distinct administrative areas, their movements restricted in various ways; and the men were prevented from serving in the Soviet military, being condemned instead to work in the notoriously harsh labor camps in Karaganda. They were officially restricted in several ways, including travel and military service. Through recently uncovered archival footage and new interviews, the film follows the deportees' history of trying to integrate into the Soviet system while working under punishing conditions in Kazakhstan.

This story of the Soviet-Koreans is also a story of modern Kazakhstan, a large country the size of Western Europe, so blessed with crude oil, natural gas and other mineral resources that it is said Kazakhstan can export the entire periodic table of elements. Once Stalin might have conceived of Kazakhstan as a gargantuan Gulag, a concentration camp of exiled people from throughout the Soviet Union. Today this nation of displaced peoples is a vibrant multicultural, multiethnic place, trying their best to forge a new national identity in the aftermath of 1991 independence from the Soviet Union. The experience of the Soviet/Kazakh Koreans in this ethnically diverse country should resonate with the experience of many Americans.

This film is made possible with grants from Korean Studies Program, The Office of the Vice President for Research; Center for Chinese Studies; Center for International and Comparative Studies; Center for Japanese Studies; and Institute for the Humanities. Outside funding includes gifts from The Nam Family Foundation; Douglas and Sabrina Gross; The Overseas Korean Foundation; the Steve S. Kang Young Artists and Scholars Fund, The Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies, The School of Advanced International Studies, and the Center for Russian and East European Studies at University of Michigan.



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FALL 2005 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

We were fortunate to offer a fall colloquium series comprised of speakers who are experts in their respective fields. Joan Kee, New York University, is a noted art critic, historian and writer. She spoke about the works of modernist painter, Lee Ufan. (One of Ufan's works, *From Line*, is featured on the winter colloquium series poster.) Although born in Korea, Ufan spent much of his life working in Japan. He was the lead member of the Mono-Ha group of painters, who felt that artwork did not have to express the feelings or experiences of the artist but could instead focus on the components of the piece itself.

On November 10th in honor of Korea Peace Day, we presented the documentary, *Repatriation*. We were honored that the film's creator, Dong-won Kim traveled from Korea to come to the screening and to take questions from a spellbound audience. *Repatriation* is both a glimpse into the lives of Koreans imprisoned for their communist beliefs as they "repatriate" into society (some imprisoned for more than 30 years) as well as a personal journey for Kim who followed his subjects for more than 12 years. At one point, Kim becomes part of the film when he is denied entry into North Korea as he attempts to continue filming his subjects as they return to their beloved homeland. Kim then relinquishes his camera to one of the prisoner's family members with instructions to film as much as possible. The footage obtained becomes part of the documentary and reveals the poignancy of the subjects' return to North Korea.

On November 28, we turned to modern literature with a lecture by Professor Janet Poole. Poole, Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies at New York University, discussed modernist writer Pak T'aewon and his impact on Korean culture. Pak's written commentaries and critiques of Korean society under the Japanese occupation were both moving and jarring. Poole also discussed the cultural and historical contributions of Yi T'aejun, who wrote social commentary at the same time as T'aewon. Both were members of the Korean Federation of Proletariat Artists.

On December 12, Professor Sun Joo Kim of Harvard University talked about her research on an incident which took place in the early eighteenth century in P'yongan Province. Primarily her research hinges on a report filed by the secret inspector of the king, Amhaeng Osa, which accused residents of P'yongan of not adhering to Confucian principles. The peasants responded with a memorial to the king disputing the charges. The incident shed light on the prejudice routinely exhibited towards those in outer regions of the capital by area nobles who considered them intellectually and culturally inferior and thus unworthy of any government jobs



WINTER 2006 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

On January 23, Scott Swaner, Assistant Professor of Asian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington, presented a fascinating lecture about Korean poetry. He spoke in reference to the student revolution in South Korea that occurred on April 19, 1960. It was this moment in history which prompted Kim Suyong to write poems immortalizing this turbulent time. Kim wrote much of his poetry in Korea during the 1950s and 1960s. His poems were more “quotidian” than his predecessors’ as he used vulgarities and everyday terms to characterize the angst and frustration of the times.

At the end of January, we were honored to have Dr. Andrei Lankov visit the Korean Studies Program. Dr. Lankov is a professor at the China and Korea Center at The Australian National University. Currently, he is teaching Kookmin University in Seoul. Dr. Lankov gave an animated talk about “Recasting North Korean History: The Aborted Attempt of De-Stalinization and the Birth of the Juche System.” Dr. Lankov is a well-known authority on North Korea and writes two articles a week for the Korea Times among many other activities. He also records a radio show and is working simultaneously on several book projects.

