Welcome to the CKS Annual Review of 2011-12. Although the history of Korean Studies at SOAS, of course, goes much further back in time, 2012 celebrates the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Centre of Korean Studies. This was commemorated with a special lecture held by Professor Erminta Martina Deucher on April 27, followed by a reception in the Brunei Suite.

I am also very glad to report that thanks to the crucial work of Dr Jaehoon Yeon and other centre members, CKS has been successful in renewing the Academy of Korean Studies Institution Grant (now called “Diversity Leading University Program for Korean Studies”) it has held since 2006 for another five years until 2016. The approximately GBP 110,000 received annually will continuously support the research fellow(s) at the Centre, the MA/PhD student bursary, publication projects and conferences and workshops. The newly appointed research fellow for this academic year is Dr Andrew Jackson.

The Centre has continued its ordinary lecture series as well as the special lecture series for European scholars enabled by the AUS grant. The lectures covered a wide range of topics from North Korea to Korean history and Contemporary Korean culture. The details of topics and speakers covered during the year are available elsewhere in this review.

During the year CKS has also arranged two workshops at SOAS. On 15-14 April Professor Keith Howard organised Past, Present and Future: The Diversity and Distinctiveness of Korean Music, and Dance, a two-day international workshop with lectures by renowned scholars and a concert, and on 10 May Dr Andrew Jackson organised Korean Film: Years of Radical Change, a one-day workshop at which renowned British scholars in the field critically examined a number of important issues in Korean Cinema.

The following visiting scholars were affiliated with the CKS the academic year 2011-12: Dr Hur Bong Park (Mok-Won University), Professor Heewook Ro (Chosun University), Professor Byung Woo Sohn (Chungnam National University). Dr Myung-Uhn Kim (Seoul National University), Professor Hye-Joo Yoon (Yonsei University), and Professor Myoung-In Kim (Inha University).

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Jane Savory and Miss Rahima Begum at the Centres and Programmes Office for all their hard work over the year and in preparing and producing this annual review.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming year which promises to be as busy and exciting as this year has been.

Anders Karlsson
In 1986, with the support of the Korea Foundation (KF), Youngsook Pak (PhD Heidelberg) was asked by Skillend to assist respected Edward Wagner at Harvard and Bill Skillend at SOAS as the promising academic institutions in the west. Among European universities motivated it to support Korean studies only at the most Korean government’s interest to promote Korean studies in western decade that Korea emerged as a strong economic modern state. The Korean. Understandably, these language assistants from Korea were universities to assist him with language teaching for the growing of Korean language and literature. In fact, Daniel Boucher (later to conference was held at SOAS where Skillend was the sole teacher Koreanists world-wide through its biennial conference. The first AKSE Studies in this country and Professor of Korean Studies, could be The late William E. Skillend (1926-2010), the pioneer of Korean scholars to produce useful and excellent reference works and articles primarily because of the lack of reference works and publications in western languages. There is a limit even for internationally renowned scholars to learn from North American universities where attracting excellent students to SOAS. We have to establish long-term funding to overcome any obstacles. As for the future of CKS at SOAS, it is advisable to establish long-term funding to overcome any occasional funding difficulties and to continue to attract excellent students to SOAS. We have to learn from North American universities where the minority universities draw the majority of their funding from endowments provided by past graduates and former members of staff, who enjoy continuous recognition by their alma mater and former employers. The Centre of Korean Studies can only flourish with the support by the School and efforts made by both present and past students and academics.

The significant and vital role of Korean Studies at SOAS was well recognized by the Korean government in the 1980s and SOAS has been the main beneficiary of Korea Foundation funding for both teaching positions and scholarships for PhD students. For nearly a decade SOAS postgraduate students were awarded Korea Foundation scholarships at only university among all European universities to receive such funding. Now SOAS students must compete with other European candidates for this prestigious scholarship for doctoral research. To ease the situation and to support serious postgraduate students the SOAS-AKS Postgraduate Bursary has been established.

