

## Technoscience, Gender, and Cultural Transformations PANELISTS' BIOS

**Sue Hyon Bae** is a PhD candidate in the Comparative Culture and Languages program at Arizona State University with a focus on the intersection of Korean studies and health humanities. She holds an MFA in creative writing from Arizona State University and has published original poetry and translations from Korean poetry, including the works of Kim Hyesoon and Ha Jaeyoun. She is working on a dissertation, titled “Neoliberal Imaginary of Health and Illness in South Korean Cancer Narratives”, and a co-translation of Choi Jeong-rye's *Lightmesh*.

**Heesoo Cho** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Science Studies at Seoul National University, Korea. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology and a Master's degree in the History and Philosophy of Science from Seoul National University. Her Master's thesis, “Institutionalizing Ultrasonography, Transforming Pregnancy: Dissemination of Prenatal Ultrasonography in Korean Obstetrics, 1960s–1990s,” examined the historical development and impact of prenatal ultrasonography on women's pregnancy experiences in Korea. Her doctoral research, “Formation and Practice of the Korean Mass Vaccination Program, 1950s–2000s,” investigates the program as a site of negotiation among doctors, nurses, female medical workers, and mothers, highlighting the interactions and hierarchies that shaped its implementation. She also explores the production, development, and approval of vaccines in contemporary South Korea. Beyond her doctoral work, she undertakes projects on the roles of women—doctors, nurses, medical practitioners, and pregnant women—in the history of medicine.

**Michelle Cho** is Assistant Professor of Korean Media and Director of the Centre for the Study of Korea at the University of Toronto. She is author of the forthcoming book *Genre Worlds: Global Forms and Millennial South Korean Cinema* and co-editor of *Bangtan Remixed: A Critical BTS Reader and Mediating Gender in Post-Authoritarian South Korea*. Her public-facing writing appears in such venues as *The LA Review of Books*, and she's a regular culture critic on the CBC's daily culture show *Commotion*. She is also a frequent commentator in other press outlets ranging from *NPR* to *The New York Times* to *The Washington Post*.

**Yeonjin Choi** is a PhD candidate in Korean Literature at Sungkyunkwan University and holds an MA in the same field from Seoul National University. Her research focuses on media technology, new media experience, and science fiction. She is the co-author of *SF Prism: The Politics of Genre* and has published a peer-reviewed article on *Dune*, exploring how Frank Herbert reimagines artificial intelligence as an embodied planetary system. Her master's thesis examined the reading experience on subscription-based e-book platforms. Since 2016, she has also worked as a researcher and consultant on emerging technologies and startups. She currently reports on venture capital trends at the webzine, *The VC*, and lectures on technology trends for content startups at programs hosted by *the Korea Creative Content Agency*.

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**Bernardita González Lustig** is a lawyer and PhD candidate, currently working as Research and Outreach Coordinator at the Center for Comparative Korean Studies (CECorea) at Universidad Central de Chile. Her research focuses on comparative law and interdisciplinary projects that bridge law and cultural studies. She has experience working as a researcher, consultant, and academic coordinator, leading and collaborating on interdisciplinary projects that connect law and international relations. She has strong skills in project leadership, mentoring, and legal analysis and has experience in teaching and publishing. She is driven by a commitment to addressing global legal challenges, human rights, and regulatory frameworks, particularly in the areas of governance and transnational law.

**Laura Heys** graduated from Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada) with a Bachelor of Humanities with a double major in Humanities and Greek and Roman Studies. She has been living in South Korea since 2019 and is currently enrolled in a Master's program at Ewha Woman's University (Seoul, South Korea), majoring in modern Korean literary criticism. Her primary research interests include: Korean female SF, posthuman feminism in Korean literature, and the relationship between humans and technology in literature. After completing this degree, she intends to pursue further studies in Korean literature. She hopes in the future to work as a Korean-English literary translator, specializing in Korean female writers and science fiction.

**Sunmi Hwang's** research focuses on Korean nurses from the colonial period to the contemporary era. She aims to investigate women's medical education, gender disparities in the medical field, and women's professional labor spanning from the opening of Korea's ports to the present. Through these studies, she seeks to examine the growth and contradictions of the Korean healthcare system. Her representative publications include, "Perceptions and Changes of Nurse in Korean Society Before and After the Sino-Japanese War", *The Journal of History* 49 (2024): 249-281 and "The Multilayers of Nursing Education and Hierarchization of Nursing from 1945 to 1973 in Korea", *The Korean Journal of the Social History of Medicine and Health* 15 (2025): 111-138.