With the Center for International and Comparative Studies, the Korean Studies Program invited Professor Daniel Chirot, Professor of International Studies & Sociology Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle to speak on February 2. Dr. Chirot discussed genocide along with why genocidal massacres are more common than most people realize yet at the same time, not as common as they could be. His forthcoming book with co-author Clark McAuley, is entitled, *Why not Kill Them All? The Logic and Prevention of Mass Political Murder*.

On February 6 Josh Pilzer, an ethnomusicologist from the University of Chicago, spoke about Korean comfort women during the Japanese occupation. Some of these women turned to song to get through their ordeals. Dr. Pilzer worked with one woman in particular, Mun Pilgi, whose songs he recorded to share with the audience. Her story was remarkable and poignantly illustrated with both her recordings and present day photos of Mun Pilgi who continues to protest at weekly demonstrations raising awareness about comfort women. For more information about Korean comfort women and their efforts to receive reparations, visit the website: www.womenandwar.net.

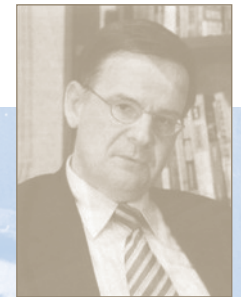
Chong Bum “Sean” Kim, Assistant Professor of History, Central Missouri State University, presented “Battle of the Spirits: The Origins of Protestant Christianity in Korea” on March 6.

Dr. Kim’s talk focused on the introduction of Christianity in Korea. One point he stressed was that Koreans were able to accept Christianity as it could adapt into their lives readily due to a commonality with Confucianism and to some degree, Shamanism. To many, Christianity also represented democracy and modernity. Kim also shared some interesting statistics on the huge growth in the number of Korean Christian missionaries throughout the world, numbering more than 12,000 today.

Our last colloquium of the year was given by Suzy Kim, Ph.D. History, University of Chicago. Dr. Kim was a Korea Foundation post-doctoral fellow at the University of Michigan for the 2005-2006 academic year. Dr. Kim spoke about her dissertation research which centers on a short period of time in North Korean History from 1945-1950, when Inje County was located in North Korea. Kim conducted painstaking research combing through countless North Korean documents and primary sources to construct some sense of the daily struggles of post-occupation inhabitants of the county.



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1 Scott Swaner 2 Chong Bum “Sean” Kim and David Chung
3 Image from Suzy Kim talk on North Korean Politics 4 Daniel Chirot
5 Janet Poole 6 Andrei Lankov



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KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM UPDATE

Ok-Sook Park, coordinator of the Korean Language Program (KLP), announced a restructuring of curriculum for first and second-year Korean. As of fall 2006, the KLP will be offering two separate Korean classes for lower levels: Korean as a second language and Korean as a heritage language. Current course descriptions and schedules can be found at the KLP website (<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/asian/korean/>). Another change Park announced is the availability of an online placement test. KLP is able to offer this due to strong support from the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, and the College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts. Combined with the restructured curriculum, the online placement test will help place students in the most appropriate group so instruction more closely meets each student's emergent language skills. Haewon Cho and Ok-Sook Park worked tirelessly on this project in the summer of 2006 with assistance from Jung Hee Kim and the Language Resource Center.

In April, the KLP held its end-of-semester party providing students with typical Korean food and cultural activities while honoring the winners of the Nam Annual Essay Contest. This year's recipients of the award were Tae Kuen Kim, Jessica So Jung Kim, Emily Aukes, Stephen Jo, Esther Dahae Yoon, Paul Geluso, Timothy Andrew Kang, Wei Han Chen, Jeff Chen, Daniel Kim Klenotic, Grace Khahae Im, John Whang, Jennifer Sae Eun Kim, Christine Kim, Kelly Dyan Jackson, Kuei-Yu Chang, Mike Walsh, Daguay Lee and Hyun Joo Kim. Special recognition went to Tae Kuen Kim's essay titled "There is no number between 1 and 2?" Four judges reviewed the essays and selected Kim's as the grand prize winner. His essay discusses his search for identity as someone caught between Korean and American culture.