The academic activities organized by the Centre of Korean Studies (CKS) are most numerous during term-time with regular lectures and seminar series given by invited lecturers and visiting scholars. Korean visiting scholars who spend their sabbatical year in London are the members of the Centre and give one public lecture during this time. Their invited lectures on their current research further enhance and enliven academic activities of the Centre. Conferences and workshops organized by the academic members of CKS are also regularly held which draw students and colleagues and interested members of the public. Thematic workshops on Korean art organized by Charlotte Horlyck have been very successful. She has invited specialists from the UK and worked with the British Museum curator Sascha Priewe. Grace Koh also organized literature and translation workshops with Korean writers and scholars. In addition to these activities each member of CKS is internationally known by his or her publications, thus drawing postgraduate students to SOAS from all over the world. Likewise the graduates who were trained by professors of Korean studies at SOAS are themselves now working as academics in various universities in Europe, Australia, and America.

The importance of the Centre within the School, on the one hand and its international standing on the other hand must be emphasized. The growth of Korea as a world economic power and her long history, civilization, and cultural innovation are recognized in the increasing number of students who want to study Korean language and relevant subjects. This vital aspect increases the reputation of SOAS as a unique academic institution in the world. Similarly, SOAS is the only European university to teach such a variety of Korean subjects as have been mentioned above (language, literature, history, art, history, music, politics and economics). Several CKS academics are scholars pursuing research in the pre-modern period of Korea and more of a rarity in the contemporary academic field. This tradition should be maintained without a profound knowledge of the past, the understanding of the present will be inevitably shallow.
MEMBERS NEWS

Dr Dae-op CHANG
Senior Lecturer in Development Studies
Department of Development Studies

Dae-op Chang has been writing on the neoliberal rise of East Asia and reformulation of labour relations in the region. He has presented various papers on the issue at the Historical Materialism Annual Conference, York University, UK and Gyeongsang National University in South Korea. He also presented a paper on migrant workers in East Asia at Gyeongsang National University, South Korea. He has been participating in a ESRC-DFID-funded project 'Working Poor in China and India' which investigates labour conditions in garment and construction sectors of China and India.

PUBLICATIONS


Chang, Dae-op, 'Migrant workers, the modern world economy: migration, democracy and the making of the global governance,' paper presented at the Conference, York University, UK and Gyeongsang National University, South Korea.

Professor Keith HOWARD
Professor of Music
Department of Music

Keith Howard has given presentations to conferences in the UK, America and Korea. Presentations of his research have included seminars at the University of Western Australia, University of Sydney, Adelaide University, Griffith University, University of Aberdeen, University of Oxford and North London Collegiate School. He has also been active in providing media commentary, particularly following the death of Kim Jong Il in North Korea.

PUBLICATIONS

Keith has completed two edited volumes during the academic year. The first, Music in Intangible Cultural Heritage: Policy, Ideology, and Practice in the Preservation of East Asian Traditions, will be published in September (Farrham, Ashgate, 2012; 283pp; ISBN 978-1-4094-3907-3 (hbk); 978-1-4094-3908-0 (pbk)), and is titled 'Preserving Tradition, Facing the Future: Conservation and Innovation in Chinese Music' (Seoul: Chongung University, 2012; 188pp; ISBN 979-1188-9414). His articles have included 'Rediscovering Koreaness: North Korea, musicology, ideology, and "improved" Korean instruments,' in Rudiger Frank, editor, Exploring North Korean Arts: 181–91. (Vienna: Universität Wien/MAK; 2011; ISBN 9783869842144); and 'SamulNori: Drums (and gongs) of Tradition,' in Rudiger Frank, editor, Unearthing and Collecting Korea’s Past (1880-1940), at Fifth Worldwide Conference of the Society for East Asian Archaeology (SEAA), held in Fukuoaka, Japan, where he gave a paper titled "Unearthing and Collecting Korea’s Past (1880–1940)." In the next academic year of 2012/13, Keith will be teaching a new MA course on modern and contemporary Korean art.

