

Call for Papers

Decolonizing Korean Studies in the Global Era:
An Intergenerational Conference of Senior and Junior Scholars in Critical Korean Studies

Date and Location:

June 6-7, 2023

Virtual via Zoom @ UCLA Center for Korean Studies

Organizers:

Justin Sprague (West Chester University), Carolyn Choi (University of California, Los Angeles),
Mi Hyun Yoon (Rutgers University, Newark), Sina Lee (College of Wooster)

Sponsors:

West Chester University, Department of Women's and Gender Studies
University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Korean Studies

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The discipline of Korean studies is in a critical period of transition, and emerging scholars in the field are redefining and actively reorienting the scholarly trajectory of the field's transformation. By contesting existing master narratives of Korean global genealogies that are entangled in Korean colonial histories and investments in the US imperial project, we argue that these conversations are a part of a larger transformative movement in Korean studies. This movement aims to decolonize and reject Korea's position in US hegemonic knowledge projects and to connect transnational and diasporic research with an anti-colonial praxis that sutures into our everyday lives.

With particular focus on interdisciplinarity and the inclusion of feminist research methodologies, we advocate for a renewed investment in the study of non-normative experiences and diasporic figures that have received limited attention outside of Korean studies. A fresh focus on agency, determination, political activism, and social kinship systems across diaspora, we aim to explore new ways to decolonize and de-militarize Korean studies through the study of race/ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, material culture, anti-coloniality, global migration and diaspora, labor flows, political activism, and other forms. Applicants who see their work broadly in relation to these topics are encouraged to apply.

The attendees of this conference will participate in two days of virtual panels, which includes a panel discussion with senior scholars, paper workshop with senior discussants and peers, and lastly a professionalization panel on publishing and the state of Korean studies at large.

This conference will serve as the basis for the publication of an edited collection of essays that features the work of early-career scholars including graduate students, postdocs, pre-tenure, or independent scholars, producing cutting edge scholarship in the field of Korean studies.

*****An honorarium will be provided to all participants accepted into the conference.*****

Submission Deadline and Conference Details:

- Abstract (500 words): April 14, 2023
- Notification of accepted abstracts: April 21, 2023
- 10-20 page double-spaced paper draft (for accepted abstracts only) due: May 21, 2023
- Conference: June 6-7, 2023

Please email your abstract and CV to criticalkoreanstudies@gmail.com by April 14, 2023. The submitted abstract should be based on original research: It has not been published before and is not under consideration for publication anywhere else.