**Christina Seoyoung Jang** (she/they) is a Ph.D. student in modern and contemporary Korean literature in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at UCLA. Grounded in queer theory and transgender studies, their research examines representations of transness in Korean literary and cultural texts from the early modern period to the present. They focus on the narrative and aesthetic strategies through which trans embodiment and desire are negotiated in realist and speculative fiction, as well as in trans life writing. Drawing on critical frameworks that theorize "trans," they explore the (un)translatability of transgender across linguistic, cultural, and geopolitical contexts, along with conceptualizations of temporality, affect, and orientation in trans (auto)biographical texts and media. They are also engaged with transfeminist agendas in contemporary South Korean trans/gender/queer activism, addressing intersections of transphobia, misogyny, and heteropatriarchy in popular discourse.

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**Eunkyo Kang** (she/her) is a Ph.D. student in Korean Literature and Culture at Stanford University's Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. She holds an M.A. in Women's Studies from Ewha Womans University in Seoul. She has been researching DJUNA's work for the past five years and co-organized a forum commemorating the 30th anniversary of DJUNA's literary debut in 2024. While her master's thesis examined DJUNA's science fiction through a feminist lens, her current research explores DJUNA's position within the broader trajectory of Korean literary and cultural history, and situates their works within the context of world science fiction. Her research interests encompass Korean SF, K-pop fandom, and Korean feminist activism.

**Namkyu Kang** completed Ph.D. coursework in Korean Language and Literature at Sungkyunkwan University. My M.A. thesis, *A Study on the Discourse of Korean Women's Mobilization in Maeil Sinbo during the Total War Period*, examined colonial-era gender discourse. I have co-authored *Women Who Write Are Dangerous* (2019) and contributed to the research project *A Cartography of Feminist Issues* (2019). My recent work includes the article "The Temporality of 'Life-Death' in Kim Mella's Fiction" (*Journal of Women's Literature*, Vol. 63, Dec 2024) and conference presentations on Maeil Sinbo's serialized novel *Five-Colored Comet* and the "Ero-Grotesque-Nonsense" code in colonial Korea. I am currently researching the fandom of the web novel, *Return of the Blossoming Blade*.

**Doyeon Kim** is a master's student in the Department of Science Studies at Seoul National University, South Korea. Her research interests include feminist science and technology studies, gender equality policy in science, and policy framing in policy-making process. Together with Prof. So Yeon Leem, she has conducted a review of feminist science studies literature and a case study on "doing science as a feminist" as a practical approach to feminist science. This research is based on their article titled "Feminists in the Laboratory" published in Korea. Her master's thesis examines the evolution of gender equality policy in the *European Union's Framework Programme for research and innovation*, with a focus on how policy frames have changed over time and how certain frames have become institutionalized through policy formulation and legitimation.

**Eleana Kim** is a sociocultural anthropologist and Professor of Anthropology and Asian American Studies at University of California, Irvine. She specializes in kinship, human/nonhuman ecologies, migration, and the senses, with a regional focus on contemporary South Korea. She is the author of two award-winning books, *Adopted Territory: Transnational Korean Adoption and the Politics of Belonging* (2010) and *Making Peace with Nature: Ecological Encounters Along the Korean DMZ* (2022), both of which were published by Duke University Press. She is also the co-editor, with environmental historians David Fedman and Albert Park, of *Forces of Nature: New Perspectives on Korean Environments* (Cornell University Press, 2023). She teaches courses on anthropological theory, kinship, migration, transnational Korea, and the senses.

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**Haesoo Kim** is a PhD candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology at the University of California, Irvine. Her research lies at the intersection of postcolonial science governance and new political movements around technology with particular attention to religion, indigeneity, gender, and environmental justice. Her dissertation explores the cultural and political dimensions of outer space exploration in South Korea, focusing space activism, shamanist cosmologies, and speculative futures. She is also a contributing editor for *AnthroPod: The Podcast for the Society of Cultural Anthropology*.

**Sonja M. Kim** is Associate Professor of Asian and Asian American Studies at Binghamton University, State University of New York. She is the author of *Imperatives of Care: Women and Medicine in Colonial Korea* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2019) and co-editor of *Future Yet to Come: Sociotechnical Imaginaries in Modern Korea* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2021). Her current research examines histories of care and public health in postcolonial Korea.

**Yeun Kim** is a master's student in the Department of Communication at Seoul National University. Her research is situated at the intersection of cultural studies and feminist science and technology studies (STS), with a particular focus on the invisible and feminized labor behind artificial intelligence. She is currently conducting an ethnographic study of data labeling labor for her M.A. thesis, exploring how human-machine interactions are shaped through the cultural and affective dimensions of annotation work. Drawing on feminist STS theorists such as Donna Haraway, Lucy Suchman, and María Puig de la Bellacasa, her work critically engages with the politics of automation and the human labor that sustains AI systems. Her research foregrounds the lived experiences of women data labelers in South Korea and examines how their labor constitutes the sensory and cognitive capacities of machine vision.