TALKS

Korean architecture and the role of geomancy, lecture given for The Bristol Society for the Arts, Bristol University (October 2012).

Funeral figurines and other aspects of traditional Korean culture, lecture given at Goldsmith College, University of London, (November 2011).

'Unearthing and Collecting Korea’s Past (1880-1940),' at Fifth Worldwide Conference of the Society for East Asian Archaeology (SEAA), Fukuoaka, Japan (June 2012).

Dr Charlotte HORLYCK
Lecturer in the History of Korean Art
Department of the History of Art and Archaeology

During the academic year of 2011/12, Charlotte Horlyck continued her research and teaching activities. Funding from CIS/IAKS has enabled her to embark on a research project on Koryó period bronze artfcts, including mirrors and openwork ornaments. In the spring she surveyed several such pieces in the British Museum, and she continued this research over the summer in Seoul. She gave several talks on Korean material culture at different venues throughout the year, including the Fifth Worldwide Conference of the Society for East Asian Archaeology (SEAA), held in Fukuoaka, Japan, where she gave a paper titled "Unearthing and Collecting Korea’s Past (1880–1940)." In the next academic year of 2012/13, Charlotte will be teaching a new MA course on modern and contemporary Korean art.

PUBLICATIONS


Over the past year, Andrew Jackson has been Korea Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow at the Oriental Institute, Oxford University where he is turning his dissertation into a publishable monograph. He has been involved in several talks and workshops at various academic events. In September 2011, he presented "Old regional discrimination lead to the Musin rebellion of 1728?" at the KSGSC (Korean Studies Graduate Students Convention) annual conference in Paris, France. In October 2011, he presented a paper entitled: "Histories in stone: An analysis of the function of the Musin monuments (pimun)," at the History as Social Practice: Unconventional Historiographies of Korea Workshop, at the University of Leiden, Holland. In January, Andrew presented: "Regions and rebellion: the case of the 1728 Musin rebellion," at the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 2012 Annual Conference, St Hugh’s College, Oxford. In April, Andrew was invited by Dr Martin Peteron to lead a week-long workshop entitled: "Understanding Late-Chosŏn Rebellion: comparison and theory," at the University of Copenhagen. In May, Andrew organised and chaired a day-long Korean cinema workshop at SOAS entitled: "Korean Film Years of Radical Change," and he presented "Cinematic representations of the Korean War in Pak Kwangsu’s To the Starry Island and Yi Kwangmo’s Spring’s in my Hometown: a re-evaluation," at the Oriental Institute, Oxford University.

PUBLICATIONS

As the Chair of CIS Anders Karlsson represented SOAS at the eight graduate student conference of the Worldwide Consortium of Korean Studies Centers held at Korea University in Seoul 4-7 July 2012.

TALKS


"Law and the Body in Choson Korea," paper presented at Heritage of Humanity: Tasan’s Schematics for a Liveable World, a three-day international conference held in Seoul 5-7 July 2012 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Tasan Chŏng Yagyong.

PUBLICATIONS

In the autumn of 2011 Anders Karlsson published two translations of Korean contemporary literature into Swedish: Hwang So-yong’s The Old Garden and Han Malak’s Hymn of the Spirits.
Attempting to read the natural text from the provided image, I can infer that the content is about a person named Dr. Jaehoon Yeon and his contributions to Korean Studies. The text seems to be a mix of personal achievements, publications, and activities in the field of Korean Studies. There is also a mention of the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) and its grants, with a focus on postgraduate bursaries. The text includes references to various publications and conferences where Dr. Yeon participated or presented.
Dr Andray Abrahamian (University of Ulsan)
Prospects for the DPRK's Development in the Short to Medium Term

Dr Andray Abrahamian became interested in Korea issues following a trip to the DMZ in 2003. This inspired an MA in International Relations from the University of Sussex. Upon completion, he started pursuing a PhD focusing on Western media and images of North Korea, which he expects to complete in 2012. He spends 7 months a year teaching at the University of Ulsan. He is also an Executive Director at Choson Exchange, a Singapore-based non-profit focusing on educational training in economics, management and finance for young North Koreans.

