

Call For Papers

On March 10, 2017, Geun-Hye Park, the incumbent South Korean President was impeached by the Congressional Court (finding her “betraying the trust of the people” and “abandoning the duty”), after months of massive, nation-wide public protests. While it was not the first time that the public/popular pressed and removed Korean political leaders from office, the peaceful public protest of 2016 and 2017 (some called “candlelight movement,” “democratic revolution,” or a “miracle”) marked several distinct features and characteristics from previous social movements which, we believe, deserve critical examinations – with respect to its participants, means, processes, logics, outcomes, and implications.

We (JongHwa Lee at Angelo State University, Chuyun Oh at San Diego State University, and Yong-Chan Kim at Yonsei University) are seeking chapter proposals for an edited volume, “Candlelight for Justice: Social Movement and Democracy in 21st Century Korea.” We are interested in academic essays that examine the significance and implications of the candlelight movement (primarily in 2016 and 2017) and the impeachment of South Korean President, Geun-Hye Park.

Coming from multi-disciplinary angles (including but not limited to the fields of Communication Studies, Korean Studies, Asian Studies, Arts, Literature, Sociology, History, Political Science, Psychology, Women’s Studies, etc.), with diverse theoretical lenses, scholarly traditions, and research methods, this volume intends to offer a comprehensive, dynamic, and in-depth analysis of the candlelight movement and the impeachment of the South Korean President.

Central questions that may be a focus for an essay include the following: What brought the people together (or what moved “the social”), and eventually the impeachment of the President? And what is coming after the impeachment? What are the important factors, events, agents, or variables that played significant roles in the process? What was the role of communication/rhetoric – any specific factors related to media (new or traditional), message (symbolism, key-words, or tropes), context/situation, or speakers and audiences that had more prominent roles? Particularly, what is the significance of candles, social media, and space/plaza in the social movement – as opposed to more traditional modes, venues, institutions, or agencies for/against the social movement? How much of the experience is uniquely ‘Korean,’ and how much is relevant for bigger narratives of democracy, social movements, and communication/rhetoric, possibly in other places?

While this particular call is seeking studies that examine communicative and rhetorical implications, factors, and dimensions regarding the impeachment of South Korean President and the candlelight movement, the final volume will eventually include chapters from other academic traditions and disciplines.

Please submit an abstract and your CV to jonghwa.lee@angelo.edu by June 30, 2018. We are anticipating the submission of finished essays by May 1, 2019.