The KLP bid a sad but fond farewell to lecturer Jung Hee Kim who left Ann Arbor to be with her family in Boston. She will be missed. However, the KLP is happy to announce that Mr. Insung Ko from University of Hawaii has accepted a lecturer appointment with the program. He will teach first-year Korean (Asianlan 138, Reading and Writing Korean I) and fourth-year Korean this fall. Welcome Mr. Ko!

1/2 Elder Sang-Yong Nam and Nam Essay Contest winners

3 Markley's Korean Culture Night

4 Jonson Porter 5 Ann Arbor Book Festival Bookmark Booth



LECTURER UPDATES

Ok-Sook Park received the Gilbert Whitaker grant, a Freeman grant, and an LSA Faculty Grant for her collaborative project to develop an online Korean Placement test. Haewon Cho also received a Lecturers' Professional Development Grant for her project to develop *Web-Based Materials for Korean Pronunciation Rules*. Haewon Cho and Ok-Sook Park presented papers on the differing needs between heritage and non-heritage learners of Korean at the Japanese-Korean Pedagogy workshop at the University of Washington. They also presented at a workshop for teachers of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean at Michigan State University.

KOREA LIBRARY NEWS

Iris Liu was hired as a copy cataloger in May 2005 and will spend 20% of her time copy cataloging Korean materials. Her hiring marks the first time for Korean Studies to have a copy cataloger. There are 6 professional librarians and 4 full time library assistants in the Asia Library with the position of head librarian currently vacant.

The Korean Collection was awarded \$5000 by the CMDC (Collection Management and Development Committee) at the Library to augment the Korean Electronic Resources fund to meet growing demands for online access to full text databases.

In terms of new resources, 1,256 new bibliographic records or volumes have been added to the University Library Catalog (Mirlyn). Users can access 6 full-text online databases containing nearly 1,600 scholarly journals and 220 CD-ROMs via Asia Library Web site (www.lib.umich.edu/asia/dblist.htm#korean). These databases include full-text articles from a broad coverage of primary resources on Korean studies.

The Korean Collection is the beneficiary of all relevant University Press published monographs on Korean studies donated by Sung Kyung Kwan University as part of the University Library Exchange Program Partnership. In addition, Professor Heung-kyu Kim and the Institute of Korean Culture, Korea University donated 676 volumes of Korean publications to the University Library. Materials include Korean Studies related monographs, monographic series, and serials, mostly published by the Korea University Press, including some important out-of-print materials which are no longer available in the book market.

STUDENTS ON THE MOVE

Incoming Political Science PhD student *Jonson Porter* has been awarded a Foreign Language Area Studies Award (FLAS) from the East Asia National Resource Center at the International Institute to study Korean. Porter has a BA in Economics with honors, from Berkeley.

Ph.D Candidate in American Culture, *Sharon Lee*, has been awarded a CIC Foreign Language Enhancement Program (FLEP) Scholarship to study Korean at the University of Chicago during the summer 2006. Sharon has also received a FLAS for summer language study.

Monica Kim, has also received a summer FLAS to study Korean. Ms. Kim is a Ph.D. candidate in Korean History, concentrating on the Korean War. In addition, Ms. Kim was recently awarded a fellowship from the Korea Foundation for the upcoming academic year. The fellowship will allow her to conduct research in Korea for her dissertation.

Finally, Asian Languages and Cultures PhD Candidate *Matthew Wegehaupt* had an extraordinary year filled with accomplishments. His translation of the collected dharma poems of Korean Buddhist monk and author Beop Jeong Seunim has been published under the title, *May All Beings Be Happy*. Earlier in the year, he learned he received a Fulbright fellowship to study in Korea. He will be affiliated with Seoul National University doing research for his dissertation project, "Making Masculinity Modern in Colonial Korea."

INTRODUCING JONSON PORTER

PhD pre-candidate Political Science Department

"My interests lie in both comparative politics and the political economy of the East Asian region. I am especially interested in the many issues surrounding the Korean Peninsula. After graduating from Berkeley with a BA in economics in 2004, I spent a year in Korea studying the language and culture. This valuable experience was key to my decision to continue my academic focus on the region at the graduate level. On a non-academic note, I began practicing and competing in Tae Kwon Do at the age of seven and achieved success at the junior olympic level as well as having competed at the national collegiate level. I am very happy and excited to be here at Michigan and look forward to working closely with the excellent scholars, students, and staff of the Korean Studies Program."

