Monash University Korean Studies
Report 2017

Welcome

2017 has seen many changes for Monash Korean Studies with new members of staff arriving and leaving.

Andrew David Jackson is currently Senior Lecturer and Convenor of the Korean Studies programme at Monash University. Prior to joining Monash, he was Associate Professor at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (2013-2017). His research focusses on rebellion in Korean history, and North and South Korean cinema.

Lucien Brown is Senior Lecturer in Korean Studies. He is a specialist in Korean linguistics, second language acquisition and language pedagogy and joined Monash from the University of Oregon in January 2018.

Josie Sohn is currently Lecturer in Korean Studies and prior to arriving at Monash in 2017, she directed Global Korean Studies at the Catholic University of Korea and was a fellow at the Literature Translation Institute of Korea. Her research focuses on South Korean film culture, youth culture, and transnational reception practices. She holds a PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures with a minor in Cinema Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Mohita Roman joins Monash as Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Korean Studies Programme; a position supported by the AKS Core University grant. Mohita holds a PhD from Monash University in Korean Studies, Faculty of Arts and a Masters in Korean Studies from the Department of Korean Studies, Yonsei University in South Korea. Her doctoral studies examined sexual slavery during World War II with a focus on the Korean ‘Comfort Women’ and considered the complexity of nation state, colonial legacy and the strategic ‘framing’ of women’s movement in Korea to prompt transnational activism on the issue.

Farewell

Dr In-jung Cho and Dr Young-a Cho first came to Monash to expand the Korean program in 1991. Both applied linguists by training, they greatly expanded the language program creating their own series of six textbooks tailored to the needs of Monash University Korean language students. The textbooks teach all four skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing systematically. The Chos also developed extensive online learning materials that are freely available to both students and the general public. In addition, the Chos initiated a Korean translation course for advanced level students of Korean. Overall, the Chos successfully
expanded the Korean language program so that it now has an entry level intake of over 300 students, and with the current appointments is well equipped to go beyond language training. They have left a great mark on Korean Studies at Monash, and they will be greatly missed by their colleagues and their students.

AKS Core University Grant

The Korean Studies program at Monash University has been awarded a 5-year Core University Grant of up to $1 million (875 million Korean won) by the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS), Korean Studies Promotion Service (KSPS) a division of the Ministry of Education, Republic of Korea.

The title of the project is ‘Creating a Nexus at Monash for a Stronger Korean Studies in Melbourne and the Metropolitan Region’ and it will fund Korean Studies at Monash over five years (2017-22), and the research of Monash University Korean Studies staff for a further two years. There are four strands to the application: research development, educational expansion, student support and vocational training. The overall aim of the project is to

- support high level research on Korea and Korean related areas
- increase student numbers at both graduate and undergraduate level
- improve the learning experience and employability of our students
- foster greater interest in Korean Studies at Monash and in the Melbourne area

Monash University Korean Studies has allocated the majority of the grant funds to student support in the form of PhD and postdoctoral positions, as well as student grants. The remaining funds will be used for the development of a Korean Studies research hub, the creation of new content units in an expanded Korean Studies programme, the establishment of closer links with South Korean businesses in the area, and the development of closer Korean studies research networks among institutions in the Melbourne metropolitan region.

The team consists of project manager Andy Jackson, deputy project manager Lucien Brown, team members: Josie Sohn, Gil-soo Han, Jung-sim Kim, Jaekyung Roh, Hyesun Ko, Adam Zulawnik. The financial plan for the project was put together by Vanja Radojevic and Stef Johnstone.

New Units for 2018 and 2019

One new unit has been set up for semester 1, 2018. This is Popular Culture in North and South Korea, Hallyu and East Asian Cultural flows and it will be taught by Andy Jackson. There will be two new units for 2019: Korean studies advanced: Literature and writing will introduce students them to a range of literary writings by modern master writers of colonial Korea (1910-1945), and it will be taught by Josie Sohn. Language, Culture and Society on the Korean Peninsula critically examines language, culture and society on the Korean Peninsula and it will be taught by Lucien Brown.
2017 Events

2017 was a busy year for Korean Studies related academic events at Monash with one workshop, three seminars and a film screening and talk.