**Yeonwha Kim** is a PhD candidate in Science Studies at Seoul National University, currently conducting ethnographic research in a university chemistry laboratory in South Korea. She approaches the laboratory as a form of research infrastructure, understanding scientists' efforts to keep instruments running and research progressing as care labor situated within the landscape of Science R&D. Her work investigates how, in scientific practice, scientists attune and adjust their bodies to the specific demands of instruments, and how this bodily calibration shapes experimental work. Grounded in feminist STS, her research engages with themes of care, expertise, infrastructure, materiality, and the body. Extending her interest in how STS can be practiced, she co-hosts a podcast on reading science fiction through an STS lens, serves on the editorial board for a Korean STS fieldwork-based book series, co-authored *Modest Witnesses*, a collaborative volume by Korean STS scholars.

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**June Hee Kwon** is Associate Professor of Asian Studies at California State University, Sacramento. She researches Northeast Asian borderlands, Cold War developmentalism, diaspora and migration, and the politics of ecology. Her ethnographic monograph, *Borderland Dreams: The Transnational Lives of Korean Chinese Workers* (Duke University Press, 2023), traces the trajectories of Korean Chinese migrants who navigate the shifting landscapes of post-socialist China and post-Cold War South Korea, through the anthropological lenses of bodies, money, and time. Recognized for its contribution to migration and border studies, the book received the 2024 Francis L. Hsu Book Prize from the Society for East Asian Anthropology. Kwon is currently working on her second book, a political ecology of Jeju Island's citrus trees as Cold War infrastructure. It examines how diasporic aspirations and Cold War developmentalist projects converged to transform Jeju's agricultural landscapes, infrastructures, and ecological relations.

**Juwon Lee** is a PhD candidate in the department of anthropology at the University of California, Irvine, where he researches the politics of urban ecology and more-than-human relations in Seoul, South Korea. His dissertation examines how ecological restoration projects in urban residential streams intersect with the redevelopment of Korean apartment complexes, ecological citizenship, and livability in the post-developmental city. Through ethnographic fieldwork, he explores how urban water infrastructures become contested sites of environmental governance, civic participation, and multispecies interaction. Juwon's research engages with political ecology, critical urban studies, and environmental anthropology, with broader interests in feminist knowledge production and ecological futures in East Asia. Before beginning his PhD, he received his MA in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Ohio State University. His current work contributes to emerging conversations on livability, green infrastructure, and the role of more-than-human actors in shaping urban environments.

**Hyejoo Lee** is a PhD Candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Southern California. Her dissertation looks at the intersections of South Korean cinema, online media, and gender, examining heretofore overlooked patterns in representations of femininity across contemporary Korean visual culture that anticipate a subject position of the self as a digital, transmedia form—challenging long-established interpretations of gender in Korean film history and scholarship, while accounting for popular Korean culture's inseparability from new media and online cultures today. Prior to joining USC, Hyejoo received an MA in Regional Studies – East Asia from Harvard University and a BA in Comparative Literature and Culture from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea.

**Yubeen Lim** is a first year PhD student in Literature at Duke University. She has a BA and MA in Cinema Studies from the Korea National University of Arts. Her research focuses on medical imaging technology and feminist STS in films and media. More specifically, she is interested in media phenomenology, cognitive science, and the relationship between the body and its surrounding environment such as embodied labor or the traumatic body in the context of East Asia.

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**Byeongwoong Min** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Science Studies at Seoul National University, specializing in the history of science, technology, and medicine in contemporary South Korea. His research investigates how science and technology have influenced the bodily practices and physical bodies of Koreans—and how, in turn, these bodies have shaped scientific and technological developments. His dissertation project explores the emergence of a hygienic, healthy, and aesthetic body in South Korea, centering on the skin as a key site of transformation. By tracing both scientific and everyday practices related to skincare, he examines how the Korean beauty industry has cultivated multiple aesthetic standards through skin practices and beauty products. His work also seeks to recover the stories of often-overlooked actors—such as sales representatives, local makers, and consumers—who played a crucial role in shaping South Korea’s modern beauty culture.

**Jiwon Park** is a Ph.D. student in the Division of Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Southern California, where she also received her M.A. Prior to joining USC, she earned her B.A.S. in English and Statistics from UCLA. She studies the Republic of Korea’s histories and imaginaries of computation, examining late-century corporate commercials, state-sponsored films, and manufacturing plants across the Pacific. Looking to Black feminist thought and digital theory, she attends to how such investments have extrapolated from petrocapiatalism, racial capitalism, Silicon Valley, and speculative fiction.