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AN INTERVIEW WITH CHAIRMAN LEE

I sat nervously waiting in the anteroom of the Chairman's office, peering out the windows into the grey clouds hovering over Seoul. I felt a little uneasy because I had been in Korea for over a year and was still not very confident with my Korean language abilities. I had relatively no problems when speaking to my Korean friends, but struggled with elders because of the complex system of honorifics required in polite speech. I could feel the approaching storm, literally and figuratively.

When the Chairman came through the mahogany doors, he greeted me with a kind smile and firm handshake. Fortunately, I did not have to embarrass myself with my poor Korean because he spoke English well, and a wave of relief splashed over me. We talked briefly about Ann Arbor and Korea, and I soon felt at ease, like I was talking to a close friend rather than conducting a formal interview. Although there is a considerable distance in our ages, we shared some common experiences that helped create a relaxing atmosphere and general rapport: we had both lived in other countries and experienced the struggles of adapting to a different culture. Throughout the conversation, I noticed that Chairman Lee had a calming demeanor that bespoke a sincere generosity of character.

Mr. Woon-Hyung Lee is the Chairman of SeAH Steel Corporation and an alumnus of the University of Michigan Business School (MBA, 1974). I was in his office to interview him because he had generously donated \$500,000 to match a gift provided by the Korea Foundation, a cultural arm of the Korean government, to create a permanent Korea gallery in the new wing of the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA). When asked why he made the charitable donation, Chairman Lee told me that he wanted to see Korea on an equal footing with the other Asian studies programs at the University. "I hope this gift will promote the study of Korean art and history at Michigan and will serve as a legacy for my family's strong ties to the University," he said.

Chairman Lee took over the SeAH Steel Corporation from his father, who started Pusan Steel and Pipe in 1960, and had to overcome many obstacles and weather several economic storms to keep his medium sized steel company afloat. Today, the company has become a leading steel pipe manufacturer and an important player in Korea's burgeoning steel industry. One of the contributing factors for his success, he said, was his education at the U of M Business School, and he felt a debt of gratitude to the University.



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His ties with U of M, however, do not just end with him. His son, Tae-Sung Lee, is also a recent graduate of UM, with a dual degree in psychology and communications. And even though he has not been back to the campus in over three decades, Chairman Lee spoke of Ann Arbor with fondness. He specifically recalled the fall season with its wealth of color, calming breezes, and picturesque skies. Speaking with him, I could tell he still kept a warm place in his heart for the maize and blue. His gift, he said, was about promoting the advancement of Korean studies, but it also came from the deep connection he and his family feel for the University of Michigan.

The new gallery, to be called the Woon-Hyung Lee and Korea Foundation Gallery of Korean Art, will be located in the new Frankel Family wing of the Museum. The gallery will feature a variety of Korean art, including a preeminent collection of Korean ceramics donated in 2004 by Bruce and Ina Hasenkamp of Hillsborough, California, partially underwritten by the U of M alumnus Sang-Yong Nam and his wife Moon-Sook Nam. It is generous donations from people like Chairman Lee, the Nam Family and the Hasenkamps that have helped support Korean studies and allowed the program to flourish at the University of Michigan.

After the interview was over, my gracious host offered me a small gift, as is the tradition. It was a handcrafted inlaid name card case with the inscription for the National Opera of Korea on it, which his company has sponsored since 1999. When I return to the U.S. and become part of the business card culture, I will always have this special gift to remind me of the man who forgave my Korean and reminded me of the importance of supporting one's culture.

MARTIN HARMS



FACULTY UPDATES

David Chung has continued to work on the diaspora film documentary with screenings planned at the Sackler Gallery in Washington, DC, at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor as well as at Stanford. In June, he was artist in residence at the Skopelos Foundation for the Arts in Skopelos, Greece. There he developed a new series of prints while continuing to work on his commission to design the Korean American Pavilion Bell for the Washington DC area. In relation to this project, he visited the Korean bell factory in Jincheon South Korea and met with the National Living Treasure of bellmakers. In the fall, David visited North Korea for continued research for the film project and as source material for a future art installation. He also accompanied Professor Woo on her fundraising trip for the Korea Gallery at UMMA. He has been commissioned to create new public art-work for a residential building on Liberty Street in Ann Arbor in addition to his ongoing commission for a public art work for the City of Silver Spring, MD. His work was exhibited at the Santa Monica Museum of Art in Santa Monica, CA as well. David has been appointed to serve on the executive boards of the Institute for the Humanities and the School of Art and Design.