University Korean Studies Program Re-launch Workshop
5th May, 2017
Japanese Studies Centre Auditorium (Building 54)
The Korean Studies program at Monash, established in 1988, is one of the fastest growing language and studies programs in the School. With the retirement of the foundational lecturers in 2015, the School made two international appointments to carry the program in new directions. On Friday 5 May, 2017, Carolyn Stevens, Professor of Japanese Studies at the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics organized an event at Monash University Japanese Studies Centre to celebrate these appointments. The event consisted of talks by the two new appointees, Deakin University’s David Hundt and a guest lecture by the esteemed Korean Studies’ scholar and President of the Association of Asian Studies, Professor Laurel Kendall (American Museum of Natural History / Columbia University). The event lasted from 4 to 7pm and began with light refreshments. Gloria Davies, Professor of Chinese Studies gave the opening remarks and Andrew David Jackson, new Senior Lecturer in Korean Studies gave a talk entitled: ‘Invented Traditions in North and South Korea: Internationalization and Contention.’ Josie Sohn, new Lecturer in Korean Studies spoke on ‘Collegiate Cinephilia: Unlikely Film Buffery in Neoliberal South Korea’. Professor Laurel Kendall (AMNH/ Columbia University) then gave the keynote talk entitled ‘Retrospective in Korean Studies, or what I got wrong in my first book’, in which she discussed her early anthropological field work research in the South Korea of the early 1970s. David Hundt, Senior Lecturer in International Relations at Deakin University finished off the evening with a talk entitled ‘The media and the politics of conditional multiculturalism in South Korea’. With over forty people in attendance, the event was a great success. Many thanks to Carolyn Stevens, Kim Chen, Laurel Kendall, David Hundt and Monash LLCL and everyone who made this possible.

Korean Film Screening and Talk

Short introductory talk “Train to Busan and the Korean War” by Andrew David Jackson (Monash University) Followed by a screening of Train To Busan
4th September 2017.
Japanese Studies Centre Auditorium (Building 54)

Seminar 1
“Hardworking Women: Embodying the Nation in a Jeju Dive Fishery”
Josephine Wright
(Independent Scholar)
E561, Menzies Building, 20 Chancellors Walk, Monash University

“Hardworking Women: Embodying the Nation in a Jeju Dive Fishery”
Abstract

A talk with maps and images. This informal talk shows how gender roles have changed with the introduction of mass media, with this exposure to national representations of gender intensifying a local self-consciousness that Jeju men and women played different roles to mainland people. While young Jeju people in the year 2000 identified with mainland South Korean gendered identities, they also proudly reproduced Jeju nationalist narratives about the singularity of Jeju women's physical and emotional strength, their loud voices, diving and farming skills and muscular builds, and the kindness and gentle faces of their scholarly, sedentary Jeju men. These nostalgic representations of a differently gendered Jeju past were both intensely felt by locals and reproduced for tourism and South Korean television shows like "Our Hometown", important media for a nationalism wherein Jeju people continue to occupy a place as an Other within- both included in and excluded from the national imaginary.

Biography

Josephine Wright undertook twelve months' ethnographic Fieldwork with Jeju people in South Korea in 2000 and 2001. She acknowledges the generosity and support of the Department of Anthropology in the College of Asia and the Pacific (then RSPAS) at the ANU, Australian Postgraduate Award, Korea Foundation, NIIED, and Pusan, Cheju and Monash Universities.

Seminar 2

“20 Years’ Evolution of North Korean Migration”
Dr Jiyoung (Jay) Song
(Asia Institute, University of Melbourne)
5th October 2017.
E561, Menzies Building, 20 Chancellors Walk, Monash University

“20 Years’ Evolution of North Korean Migration”

Abstract

Over the past two decades, there have been notable changes in North Korean migration: from forced migration to trafficking in women, from heroic underground railways to people smuggling by Christian missionaries. The migration has taken mixed forms of asylum seeking, human trafficking, undocumented labour migration and people smuggling. The author follows the footsteps of North Korean migrants from China through Southeast Asia to South Korea, and from there to the United Kingdom, to see the dynamic correlation between human (in)security and irregular migration. She analyses how individual migrant’s agency interacts with other key actors in the migration system and eventually brings about emerging patterns of four distinctive forms of irregular migration in a macro level. It uses human security as its conceptual framework that is a people-centred, rather than state- or national security-centric approach to irregular migration.

