



2025 USC Graduate Conference in Korean Studies

Friday, February 7th- Saturday, February 8th
USC Ronald Tutor Campus Center, Franklin Suites (350/351/352)

Friday, February 7th

8:15 - 8:45 **Registration and Morning Refreshments**

8:45 - 9:00 **Welcoming Remarks by the Organizing Committee**

9:00 - 10:20 **Panel 1. Sinitic Heritages in Korea and Beyond**

Kayeon Roh Emperor at Home, King Abroad: Coexistence of Multiple Emperors
(U of Southern California) in Historical East Asia

Nick Allaman A Great Youth of the 80s: Han Wŏn'guk and a Vision of the New
(Ohio State U) Chosŏnjok Self

Alan Dai Colonial Modernity and the Connected Literary Histories of Korea
(UC, Los Angeles) and Vietnam

Discussant: **Miya Qiong Xie** (Dartmouth U) (*virtual*)

10:30-11:50 **Panel 2. (De)constructing Space and Race**

Chul Namgung Life as Exception: Post-imperial Racialization of Zainichi Koreans
(UC, Los Angeles) in the U.S.-Occupied Japan

Heejin Kim Disappearing Skins: Reading Absence through Yi Sang and Na Hye
(Duke U) Sŏk

Janine Sun Effacing Place: Divergent Worldbuilding and Cultural (De)specificity
(U of Southern California) in A-1 Pictures' Solo Leveling

Discussant: **Youngmin Choe** (U of Southern California)

11:50-1:30 **Lunch Break**

1:30-2:50 **Panel 3. Religions as Sites of Resistance**

Marie Koh The Transformation of Jeonggamnok and Mount Gyeryong:
(Seoul National U) Prophecy, Politics, and Religion in Korean History

Jusung Lee Navigating Boundaries: Kim T'aehŭp, Avalokiteśvara Faith, and the
(Yale U) Complexities of Colonial Korean Buddhism

Fiona Xu Why They Abandoned the Secular World: Double Deviance in
(U of Southern California) 1980s Korean Buddhist Nuns' Autobiographies

Discussant: **Lori Meeks** (U of Southern California)

3:00-4:20 Panel 4. Critical Perspectives on South Korean Political Theory and Law

Dohyung Kim The Primitive Accumulation in South Korea and the Confinement of
(UC, Irvine) Puranga

Damhee Shin The Revitalization of the United Nations Command: The New Cold
(George Washington U) War and East Asian Security Dynamics

Aiden Kim South Korea's Immigration Policy Shift: Diversification and
(UC, Irvine) Exclusivity

Discussant: **Pil Ho Kim** (Ohio State U)

5:00 Dinner at the Ahn House

Saturday, February 8th

8:15-9:00 Morning Refreshments

9:00-10:20 Panel 5. Reading and Living Transgender Korea

Christina Jang Relational (Mis)readings of the Trans Body and Envisioning Trans
(UC, Los Angeles) Feminism(s) in Kim Bi's Novels

Yeon Jae Hwang Examining the Relationship among Experiences of Multiple Familial
(UC, Los Angeles) Discrimination, Queer Community Connectedness, Internalized
Transphobia, and Depressive Symptoms among South Korean
TGNC Individuals

Jiyeon Gu Between the Aesthetic and Essential: Reframing Plastic Surgery as
(Asian Center for Women's Studies) Medical Transition for Transgender Women in South Korea

Discussant: **Judy Han** (UC, Los Angeles)

10:30-11:50 Panel 6. Media and the Environment across the Transpacific

Minji Kim Reforestation and State-Sponsored Films in South Korea
(U of Southern California)

Haerin Do Translating Archives: Transpacific Reception of Nam June Paik's TV
(UC, Irvine) Garden at the 11th Videobrasil

Heejoo Kim Virtual Water: Perceiving Contemporaneity in the Korean Video Art
(Princeton U) circa 2010

Discussant: **Akira Lippit** (U of Southern California)

11:50-1:30 Lunch Break

1:30-2:50 Panel 7. Queer Representations and Politics in Contemporary Korea

Shiyi Zhao Queering Impotence in Korean Cinema – The Case of Park Hae-il
(U of Southern California)

Adam Miller Spectacular Sexuality: Queer Revenge in Jang Cheol-soo’s *Bedevilled*
(UC, Irvine) (2010)

Sungwon Heo Writing Tattered Dream: Queer Student Politics in South Korea
(UC, Davis)

Discussant: **Ungsan Kim** (U of Washington) (*virtual*)

3:00-4:20 Panel 8. Gender, Reproductive Politics, and Feminist Possibilities?

Daphne Yang A Quiet Revolution: The Effect of Gender Inequality on Birth Rate
(U of Southern California) Decline in South Korea

Da In Choi Practicing Care: Comfort and Feminist Activism in South Korean
(UC, Los Angeles) Documentary

Soojin Jeong Hidden Labor, Visible Conflicts: Marriage Migration and Social
(UC, Irvine) Reproduction in South Korean Reality TV show, ‘Mother-in-Law,
Daughter-in-Law: A Multicultural War’ (2013-2021)

Discussant: **Laura Kang** (UC, Irvine)

**4:30-5:00 Closing Remarks by Professor Sunyoung Park, Director of the Korean Studies
Institute**

6:30-8:30 Dinner at Thai by Trio, 2700 S Figueroa St #101