Andray has published various academic and op-ed articles and been solicited to offer commentary by international news organizations. His academic interests include intercultural relations, post-colonialism, Orientalisms, hegemony and US-East Asian relations. Andray speaks Korean, but not as well as he would like.

Professor Kang Nae-hui (Chung-Ang University, Seoul, Korea)
The Vacation of Culture in Neoliberal South Korea

Professor Kang Nae-hui teaches cultural studies in the Department of English and the Graduate Program of Cultural Studies at Chung-Ang University in Seoul. Publisher of the cultural studies journal Munhwa/كھک (since 1992, he has also been responsible for the Korean edition of Traces, a multi-lingual series of translation and cultural theory. His publications have dealt with such topics as Korean colonial modernity, technologies of writing, the idea of cultural society, knowledge production and education reform, intellectual movements, and neoliberal dominance in South Korea. His published books include Korean culture and ’communism’ in the age of neoliberalization (in Korean, 2008). Impacts of Modernities. Traces. Vol. 3 (co-edited with Thomas Lamarre, 2004); Cultural transformations in South Korea and cultural politics (in Korean, 2003); Power of literature, value of literature (in Korean, 2003). Having finished his second term as chair of the executive committee of Muju Communal, a Manicot intellectual organization formed to hold biennial conferences, he is widely active in Korean intellectual and social movements. Currently he is the co-chair of Cultural Action, a major social movement organization.

Dr Daham Chong (Sangmyung University)
Inventing the ’Lusser Middle Kingdom’: Early Choson’s dispatch of Kyeonghakgyo to Jurchen and Tsushima Regions

Dr Daham Chong received his PhD from the department of Korean History at Korea University, with a dissertation that scrutinizes how early Choson ruling elites used traditional knowledge, technology, and science to establish kingship in the fifteenth century. He has worked as an HK research professor for the HK Transnational Humanities program of the Research Center for Comparative History and Culture at Hong Kong University, Seoul. Daham is currently an assistant professor at Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul. Recently, he has focused on rewriting early Choson history, which has always been highlighted within the nationalist frameworks of South Korean Historiography based on trans-dynastic/national perspectives.

Dr Seungh-yong Kim (University of Sheffield)
Rise and Fall of the U.S. Trusteeship Plan for Korea as Peace-maintenance Scheme, 1943-1949

Seungh-yong Kim teaches international history and politics of Korea and Northeast Asia (the 20th century) in the School of East Asian Studies at University of Sheffield. He joined Sheffield as a Senior Lecturer in September 2011, after working for 8 years in the Dept of Politics at University of Aberdeen. Seungh-yong received his doctoral degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) and MA degree from Columbia University on international affairs. He has had research affiliations with Harvard University, University of Tokyo, and Koel University in Japan. He published his monograph American Diplomacy and Strategy toward Korea and Northeast Asia, 1882-1950 and After (Palgrave Macmillan) in 2009. Before pursuing his doctoral degree, Seungh-yong worked as the diplomatic correspondent and UN correspondent for The Chosun Ilbo newspaper in South Korea until 1995.

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Professor Martina Deuchler (SOAS, University of London)
A New Perspective on Korean Society: the Role of Descent Groups in Korea’s Long History

Professor Martina Deuchler is Professorial Research Associate at the SOAS Centre of Korean Studies, where she was professor of Korean Studies between 1991 and 2003. Educated at Harvard University, Martina is the author of many publications including Confucian Gentlemen and Barbarian Envoys: the Opening of Korea, 1787-1885 (1977) and The Confucian Transformation of Korea: a Study of Society and Ideology (1992). In 1995, Martina won the Order of Cultural Merit, and in 2009, she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association for Asian Studies.