Hye Seung Chung

Film professor and Korean Studies Fellow, Hye-Seung Chung has left U-M for a position at Hamilton College in New York. Dr. Chung recently notified KSP that her book, *Hollywood Asian: Philip Ahn and the Politics of Cross-Ethnic Performance*, has been published by Temple University Press and will be available in October 2006. Chung's book is a groundbreaking work on the little known history of Philip Ahn. Historically, Hollywood employed actors of various ethnicities to represent "Oriental" characters, such as Caucasian stars like Loretta Young made up in yellow face. Ahn, a Korean American actor, made more than 200 screen performances including roles as sadistic Japanese military officers in World War II movies to a wronged Chinese merchant in the TV show *Bonanza*.

This book investigates the career of Ahn (1905-1978) as both a pioneering Asian American screen icon and son of celebrated Korean nationalist An Ch'ang-ho. Hye Seung Chung examines Ahn's career in terms of cross-ethnic performance and Asian American spectatorship. With original material from a wide range of sources, including U.S. government and Hollywood screen archives, the book offers a provocative look at cinema studies, cultural studies, and Asian American as well as Korean history.

Henry Em had the opportunity to visit North Korea in October and it is a trip he will never forget. Not long after that, Professor Em came back to the States to finish editing a multi-author book on the *Monday Night Group*, a group of foreign missionaries in South Korea who were deeply involved in human rights issues and the democracy movement in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. In February, Professor Em was a discussant in a conference at Cornell University on *Everyday Life in Colonial Korea*. In March, he spoke to the University of Michigan student group LiNK about North Korea. Finally, in early April, at the AAS meeting in San Francisco, Professor Em was elected to serve on the Steering Committee of ASCK (Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea). Em spent the summer teaching at Korea University.

Meredith Jung-En Woo

One of the major goals Meredith Jung-En Woo had when she became director of the Korean Studies Program in the fall of 2003 was to create a Korean Gallery at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA). She accomplished this goal last year. In October she visited Seoul with James Steward, the Director of UMMA, and KSP faculty member, David Chung. With help from President Yoon-Dae Euh, the head of the Korean UM Alumni Association, they were able to obtain support from Chairman Lee Woon-Hyung. Thus, the dream of the Korea Gallery at UMMA, is now a reality. With the support of the Korea Foundation and Chairman Lee, UMMA will have a permanent home for the Hasenkamp-Nam collection of Korean ceramic art and more.

In November Professor Woo gave the inaugural lecture for the Korea Foundation Professorship in Korean Studies and Political Science, to a standing room only audience. In the spring she gave lectures at Washington University in St. Louis, University of Toronto, as well as at the joint meeting of the Social Science Research Council and the United Nations. She also attended the Congress of International Economic History, held in Helsinki in August 2006.



1 Chairman Lee
2 LSA Dean Terry McDonald and Meredith Jung-En Woo



ROUTES INTO THE DIASPORA

The University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities, the Korean Studies Program, and the Center for International and Comparative Studies present a conference to explore citizens at risk from a global and comparative perspective. Featuring the première of *Koryo Saram The Unreliable People*, a documentary film about Koreans in Kazakhstan. (Conference Highlights adjacent column)

NOVEMBER 6, 2006, 5:00PM

Première at the Michigan Theater
Koryo Saram The Unreliable People (57 minutes)
Director: Y. David Chung; Executive Producer: Meredith Jung-En Woo; Director of Photography and Editor: Matt Dibble
Welcoming Remarks: Terrence J. McDonald, Dean, College of Literature, Science and the Arts
Followed by a public conversation between Y. David Chung and Meredith Jung-En Woo

Koryo Saram received generous support from the following University of Michigan units: Korean Studies Program, The Office of the Vice President for Research, Center for Chinese Studies, Center for Japanese Studies, Institute for the Humanities, Center for International and Comparative Studies, Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies, School of Art + Design. Additional support was provided by: The Nam Family Foundation, Douglas and Sabrina Gross, The Overseas Korean Foundation, The Steve S. Kang Young Artists & Scholars Fund, The Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies, and The School of Advanced International Studies.

