



USC Dornsife

East Asian Studies Center

March 10, 2025



Upcoming Events

Colonial Koreans Across Linguistic and National Boundaries
The Inaugural Conference of the March First Symposium on History and Democracy

Tuesday, March 25 | 11:00AM–6:00PM | DML 240 | RSVP

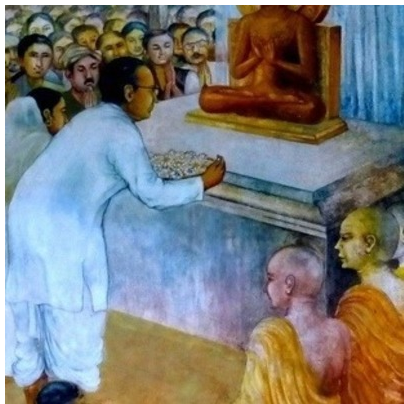
This event launches the **March First Symposium on History and Democracy**, named after the March 1, 1919 protests—a key moment in Korean history. USC has a special connection to this history: the **Korean Studies Institute** is located in the former home of independence leader **Ahn Chang Ho**, and USC's **Korean Heritage Library** holds archives from the **Korean National Association**. This conference will explore the history of colonial Korea (1910–1945) alongside the experiences of Koreans who lived in the U.S., China, and Japan during that time. Scholars of both colonial Korea and early Korean American history will discuss how global imperialism shaped personal and political struggles across the Pacific. Inspired by *Song of Arirang* by Kim San and Nym Wales, topics will include how Korean history is reinterpreted from a global perspective, the role of overseas activists in Korea's independence movement, and the impact of colonization on Korean American

identity. The conference will also feature an exhibition showcasing historical documents from the archive.

The conference is organized by **Sunyoung Park** and **Jungeun Hong** and is co-sponsored by the [Korean Studies Institute](#), [Korean Heritage Library](#), [Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture](#), [East Asian Studies Center](#), and [Korea Foundation](#).

EASC Guest Speaker Series

Prof. **Jessica Zu** invites the wider community to two thought-provoking online discussions on Navayana Buddhism with Dr. **Santosh Raut** and Dr. **Harsha Gautam**. These talks are part of Prof. Zu's REL 135 and REL 342 courses.



Dr. Ambedkar and Navayana Buddhism: Opening New Forms and Approaches to Liberation Tuesday, April 1 | 5:00PM-6:20PM | **RSVP**

In this talk, Dr. **Santosh Raut** (Harvard Divinity School) examines Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of Navayana Buddhism and its potential to create new pathways for liberation. Dr. Raut will explore how Ambedkar reinterpreted Buddhist teachings to challenge caste hierarchies and reimagine social justice beyond conventional frameworks. This talk delves into the transformative possibilities of Navayana Buddhism, highlighting its relevance in contemporary struggles for dignity and equality.

By the Women, For the Revolution: Gendered Struggle of Navayana Buddhism

Wednesday, April 2 | 12:00PM-1:20PM | **RSVP**

Dr. **Harsha Gautam** (University of Texas, Austin) sheds light on the critical role of women in the Navayana Buddhist movement, centering their voices and struggles within this radical reimagining of Buddhism. This talk examines how women have shaped and sustained the movement, challenging patriarchal norms and expanding the liberatory potential of Navayana Buddhism. By bringing gender to the forefront, Dr. Gautam uncovers the ways in which Navayana Buddhism is not just a rejection of caste but also a site of feminist resistance and social transformation.



Event Reminders

Spring 2025 EASC Grad Mixer
Tues, Mar 11 | 4:00PM - 5:30PM | CAS 100

Please join us for the **Spring 2025 EASC Grad Mixer**! Enjoy food, drink and conversation with fellow students across USC. Graduate students from any field are welcome to join, so it is a great opportunity to meet fellow students with Asian studies related research and interests!



This event is open to USC grad students only.

RSVP



Running in Circles?: Visions of Circular Economies from Mao to Xi

Mon, Mar 24 | 4:00PM-5:30PM | SOS B40

Join us for an engaging discussion on development, waste and environmental governance in China moderated by Prof. **Joshua Goldstein**. Our speakers will examine how the idea of a “circular economy” has shaped China’s approach to waste management, from Mao-era policies to today’s waste-to-energy incinerators.

RSVP



EASC Guest Speaker Series

Touring the Abyss with *dear elia*: Unwellness and Care in the University

Mon, Mar 24 | 4:00PM | DML 240

Prof. **Attia Satar** invites the wider community to an event with Dr. **Mimi Khúc** as she shares her work on unwellness and the university from her new book, *dear elia: Letters from the Asian American Abyss*.

RSVP

USC at the 2025 Annual AAS Conference in Columbus, OH!