Biography

Dr Jiyoung (Jay) Song is a Senior Lecturer in Korean Studies at the Asia Institute of the University of Melbourne. She is also a Global Ethics Fellow of the Carnegie Council for...
Seminar 3

“Fish, Forests and Fungus: Vibrant matter(s) in the Environmental and Political Histories of North Korea”

Dr Robert Winstanley-Chesters (Australian National University, Canberra)

18th October 2017

Japanese Studies Centre Auditorium (Building 54)

“Fish, Forests and Fungus: Vibrant matter(s) in the Environmental and Political Histories of North Korea”

Abstract

From Pyongyang’s urban landscape to sacred political architectures of Mt Paektu, North Korea’s topographies are harnessed in support of its politics. While the nation’s coastlines, mountains and forests are by their nature more liminal and diffuse than its monolithic urban/political terrains, North Korean natures and wildernesses have long served its politico-developmental narratives, forging new ‘socialist’ landscapes and geo-political connections. These terrains are also almost entirely human in focus with little consideration given to a wider ‘web of life.’ Even though the narratives which co-produce the terrain of North Korea’s politics make enormous use of topography and environmental features, they do not for the most part include non-human or non-sentient residents or participants on/on the peninsula.

In this presentation Robert Winstanley-Chesters considers North Korean physical and cultural topography as an assemblage of actors and participants, from what has been termed a ‘more than human perspective.’ With what Jane Bennett has termed ‘vibrant’ or ‘lively’ matter in mind he reviews North Korea’s environmental history and its intersection with the politics and ideology of Pyongyang. In particular Robert addresses the role of forests and timber resources in the formation of North Korean nationalism following the Japanese colonial period and the entwining of fungus and mycorrhizal matters with Pyongyang’s diplomatic efforts in the 1990s and early 2000s. Finally Robert considers fish and fishing infrastructure in North Korea, specifically focusing on communities on Sindo Island at the mouth of the Amnok/Yalu River. In conventional, common discourse North Korea’s relationship with environmental and natural resources has, since the early 1990s become fractious and difficult, beset and characterised by lack, degradation and denudation. However an alternative reading might indicate that in these absences and declines North Korea’s environment has become ‘lively’, ‘vibrant’ and active in the present. Robert within this presentation suggests that such a reading might indeed contribute to a deeper sense of how North Korea citizens, both human and non-human engaged in developmental and environmental processes, conceive of and negotiate their places at geo-political, regional and local scales, (re)constructing new forms of ‘informal life politics’ and ‘vibrant matter’ in a North Korea of transitions.
Biography

Robert Winstanley-Chester is a geographer and Research Fellow at Australian National University. Previously Robert was a Post-Doctoral Fellow of Cambridge University (Beyond the Korean War). Robert obtained his doctorate from the University of Leeds with a thesis later published as “Environment, Politics and Ideology in North Korea: Landscape as Political Project” in 2014 by Lexington. Robert was also a co-editor of the edited volume “Change and Continuity in North Korean Politics” (Routledge) in 2016. Robert’s second monograph “New Goddesses of Mt Paektu: Gender, Violence, Myth and Transformation in Korean Landscapes” will be published in summer 2017/2018 by Lexington. Robert is co-author of the forthcoming monograph “Transformation of Korean Mountain Culture” which will be published in December 2018 by Lexington and is working on a third monograph entitled “Vibrant matter(s), Fish, Fishing, Conservation and Community in North Korea and its neighbours” for publication by Springer in summer 2019. Robert has also published in academic journals such as S/N Korean Humanities, Capitalism Nature Socialism, Asian Perspective and North Korean Review. Robert is currently researching leisure geographies, fishing and animal/creaturely geographies in North Korea and the colonial mineralogical and forest inheritances of the Korean peninsula.

Monash Korean Studies Student Achievements

Congratulations to Anusha Thirumalavan a second-year student doing Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Environmental Engineering and doing an extended major in Korean Studies. She has been chosen to work as an intern at the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Melbourne from October 2017.

Congratulations to Anna Luu (Korean Introductory 2 Student) who won a cheque for $250, an Australian-Asian Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Korean, and Honorary membership of the Australian-Asian Association of Victoria for one year in recognition of her outstanding achievements in studying Korean. She was awarded the prize by the Australian Asian Association at a ceremony at Graduate House, University of Melbourne on Monday, 18th September 2017.

Congratulations to Niharishan Sathasivam (Korean Studies Proficiency 2 student) who served as the MC for the opening ceremony of the Korean Film Festival in Australia held at the ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image), Melbourne, 7-14 September 2017. Niha participated in the event after having served a three month internship at the Republic of KoreaConsulate in Melbourne, which also organised the Film Festival.

Congratulations to Shugo Okaeda (Korean Proficiency 2) who received an offer from Korea University to study in the Graduate School of Korean History in 2018.