**Jinhee Park** is currently a professor at Dongguk University in Seoul, South Korea. Her research interests include feminist STS, renewable energy policy and energy transition, and democratization of science and technology. She served as president of the Korean Association of Science and Technology Studies and director of the Energy and Climate Policy Institute(NGO). She has also been involved in climate and environmental activism. Her publications include, “The Features of ‘Becoming a Scientist’ of Korean Women Scientists”, “Searching for a New Policy of Gender Sensitive National R&D Projects in the field of Health”, “Citizen Participation and A New Principle of Renewable Energy Policy”, and “Possibilities and limitations of AI in Citizen Science”.

**Sunyoung Park** is Associate Professor in the departments of East Asian Languages and Cultures and of Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Southern California, where she also serves as the Director of the Korean Studies Institute. She is the author of *The Proletarian Wave: Literature and Leftist Culture in Colonial Korea, 1910-1945* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2015) and the editor of *Revisiting Minjung: New Perspectives on the Cultural History of 1980s South Korea* (University of Michigan Press, 2019). In synergy with her research, Park is also active as an editor and translator of Korean fiction into English. These publications include: *On the Eve of the Uprising and Other Stories from Colonial Korea* (Cornell East Asian Series, 2010); *Readymade Bodhisattva: The Kaya Anthology of Science Fiction from South Korea* (Kaya Press, 2019); and *On the Origin of Species and Other Stories* by Bo-Young Kim (Kaya Press, 2021). She is currently writing a monograph on science fiction and the politics of modernization in South Korea.

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**Yujin Pyo** completed her master's program and doctoral program at Ewha Womans University and is currently engaged in research. Her main research interests include Korean women's literature, speculative fiction, science fiction, and biopolitics. She is also interested in video contents and game narratives. She is the co-author of *Postwar critical discourse and the reconsideration of women writers and Science Fiction and Ethical Speculations in Korean Literature*. Her major papers include "Posthuman Ethics for the Age of Epivitality," "The Community as a Contagion in Kim Cho-yeop's Novels," and "The Digital Afterlife and The Ethics of Death in Sci-Fi Films, *Mind Universe* (2023) and *Wonderland* (2024)".

**Namkyung Yeon** is a Professor of Contemporary Literary Criticism at the Department of Korean Language and Literature at Ewha Womans University, where she completed her master's and PhD studies in modern literature. She has published monographs, *Trans-Border Thinking and the Ethics of Narration: Korean Literature and Migration* (2017), which was selected as an Outstanding Academic Book by the National Academy of Sciences Republic of Korea in 2018, and *The Self-Reflective Writings of Choi In-hoon* (2012). Her co-authored publications include *Science Fiction and Ethical Speculations in Korean Literature* (2024) and *Postwar Critical Discourse and the Reconsideration of Women Writers* (2021). She has also published journal articles such as "Changes of Sentience in Korean Literature Through SF" (2024), "SF Phenomenon and the Ethics of Connection from a Speculative Feminist Perspective" (2023), and "The Posthuman and Transboundary Imagination in Contemporary Korean Literature" (2018).

**Doris Sung** is a Professor at the USC School of Architecture. She brings active systems to sustainable design far beyond the simple "greening" of a building. With the belief that buildings can be more sensitive to the changing environment like human skin, she seeks ways to make the building skins dynamic and responsive by developing smart materials, such as thermobimetals, to respond to changes in temperatures. More recently, she is rethinking the liminal surface of the façade as part of a city's infrastructure and designing innovative building products that will improve public health for outdoor pedestrians. In addition to two TED talks, her recognitions include the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award, Time Magazine's Best-Invention-of-the-Year Award, the AIA Latrobe Prize, 'Architect Magazine' R+D award, World Technology Award and the [next idea] award from ARS Electronica. She has been named a fellow of Google's R+D for the Built Environment, the U.S. Artist, the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, the Bogliasco Foundation, and the Headlands Center for the Arts. And, she publishes, lectures and exhibits internationally. Sung received her M.Arch. degree from Columbia University and her B.A. degree from Princeton University.



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**Fiona Yuanjing Xu** is a second-year Ph.D. student in East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Southern California. Her research interests include modern Korean literature, Buddhist studies, science fiction, and gender and sexuality studies. Her recent projects have focused on modern and contemporary cultural representations of Buddhism in South Korea, particularly the way female monastics, lay communities, and popular cultural imaginations engage with Buddhist thought to rearticulate gender norms and seek liberation. She is also developing a research focus on Buddhist speculative fiction, examining how speculative narratives reimagine Buddhist thought in relation to embodiment and marginalized identities.