We are excited to see a strong USC presence at the annual **Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Conference** this year! Please see below for the list of USC folks who will be presenting at AAS.

Thursday, March 13

7:00PM-8:30PM Between Materiality, Genre, and Media: Rethinking Li Yu’s (1611-1680) Corpus As a Transmedial Project

Kangni Huang, *Toward a Theory of the Theater: Li Yu’s Drama Criticism and Self-Conscious Playwriting*

7:00PM-8:30PM Beyond Bloc Logic: The People’s Republic of China’s Transnational Economic and Technological Exchanges, 1949-1990

Ruohan Zhou (Organizer), *Friendship, Trade, and Technological Intelligence: The 1963 Japanese Industrial Exhibition in China*

7:00PM-8:30PM Eco-City Visions: Environmental Aesthetics and Sustainability Politics from Southeast Asia to the Arab Gulf

Jenny Chio (Organizer), *Subaltern Currents in the Eco-City: Screening and Discussion of Overcast* (dir. Michaela Büsse)

Friday, March 14

9:00AM-10:30AM Crossing Boundaries: Tracing Entanglements of Travel and Intersectional Identity

Jenny Chio (Discussant)

Kaiyang Xu, *Theorizing Travel Media in Sino-African Interactions: A Form of National and Transnational Subjectivity*

3:30PM-5:00PM Japanese Soundscapes

Sayo Sakamoto, *Songs of the Vanishing Hometown: Enka and Imagined Furusato in the Late 1960s and the Early 1970s*

3:30PM-5:00PM Digitizing Modern China in the Context of Geopolitical Tensions

Tang Li (Discussant), *Navigating the Sinophone World: Highlights from an Annotated Bibliography Project*

Saturday, March 15

8:30AM-10:00AM East Asian Gothic: Definitions and Debates

Lindsay S.R. Jolivette, *Arboreal Architecture: East Asian Cinema's Ecogothic Houses*

8:30AM-10:00AM Converging Place: Urban Humanities and a Global Asia Itinerary

Carlo G Tuason, *Asia's Global City: Sounding Logistical Modernity in Victoria Harbour*

8:30AM-10:00AM Literary Work: The Poetics and Rhetoric of Bureaucracy in Tang China

Wanmeng Li, *Beyond Reference: "Master Bai's Collection of Categorized Matters in Six Tables" and the Reshaping of Literary Knowledge*

10:30AM-12:00PM Space, Time, and Identity of Taiwan

Seoyeon Lee, *Archiving New Taiwan: Postcolonial Embodiment of Queer Cyborgs in Taiwanese Climate Fiction*

10:30AM-12:00PM Imagining a Global Asia Curriculum

Kaiyang Xu (Discussant)

2:00PM-3:30PM Environment and Material Imagination in East Asian Buddhist Art

Sonya Lee (Discussant)

2:00PM-3:30PM Burden or Legacy?: Cultural Guerrilla, Avant-Garde Video, and Critical Media Ecology in Hong Kong under the Communist China Influence

Raymond Tsang (Organizer), *Mobile Film Group in Rural Hong Kong—Transformation of Cultural Guerrillas and Peasants in the Case of Hong Kong College Students Social Service Team (1963-1972)*

6:00PM-7:30PM Navigating Boundaries: Mobility, Control, and Identity in Middle Period East Asia

Bettine Birge (Chair)

Di Wang (Organizer), *Travel as a Sogdian, Travel as a Chinese: Travel Scenes in Sogdian Tombs of Medieval China*

Sunday, March 16

10:45AM-12:15PM Nonhuman Voices in Modern Japanese Literature

Kerim Yasar (Discussant)

Events Around USC & LA

[Roundtable Discussion] Marxism, Historiography and Identity: North Korean Approaches to Korean History and Thought

Wed, Mar 12 | 4:00PM | UCLA Center for Korean Studies

Racial Blackness and Transmedia Global China

Thurs, Mar 13 | 2:00PM-3:30PM | UCLA Center for Chinese Studies

Musicology lecture with Ya-Hui Cheng, Red Songs and Nationalism in C-Pop

Thurs, Mar 13 | 4:00PM | UCI East Asian Studies

Stories of Korean Liberation in Films: A Resistance Screening

Thurs, Mar 13 | 6:30PM-9:00PM | Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles | [RSVP](#)

After the Rain: Film Screening and Discussion with Jian Fan

Sun, Mar 16 | 5:00PM-8:00PM | UCLA Center for Chinese Studies | [RSVP](#)

Korean Peninsula Update with the NK News Team

Mon, Mar 17 | 9:00AM | The Korea Society | [RSVP](#)

Support EASC!



East Asian Studies Center | 3454 Trousdale Parkway CAS 100 | Los Angeles, CA 90089-0154

USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

University of Southern California Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences | Los Angeles, CA 90089
US

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