

# A WALKTHROUGH ON THE BIRTHPLACE(S) OF "KOREAN-NESS"

FRIDAY 27/06/2025 2PM

A SHORT EXCURSION OF SEOUL'S CULTURAL SPACES  
FROM THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY KOREA



Rather than simply offering a sightseeing experience, the Koreanist Retreat program invites participants to engage with Korea's past and present through the critical lens of scholarly research.

**KOREANIST RETREAT**



## NARRATOR

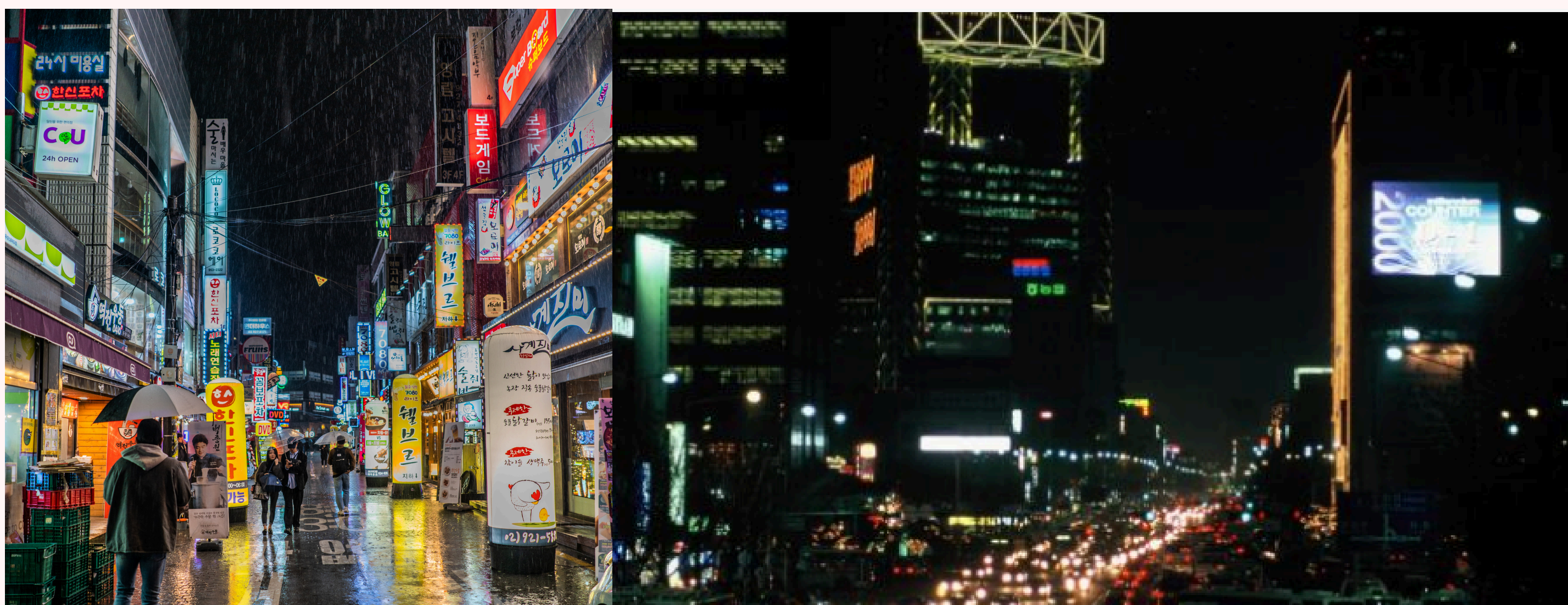
**Jihoon Suk** received a BA and MA in Korean modern history from Yonsei University and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the same university. While he calls himself a "generalist" in terms of his knowledge on Korean history, his "specialist" research focuses on the roles of the modern audiovisual media (sound recordings, radio, film and photographs) as one of the most crucial factors shaping the modern perception of "Korean-ness" during the first half of the 20th century. He has published a number of articles and research papers, and had worked in various archival projects in collaboration with various institutions, including the National Contemporary History Museum of Korea, Seoul City History Museum, Korean Film Archive, and the National Gugak Center.



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## TOUR DESCRIPTION

Despite the turbulence of Korea's modern history—including Japanese colonial rule, the chaotic post-liberation period, and the Korean War—countless cultural and artistic figures played a pivotal role in shaping modern Korean identity, particularly the notion of “Korean-ness.” This walking tour revisits the sites where influential individuals, organizations, and movements in Korean culture and the arts emerged, flourished, and disappeared, especially from the Japanese colonial period through the 1950s. Participants will explore the historical layers embedded in Seoul, a city that has remained the cultural and artistic heart of Korea throughout the 20th century and beyond. Through direct engagement with these urban traces, the tour offers an opportunity to reflect on the historical contexts that shaped Korea's cultural modernity.



**THIS WALKING TOUR IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. OTHER EXPENSES SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION, ENTRANCE TICKETS, AND FOOD ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM.**

## TOUR ROUTE (APPROX. 2.9KM)

BOSINGAK (STARTING POINT) – JONGNO TOWER (FORMER SITE OF HWASIN DEPARTMENT STORE) – SEOUL YMCA – JONGNO 2-GA DISTRICT – MODERN BUILDINGS AROUND GONGPYEONG-DONG – JOGYESA TEMPLE – FORMER SITE OF THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION (UJEONGCHONGGUK) – ANGUK-DONG AREA – SITE OF SADONG PALACE – INSA-DONG AREA – TAPGOL PARK / FORMER SITE OF THE JONGNO LIBRARY – CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS OF CHEONDOGYO – IKSEON-DONG AREA – FORMER SITE OF MYEONGWOLGWAN – DANSUNGSA THEATER



**REGISTRATION**