NOVEMBER 7, 2006 three panels
University of Michigan, Palmer Commons
Floor 3, Forum Hall
100 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor

PANEL I, 9-11:30AM
The Unreliable People: The Korean Diaspora in the Former Soviet Union, Chair: Meredith Jung-En Woo
Panelists: Steven Lee, German Kim, Alexander Kan, Ronald G. Suny, Balázs Szalontai

PANEL II, 1-3:30PM
Diaspora and Its Discontents: The Place of Race and Gender in Debates on Immigration in Europe, Chair: Miriam Ticktin
Panelists: Helle Rytkonen, Miriam Ticktin, Damani Patridge, Nacira Guénif-Souilamas

PANEL III, 4-6:30PM
Trafficking in Persons, Chair: Daniel Herwitz
Panelists: Richard Danziger, Neferti Tadiar, Carole S. Vance

PANELIST FEATURE: ALEXANDER KAN

Alexander Kan is an internationally acclaimed Kazak writer. His novels, poems, and essays have been published in Russian and translated into English, German, Swedish and Korean. His works of fiction include *The Age of the Family* (1993), *Unborn Dreams* (1994), *The Costumier* (2001), *Finding the Shaman* (2004), and *The Triangular Land* (2 vols., 2005). Since 1989, he has working on the *Invisible Island*, a philosophical inquiry into Diasporic consciousness and ethnic existentialism.

Alexander Kan was born in Pyongyang, North Korea, to a North Korean father and a Soviet-Korean mother. In 1961, he moved with his family to Leningrad, then to Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan. After completing secondary school in Alma-Ata, Kan majored in physics at the Moscow Institute of Electronic Technology. While a student, he worked as a gravedigger, a night watchman, a loader, a physics teacher, a stagehand, a waiter, and a long-distance train operator. Later, he completed his graduate work at the Maxim Gorky Literary Institute in Moscow, with a thesis on the poetics of Vladimir Nabokov. In 1994 he won a competition for new young writers sponsored by the literary magazine "Novy Mir." He has written numerous TV and film scripts for studios in Alma-Ata, Moscow, London and Berlin. His novel, *The Other Sky*, has been adapted into a film in Germany. In 2003, he won the World Scenario Competition in Seoul for his script about the post-Soviet Korean Diaspora.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006, 5PM Michigan Theatre. Co-sponsored with the School of Art and Design, The Penny Stamps Distinguished Lecture Series presents: Nikki S. Lee - *Parts and Projects*. Nikki Lee is a Korean artist living and working in the US. She rose to international fame for photographic self-portraits that study personal and social identity. Her latest project, entitled *Aka Nikki S. Lee*, is a documentary about herself which was shot over the period of a year following her as she creates art in various mediums, and meets with others in the art world.

OCTOBER 4, 2006, 4PM 1636 International Institute, Colloquium with Theodore Jun Yoo, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

OCTOBER 11, 2006, 4PM 1636 International Institute, Colloquium with Youngju Ryu, Korean Literature, UCLA.

OCTOBER 29, 2006 - World Premiere of *Koryo Saram-The Unreliable People*, at the Sackler Gallery, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC. Details to be announced.

NOVEMBER 6-10, 2006 Exhibition
Works by Elshafei Dafalla Mohamed, artist: MFA Candidate, School of Art + Design, University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities, Room 1022, Osterman Common Room, 202 South Thayer Street, Ann Arbor

NOVEMBER 8, 2006, 4PM 1636 International Institute, Colloquium with Balazs Szalontai, Professor of History, Central European University, will discuss the Korean Diaspora.

JANUARY 17, 2007 - Workshop - "Compiling/Editing and Critically Evaluating Western-Language Bibliographies on Japan and on Korea: A Bibliographer's Perspective and Personal Experience" (tentative title), Frank Joseph Shulman, Bibliographer, Editor, and Consultant for Reference Publications in Asian Studies; Time/Location T.B.A.

MARCH 14, 2007 - Colloquium with Sonja Kim, Korean History, UCLA.

MARCH 21, 2007 - Colloquium with Al Park, Visiting Professor, Oberlin.

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KSP is updating its mailing list database. If this newsletter has been forwarded to you, if you have moved or are planning to move, please let us know. Please email program coordinator Kristy Demas, at kdemas@umich.edu or send a not with your new address to Korean Studies Program International Institute, 1080 S. University, Suite 3663 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1106 -USA

Regents of the University of Michigan
David A. Brandon, Laurence B. Deitch, Olivia P. Maynard, Rebecca McGowan, Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner, S. Martin Taylor, Katherine E. White, Mary Sue Coleman (*ex officio*)



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1 Matt Dibble 2 Alexander Kan

COVER

Still frames from *Kolkhoze Avant Garde*, a 1946 Soviet film about a Korean collective farm - the Central State Archive for Photography and Film Documents of the Republic of Kazakhstan

INTERIOR DETAILS

A group of Koreans in Far East Russia c. 1930

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KOREAN **STUDIES PROGRAM**

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