Dr Myung Uhn Kim (Seoul National University)
On the Performativity of Politeness in Modern Korean

Dr Myung Uhn Kim is a teaching professor in the Faculty of Liberal Education, at Seoul National University. Dr Kim has a PhD in Korean language and specialized in Social Linguistics and Pragmatics from Seoul National University. At present, Dr Kim is visiting scholar at SOAS.
Past, Present and Future: The Diversity and Distinctiveness of Korean Music and Dance
13-14 April 2012

Symposium:
Past, Present and Future: The Diversity and Distinctiveness of Korean Music and Dance brought together scholars of Korean music and dance, junior and senior, in an exploration that tracked back to the eighth century and forward to today. Held on 13 and 14 April 2012, scholars came from the USA, Canada, Korea, Taiwan, Austria and Germany. Sessions divided into considerations of vocal music (Juhee Gu, Dorothée Sea, Chan E. Park, SamuNoi (Nathan Helselin), in Suk Kim, Nami Morris, Simon Mills), twentieth century new music (with presentations from Hyeonsok Yeon, Gyeweon Byeon, Hyelim Kim, Sung-Hee Park), Dance (Chae-hyeon Kim, Keith Howard, Jung Rock Seo, Un Mi Kim), Hip-hop (Sung Wook Park, Rowan Pease, Hae-Young Um, Sang-Yeon Sung). The keynote presentation, given by Joshua Pilzer, was on the music of Korean comfort women, and a distinguished presentation was given on the earliest recordings of Korean music by Robert C. Provine (who attended from Washington by Skype). On the first day, topics within these themes ranged from education, through performance, to trot and 'pansori', from poetry and iconography of ancient lion dances and iconography of ancient lute figures. The music and dance brought together 134 students and 74 academics. The sessions were chaired by Professor Daniel Jaffé, University of London and Dr Isolde Standish, University of London and Dr Isolde Standish, University of London.

Conference:
Making a Difference: Representing/Constructing the Other in Asian/African Media, Cinema and Languages
February 2012

This three day conference was held from 16-18 February 2012 at SOAS and organised by Griseldis Kirsch. As part of a consortium of African and Asian Studies (CAAS), it was this year that SOAS hosted the conference and hence most of the participants came from CAAS institutions. The conference attracted academic interest not just from the participating institutions, but also those interested in other regions. The sessions were chaired by Professor Andrew Jackson, University of London and Dr Isolde Standish from the Centre for Media and Film Studies, and the event was formally closed by Dr Jaehoon Yeon. The event was a big and international success. The sessions were chaired by Professor Andrew Jackson of Kingston University showed how 'difference' was appropriated when familiarity and cultural proximity also played a vital part. Researchers came from different fields of study and looked at different regions, but all of them looked at either Asia, Africa or the Middle East, and presented on different aspects of 'difference' in the context of the conference. The conference was multidisciplinary, the aspects in the discussion did not just include discussions regarding the papers, but also included academic interest not just from the participating institutions, but also those interested in a particular region, but also those interested in a particular genre could attend. The rooms in which the sections were held were not far apart, so that anyone interested could easily move between the sections. The keynote speech was given by Dr Dolores Martinez (SOAS), who introduced the theme by looking at various representations of difference in Western and Japanese film.

The conference was sponsored by the British Academy, the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and the Faculty of Languages and Cultures.
HONORARY APPOINTMENTS: SEPT 2011 - AUG 2012

Jim Hoare again taught the course on “The Other Korea: North Korea since 1945”. There were 17 students this year. In October 2010, he led the first group from the Political Tours travel agency to North Korea, an account of the visit has appeared in the Transactions of the Korea Branch Royal Asiatic Society. On the same trip, he took part in a conference at the Seoul Museum of History on the theme of “When Jeongdong met the World: Jeongdong in 1950” and has been closely involved in the acquisition of materials and planning for a special exhibition on this theme, to be held in autumn 2012, which will mark the 100th anniversary of the museum’s establishment.

