KICKS 2026 Keimyung International Conference on Korean Studies

Material Modernities:
Senses, Materiality, and Mobility in 20th-Century Korea



물질적 근대성:
20세기 한국의 감각, 물질, 이동성

November 12 (Thursday) and **13** (Friday), 2026

Seongseo Campus, Keimyung University
Dongcheon Hall 401 & Yeongam Hall 358

Thursday, November 12

Opening Ceremony & Keynote Speech Dongcheon Hall 401

10:30 **Opening Address** Jang Yohan (Director, Academia Koreana)
Welcoming Address Synn Ilhi (President, Keimyung University)

11:00 **Keynote Speech:**
The Relational Ontology of New Materialism and the Human's Becoming-World
Lee Yun-Gap (Professor Emeritus, Keimyung University)

Session 1: Mobility and Network Yeongam Hall 358

13:30 **The Han River in Motion: Boats, Mobility, and Urban Experience from Late Joseon to Early Colonial Korea**
Yoonjung Seo (Myongji University)

14:00 **Traversing the World, Translating the Modern: Mobility, Diplomatic Missions, and Cultural Encounters in Late Chosŏn Korea, 1876–1896**
Shin Seungyop (Handong University)

14:30 **Crossing Constructed Boundaries: Mapping the Interactions of American, Korean, and Japanese Women in Seoul and Daegu, 1885-1945**
Kyrie Vermette (Kyujanggak)

Session 2: Sensory Experience Yeongam Hall 358

15:30 **Man with a Camera in Colonial Korea: The Photographic Network of the Japanese Empire**
Jeehey Kim (The University of Arizona)

16:00 **Glass Vitrines and the Formation of Modern Museum Display in Early Twentieth-Century Korea**
Jungeun Lee (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies)

16:30 **Materializing Intimacy: Human-Animal Relations in Colonial Korea**
Janet Y. Lee (Keimyung University)

Friday, November 13

Session 3: Material Modernities Yeongam Hall 358

10:00 **Material Modernity and Artistic Self-Definition: Korean Artists between Colonial Legacy and Socialist Present**
Beatrix Mecsi (Eötvös Loránd University)

10:30 **Imagining and Passing through the International Airport: 'Airport Diaries,' Cultural Representations, and Embodied Experiences of Gimpo Airport in 1960s and 70s Korea**
Sung Yeun Kim (Yonsei Mirae Campus)

11:00 **Gendered Consumption of Luxury in Korea: Cameras, Record Players, Woolen Textiles**
Kyunghee Pyun (FIT)

Session 4: Material and Technology Yeongam Hall 358

13:00 **Electrifying Growth: The Economic History of the Energy Industry in Early Colonial Korea**
Howard Kahm (Yonsei University), Jinseok Oh (Pai Chai University)

13:30 **New Varieties and the Growth of Rice Production in Colonial Korea, 1910-1940**
Duol Kim (Myongji University)

14:00 **Birth of Concrete Cities: The Origins of Mass Concrete Residential Buildings in the Cold War South Korea**
Ha Jaeyong (Hanyang University)

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