



**1st Biennial Workshop of Koryo-saram Scholars (WorKS)
by the Koryo-saram Research Network (KRN):**

“De-constructing Korean Identity in (Post)-Soviet spaces”

Call for abstracts:

What does “Korean-ness” mean? Being “Korean” is commonly perceived as an ethnic identity marker with the nation-building connotations. It comes not only from both of Korea’s state ideologies, but also from the dispersed diasporic voices. At the same time, it can be a legally defined boundary, drawn by the mixture of kin and culture. Yet, what does it mean to be “Korean”? And what role does “Korean-ness” play in the process of identity negotiations of Korean diaspora, especially in the context of the Global Korean Community (Network) as an emerging transnational actor?

In this research workshop, we will look at the processes of identity formation among Koreans in the (post)-Soviet spaces and in the various contexts of transnational social and cultural “othering”. We will also discuss the (self)representation of Koreans outside of the narrative of Korean peninsula. Then we will highlight the processes of Ethno-Nation formation in Korea, and how they integrate (or are challenged by) the narratives offered by the Korean diaspora from outside the peninsula. To do this, we will discuss different cases of post-Soviet Korean identity formation from different regions, historical periods and taking stances of different disciplines, also by putting the case of Koryo-Saram in the larger context of Global Korean Diaspora.

The workshop welcomes contributions from sociology, anthropology, history, cultural studies, Korean studies, Eurasian studies, and other disciplines that reflect the questions of Korean identity within and without (outside) of Korean nation.

Our long-term goal is to establish a continuous academic network for further cooperation between universities, academic programs and students. Thus, we want to initiate more joint research on post-Soviet Korean diaspora as an emerging field of study, and contribute to a dialogue between Korean Studies, diaspora research, post-socialist and Eurasian studies researchers.

Suggested themes include, but are not limited to:

- Historical overview and comparative approach to ethno-national narratives among ethnic Korean diaspora
- Ethnographic studies on Koreans in the Soviet period and post-Soviet spaces
- Language and ethnicity policies in the CIS before and after the collapse of the USSR
- The Korean national myths and their influence on the diaspora identity formation



- The question of civic vs ethnic nationalisms in Koreas
- Korean Diaspora organizations and their role in transmitting the image of the “ethno-national”
- The case of Sakhalin Koreans’ identity formation
- Comparative approach to diaspora: cases of Koreans in China, Cuba, Mexico, North Korea, etc, compared to the post-Soviet Korean diaspora.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND DEADLINES:

Deadline for individual paper and panel abstract submission: **February 15, 2021**

- Word limit: individual paper – **250 words**; panel – **100 words + panel member abstracts**
- Abstracts must include the following: title of paper, author(s), affiliation(s), and e-mail address for contact.
- Panel submission must include (in a single e-mail): panel title, individual abstracts of 3-4 presenters (following above requirements), and brief (100 word) panel abstract highlighting the cohesiveness of the papers within the panel.

Please submit your abstract or panel submission to:
koryosaram.research@gmail.com