He continued to write on the two Korea’s for the Annual Register and is an editor and contributor to the yearbook on Korea published by Brill. The Historical Dictionary of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea will appear in July/August 2012. Following the death of Kim Jong II in December 2011, he made numerous radio and television appearances, including an overnight eight-hour stint on BBC World Television News on the day of the funeral. A collection of Critical Readings on the Korean Peninsula (Brill) should appear by the end of the year, and the Historical Dictionary of the Republic of Korea (Scarecrow) early in 2013.

RESEARCH STUDENTS Sept 2011 - Aug 2012

Supervisor: Dr Anders Karlsson
Yoon Jeong Lee
A Study of Korean monolingual learners’ dictionary for lexicography

Supervisor: Dr Jaehoon Yeon
Yoon Jong Lee
The discourse on eugenics in Colonial Korea
Supervisor: Dr Anders Karlsson

Supervisor: Dr Anders Karlsson
Sarah Son
From heroes to underclass: the cooling of South Korean policy provisions for North Korean defectors in the post-democracy era
Supervisor: Dr Anders Karlsson

Supervisor: Dr Jaehoon Yeon
Youngsook Pak was invited this semester to teach as Professor of Korean Art History at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. She is continuously working on her conference volume on Esoteric Buddhism and Buddhist art which she organized at Yale, and which is to be published soon. A conference paper on ‘Yorij’ (1918–1932) and Liao(907–1125) Relations in the Tenth–Eleventh Centuries: Impact on Buddhist Culture’ will be published this year in a volume edited by Wu-Hung: China: The Tenth Century and Beyond.

TALKS

Art in Translation, University of Edinburgh, (27-29 November 2011)
Paper on ‘Chaekkori – a Choson Conundrum’
Harvard Workshop of Korean Art History (10 February, 2012) as Commentator
Buddhist Art Forum, (11-14 April 2012) The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London
Paper on ‘Blazing Light. Calamity Solving Images in Medieval Korea’
International Editorial Board Member
Journal of Art and Archaeology, National Museum of Korea
Member of Advisory Board of Kojo’nick yon’gu (Korean Journal of Classical Studies). The Academy of Korean Studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Article: “Han’guk kojŏnhak hwalsŏnhwa pan’ari” (Thoughts on improving the study of the pre-modern period in Korean studies) in Kojo’nick yon’gu Vol. 1 (2012)
Around 8 diplomats come each year.

For pre-posting briefings for nearly 20 years with

have been sending their Ambassadors to SOAS

Korea. The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

historical, political and cultural context of North

Ambassador with a thorough background on the

The sessions were designed to provide the

was delivered by Keith Howard, Anders

attended a 2-day programme in June which

Ambassador to Pyongyang. Karl-Olof Andersson

provide a 2-day briefing for the new Swedish

Koh and Anders Karlsson. A new UK-based joint

venture for financing Hyundai and Kia vehicles

through franchised dealerships meant the

Hyundai team needed to become familiar with

Korean customs and culture in order to liaise
effectively with their new partners.

Feedback following the session was very

positive and the team told us the briefing helped them to 'manage expectations and enhance

communication with our Korean counterparts,

which is essential in a work place. We very much

enjoyed learning about the social and cultural

history of Korea and its recent developments. This

helps us to understand the beliefs and values of

Korean people, which will be useful in building

rapport and strengthening relationships with

our Korean counterparts. Dr. Anders Karlsson is

very knowledgeable on the subject and was able
to point out a lot of interesting facts, which we

found very fascinating."

The Enterprise Office was also called on to

provide a 2-day briefing for the new Swedish

Ambassador to Pyongyang. Karl-Olof Anderson

taught a 2-day programme in June which

was delivered by Keith Howard, Anders

Karlsson, Owen Miller and Aidan Foster-Carter.

The sessions were designed to provide the

Ambassador with a thorough background on the

historical, political and cultural context of North

Korea. The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

have been sending their Ambassadors to SOAS

for pre-posting briefings for nearly 20 years with

around 8 diplomats coming each year.

Research and Enterprise activities are central to SOAS’
mission. Not only do they enhance teaching and
learning, they are also a crucial part of the services that we
provide to the world around us. Research establishes
new knowledge which extends the frontiers of human
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