Congratulations to Lorraine Lok Leung, who is double majoring in Korean Studies and Communication and Media Studies at Monash. On October 21, 2017, Lorraine took and passed the TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean) Test at level 6. This is an outstanding achievement. In the future, Lorraine plans to use her Korean to do translation and media-related work.
Member Activities

Dr Gil Soo Han
Associate Professor

2017 Teaching

Global communications

Communications and Cultures in the Global Era

Conference Participation & Professional Development


2017 Invited Speaker, ‘Korean identity in the Professional context: sticking to your


**Academic Work**

**Edited Volume**


**Articles**


**Grants**

2018-19 “Approaches to death, funeral rites and memorialisation in contemporary Australia: changes and continuities”, DHHS (Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulation Unit) and SMCT, $100,000. (with Helen Forbes-Mewett)

**Media Contributions**


**Andrew David Jackson**
Senior Lecturer

**2017 Teaching**
Korean Introductory One
Korean Introductory Two

**Academic Work**

**Articles**

‘Squeezing North Korea will not result in revolution’
*East Asia Forum*, 9 November 2017

**Media Contributions**

‘Is the Reunification of Korea Possible?’
*ABC Big Ideas* Radio Programme, 14 November 2017

**Dr Josie Sohn**
Lecturer, Korean Studies

**2017 Teaching**

Korean Intermediate 1
Korean Intermediate 2

**Conference**


**Hye Sun Ko**
Sessional Tutor

Currently completing a PhD in Applied Linguistics

**2017 Teaching**

Korean Intermediate One
Korean Intermediate Two
Korean Proficient One
Korean Proficient Two
Japanese Intermediate One
Japanese Intermediate Two

**Conference Participation & Professional Development**
Graduate Student Conference June 2017: ‘Professions of the Future’

Equal Opportunity Online Training
Privacy
Ethics and Professional Conduct

Academic Work

Paper currently under consideration with *Applied Linguistics*

**Jaekyung Roh**
Sessional Tutor

2017 Teaching

Korean Introductory One
Korean Introductory Two

Conference Participation & Professional Development

Affiliations
Member of Australian Association of Teachers of Korean (2016-)

Other Interests
My interest is in teaching methods of Korean language for foreign students at introductory level and the development of Korean teaching materials. I am also particularly interested in multiculturalism of Korean society in Korea.

**Adam A. Zulawnik**
Sessional Tutor

Currently completing Translation Studies PhD thesis (pre-submission seminar in December) focusing on Korea related discourse (South Korea – Japan relations and translation).

2017 Teaching
Korean Introductory One
Korean Introductory Two

Supervision of Masters level Korean translation project as part of Translation Studies course APG 5884.

Academic Work
Two journal articles (work in progress) on Korean translation and political discourse.
Two scholarly book translations (Korean – English) in progress.

**Other Activities:**
Proofreading, Editing and Updating of Monash University Intermediate Korean (3 & 4) textbooks.

Suk Hyun Lee
Sessional Tutor

**2017 Teaching**
Korean Introductory One
Korean Introductory Two

Other Activities:
Development of Teaching Materials for Korean Introductory One and Two including:
Hangul (Korean Alphabet) worksheets
Grammar PPT
Grammar worksheets/drills
Role play/ pair work activities
Grammar PPT
Grammar worksheets/drills
Role Play/pair work activities

**Conference Participation & Professional Development**
09-Apr-2017  Certificate, Introduction to Stronger Smarter (Indigenous Education), Stronger Smarter Institute
24-Apr-2017  Privacy, Monash University
24-Apr-2017  Ethics and Professional Conduct, Monash University
07-Aug-2017  Equal opportunity Online Training, Monash University
07-Aug-2017  Victorian Child Protection Training, Haileybury College
05-Oct-2017  OHS Staff Induction, Monash University
08-Nov-2017  Curriculum writing PD, Haileybury College

Monash University Korean Studies in Numbers

Completed enrolments

S1 2017
ATS1171 Korean Introductory One 232
ATS2171 Korean Introductory One 66
ATS2173 Korean Intermediate One 62
ATS3175 Korean Proficient One 24
S2 2017
ATS1172 Korean Introductory Two 115
ATS2172 Korean Introductory Two 27
ATS2174 Korean Intermediate Two  51
ATS3176 Korean Proficient Two  19

**Korean Studies Majors and Minors (estimated)**

ATS1172/2172 Korean Introductory Two

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ATS2174 Korean Intermediate Two

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ATS3176 Korean Proficient Two

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Korean Studies Honours Students (commence 2018) 2

**Korean Studies Students in South Korea in Semester 2, 2017**

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<td>Seoul National University</td>
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Total majors (approx.): 37
Total minors (approx.): 40