

CALL FOR PAPERS

PEOPLE AT THE EDGES IN KOREA'S PAST AND PRESENT

UNIVERSITY OF MALAGA

FEBRUARY 24TH-27TH



Conference Topics

- Gisaeng in Korea:Voices, Representations and Memory.
- Nobi, Slavery, Force Labor and Human Trafficking.
- Disempowered groups, handicap and minority groups.
- Socio - Political Activism and Feminism.
- Literature, art and marginality.
- Language discrimination, new ways of teaching Korean and inclusive communication.



CONFERENCE ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE ACADEMY OF KOREAN STUDIES SEED PROGRAM FOR KOREAN STUDIES (ADVANCED TRACK) TITLED PATH TO EQUALITY: KOREAN STUDIES NETWORK ON INCLUSIVENESS (AKS-2021-INC- 2250002) AND THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION RESEARCH PROJECT TITLED GISAENG IN KOREA: FICTION AND REALITY (PID2023-150610NB-I00) WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAGA.



área de estudios de
asia oriental Departamento de
Ciencias Históricas



MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN
Y UNIVERSIDADES



The aim of this conference is to study the interrelated processes of discrimination, integration and domination of social groups within Korean society and history, with a special focus on women. The research topic can be approached from many disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, with pre-modern and modern issues being of special interest. The given complexity of this topic invites also multidisciplinary and comparative research. Societies have organized themselves throughout their history employing mechanisms that have promoted social stratification. Since the Late Joseon dynasty, Korean society has suffered a strong reorganization that reevaluated the mechanisms and discourses of such stratification, opening the possibility for a social reorganization, but dynamics of discrimination, integration and domination still interplay in both Koreas. Given the extension of such topic, the present conference aims at focusing on various present and past main topics.



GISAENG were at the intersection of Korean society's control mechanisms while being paradoxically able to break away from them. As women, they were dominated within the patriarchal Korean society. As workers and sex workers, their conditions were exploitative. However, as artists they could aspire to sublimate these circumstances and make a name for themselves. Such bipolarity makes them privileged subjects of study. Simultaneously, gisaeng show the potential of culture to overcome domination mechanisms. We are also interested in comparisons with Geisha (Japan) and Geji (China).

LABOR CONDITIONS in Korea have changed significantly over time since the Joseon dynasty to the current economic system. During the Joseon dynasty, a significant amount of work depended on different forms of servile work, but the subsequent expansion of market economy promoted paid labor. Nevertheless, such system also brought new forms of exploitation and discrimination, as well as new ways of organization to contest. Some of those forms becomes shrined in institutions and others were imprint on cultural items, such as the arts and literature.



RESISTANCE, ACTIVISM AND REBELLION against discrimination has a long-lasting tradition in Korean society. Special attention will be paid to how Korean society has articulated and mobilized against discriminatory systems. Aspects such as new forms of communication and use of language adapted to the current reality will be considered, as well as the demands of minorities, marginalized people, migrants or people with functional diversity. Representation of cultural norms and their critique through social movements and artistic expressions have been a constant in Korean society.

GENDER is a transversal topic that affects every aspect of human interactions, from family to state security. The situation of women in Korean past and present society, the construction of masculinity, LGBTQ+ movements and resistance are crucial to understand different aspects of Korean society and how it stratifies and creates minorities.



LANGUAGE and text are transversal to this research as one of the main vehicles through which such discrimination could be communicated and performed. The sociolinguistic aspect of discrimination can appear in many different formats, from derogative terms depending on the assumed grouping to discrimination for the use of particular dialects or linguistic expressions. These aspects of discrimination need to be addressed also in order to unveil the mechanism of such differentiations.

Proposal submissions

To propose individual presentations, please send a maximum of 250-word abstract of your presentation (either in Spanish, English or Korean). To propose a panel, please send a 250-word abstract on the topic of the panel as well as the individual abstracts composing the panel.

Proposals will be sent to asiaoriental@uma.es. The file and subject of the email should include name as follow: LASTNAME_IntConferenceMIGKorea (ex: KANG_IntConferenceMIGKOREA)

Submissions should be sent before October 6th, 2025. Abstracts should include:

1. Name, position and affiliation
2. Title
3. Abstract
4. Keywords

Confirmation of receipt of proposal will be sent. If you do not receive a confirmation within 5 days, please, send your application over again.

If selected, you must submit your full paper by February 2nd with the possibility of being selected for publication as an edited volume by a renowned publisher.

* Depending on the final budget the organization might support partially attendance expenses, prioritizing PhD students and scholars in their initial stages of their career. We will inform you once we receive the proposals, depending on their number and quality.

Important information

Organizer contact details and abstract submission: asiaoriental@uma.es

Application deadline: October, 6th, 2025.

Full paper submission, once selected: Feb. 2nd, 2026.

Welcome Ceremony: Feb.24th, 2026.

Dates of the conference: Feb. 25-26th, 2026.

Korean Studies Network Meeting: Feb. 27th, 2026.

Conference venue: University of Malaga, Spain.

Web: <https://asiaoriental.uma.es/activities/>