

## *Call for Papers*

### ***Korea, Media, Archive: Rethinking Optics***

Venue: Columbia University

Date: May 12-13, 2017

The organizers seek to convene a review and rethinking of mediated visuality in modern Korea. The conference begins with the assumption that new forms of seeing arose in confrontation with successive cultural and political forces (Japanese colonial, Soviet communist, American liberal capitalist, global neoliberal) and the advent of new technologies. These in turn conditioned new forms of cultural production across and between media as diverse as cinema, literature, visual art, public exhibitions, comic books, and digital media platforms. Optics is herein advanced as a conceptual tool to capture the social, material and epistemological turning points that are figured in these new works. We seek to investigate the impact of technologically and politically transformed ways of seeing on both the subjectivity of the viewer and the appearance of the viewed. Toward these ends, the conference maps out three broad and interrelated dimensions of mediated visuality in modern Korea: media archaeology, the lasting effects of the Cold War, and the idea of cosmopolitanism. While its concerns are grounded in the Korean 20<sup>th</sup> century, the intellectual scope of the conference must of necessity expand its vision to regional and intercontinental practices.

We invite papers that seek to trace the advent, circulation and consequences of these optics across media and historical borders. Ideas for topics may include but are not limited to:

#### 1. Film and Media Archaeologies

- Histories and circulations of media and technological apparatuses in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries
- Genealogies of visuality within literature, art, religion, politics
- Causes/effects of technological lag, innovation and obsolescence
- Media dimensions of surveillance, security, and political spectacle
- Political aesthetics of citizenship, migration, border-crossing

#### 2. Cold War Optics

- Bipolar sociopolitical perceptions and projections
- Korea within the Asian Cold War imaginary; Asia within the Korean Cold War imaginary
- Cold War politics in Korean and Asian film and visual cultures
- The technologies of war and the technologies of visualization
- Cold War optical unconscious: its precedents and legacies

#### 3. Configuring the Cosmopolitan as Visual Politics

- Projecting double vision of the global economy in a regional screen
- Looking back to the future of media: utopian records and experiments
- Optical parallels: the I and the world-eye
- Reframing the Cold War memories as the archeological symptom of the world

Papers presented at the conference should ideally be substantially developed. They will be given special consideration for inclusion in a volume that the organizers will edit and publish with a peer-reviewed press, with a late 2018 print target. With this aim in mind, the organizers will set deadlines for the submission of drafts ahead of the conference.

Please submit a 300-word abstract and a brief biographical note by **January 10, 2016** to Steven Chung ([sychung@princeton.edu](mailto:sychung@princeton.edu)) and Hyun Seon Park ([hyunstime@yonsei.ac.kr](mailto:hyunstime@yonsei.ac.kr)).

### **Co-organized by**

Center for Korean Research, Columbia University  
Center for Korean Visual Culture, Yonsei University

### **Co-sponsored by**

The Dorothy Borg Research Program, Weatherhead East Asian Institute,  
Columbia University  
The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University  
Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul, Korea.  
The Office of Research Affairs/UIF, Yonsei University

### **Organizing Committee of Conference**

Theodore Hughes, Columbia University  
Steven Chung, Princeton University  
Hyun Seon Park, Yonsei University