When one is engaged in studying Korea, the phrase ‘never a dull moment’ often springs to mind and in the past year that phrase has been more apt than ever. In the space of a year we have swung from worrying about the possibility of a second Korean War to the first ever summit between the leaders of North Korea and US. This year, we approach what will be the third inter-Korean summit in only a few months, we are also witnessing an unprecedented pace and depth of inter-Korean rapprochement.

As ever, the SOAS Centre of Korean Studies has been at the forefront of digesting and analysing current events as well as putting them into their crucial historical and cultural contexts. Our members have been featured frequently in all forms of media over the past year and we have hosted two important events discussing the current situation. The first of these was a roundtable discussion on North Korea and Northeast Asian Security, co-organised with the British Association for Korean Studies in December 2017 and the second an update on UK-Korean peninsula relations with UK ambassadors to both North and South Korea that was hosted in partnership with the British Korean Society in May 2018.

One of the great strengths of the CKS, however, lies in the diversity of approaches to the study of Korea that we are able to provide to SOAS and the wider community. The past academic year has seen the CKS host 12 academic seminars with speakers from around the world talking on topics as diverse as queer literature, sports mega-events, digital humanities, contemporary art and seventeenth century history. In February we organised a significant symposium on legacies of colonialism in Korean historical memory, which will be featured in an upcoming special issue of the European Journal of Korean Studies. In addition we have hosted cultural events, a book launch, film and literature masterclasses and the UK premiere of a new documentary on modern Korean history.

The Centre of Korean Studies continues to be a home for visiting scholars ranging from a variety of different disciplines, many of whom come from South Korea. This year saw seven visiting scholars arrive at SOAS, working on topics ranging from architecture to Korean linguistics and modern history.

I would like to thank both the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the UK Culture Centre for their unstinting support for the CKS and their willingness to collaborate with us. I took over as chair only for the period from January until August, while Dr Charlotte Horlyck took a period of research leave, but it has been a privilege to work with and get to know Drs Cho, Kim and Cho and the CKS staff. One of the highlights of my year was to have the opportunity to meet with the British Korean Society in May 2018.

Our academic focus on the languages, cultures and societies of Asia, Africa and the Middle East makes SOAS an indispensable interpreter in a complex world.
Charlotte HORLYCK  
Lecturer in the History of Korean Art

Charlotte’s four year term as Chair of the Centre of Korean Studies came to an end in December 2017 when Dr Owen Milner took over the post. Before Christmas she gave a talk on North Korean art for the Asia Africa Institute (AAI) of the University of Hamburg. During her sabbatical leave in terms 2 and 3, she took up a position as a Smithsonian Institution Senior Fellow at the Freer and Sackler Galleries in Washington DC, where she researched Charles Lang Freer’s acquisitions of Korean artefacts for her next book. She also gave talks on her research project at The Korea Institute at Harvard University, The Institute for Korean Studies at George Washington University, The Freer and Sackler Galleries and Yonsei University. She continues to serve as President of the British Association of Korean Studies.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**CHAPTERS**


**KOREAN ART FROM THE 19TH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT**

HORLYCK, Charlotte  
Reaktion Books, 2017

Korean artists are a permanent fixture on today’s international art scene, as interested in modern and contemporary art from South as well as North Korea has grown in strength. Museums and individual collectors eager to tap into this rising market are acquiring many more Korean artworks. But how are we to understand Korean art and its cultural significance? What has led to the formation of Korea’s cultural scene as we know it today, and what role have artists played in this process? These are some of the questions that frame the narrative in this richly illustrated history of Korean art from the late nineteenth century to the present day – a period which coincided with enormous and rapid political, social and economic change.

From artists’ first encounters with oil paintings in the late nineteenth century to the varied and vibrant creative outputs of the 2000s, the book covers a critical and, from a cultural perspective, revolutionary period, signified by the breakdown of earlier artistic conventions and the rise of new art forms. Within this historical trajectory, Charlotte Horlyck explores artists’ interpretations of new and traditional art forms ranging from oil and ink paintings to video art, multi-media installations, ready-mades and performance, and their questions about the role of art and the artist’s position within society. This book will appeal equally to general and specialist readers wanting to explore this rich and fascinating epoch in Korea’s cultural history.
Grace KOH
Lecturer in Korean Literature

During the 2017-18 academic session, Grace worked on research pertaining to Korean poetics and intertextual perspectives on literary tradition, culture and identity, focusing on the works of Yi Kyubo and reception of Kim Sisŭp's poetry and fiction. She was invited to present her current projects at the following events:
- Academia Koreana International Conference on Korean Studies at Keimyung University (2-3 November 2017);
- a conference on Kim Sisŭp at Charles University, Prague (19-10 February 2018);
- the Inaugural Symposium for the Transnational Society for Korean Literary Traditions (TSOKLT) at the Ohio State University (Columbus 16-17 February 2018);
- and Pre-modern Korean Studies in Europe conference co-hosted by the University of Bucharest and New Europe College, Bucharest (28-29 May 2018).

Grace also served as facilitator and chair of Korean literature events with critically acclaimed poet Kim Seung-Ha (SOAS CKS, 1 December 2017) and literary translator Brother Anthony of Tāzī (co-hosted by SOAS CKS and the Korean Cultural Centre UK, 15 March 2018); a consultant and evaluator for the 2018 Korean Literature Essay Competition UK, co-organised by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea, Asia Literary Review and the Korean Cultural Centre UK; and as a guest speaker on cultural considerations for living and working in Korea at the North London Collegiate School’s (NLCS) International Schools Staff Induction (22 June 2018). Dr Koh also represented the CKS at the Worldwide Consortium of Korean Studies Centers workshop (Glocalizing Korean Studies: The Next Generation) at Leiden University on 26-28 August 2018.

Tat Yan KONG
Reader in Comparative Politics and Development Studies

During the academic year 2017-18 Tat Yan presented at:
• The International Forum on North Korea held at the British Academy on 30 November 2017;
• The LSE Executive Policy Weekend on 4 November 2017;
• The Tuebingen Korean Studies Lecture series at the University of Tuebingen on 22 November 2017;
• The Commonwealth Journalists’ Association event “Tension on the Korean Peninsula: What are the prospects for long term peace?” at the House of Lords on 21 March 2018.

EVENTS
The London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science (Co-Chaired by Tat Yan Kong, SOAS and Ramon Pacheco Pardo, King’s) hosted the following:
• On 30 January 2018 a talk by Prof Chung-In Moon (Special Adviser to the Republic of Korea President for Foreign Policy, Unification and Security) entitled “The Olympic Peace and Prospects for Inter-Korean Relations under the Moon Jae-in Government”. The event was attended by HE Mr Joonki Hwang, Republic of Korea Ambassador to the UK.
• On 15 March 2018 the launch of the monograph The Political Economy of the Small Welfare State in South Korea (Cambridge University Press) by Prof Jae-Jin Yang (Yonsei University, Korea). The discussants were Prof Robert R. Kaufman (Rutgers University) and Dr Timo Fleckenstein (LSE).
• On 5 June 2018 the Roundtable Discussion, Talking Towards Peace, together with the Henry Jackson Society. Attended by academics, current and former diplomats (including the RO, PRC, and Japan embassies) and media. The event represents the first stage of a three-stage process leading to a Joint LAPC-HJS report (stage 2) which was launched in Parliament on 20 June (stage 3).

MEDIA
• Tat Yan Kong discussed Korean Peninsula issues on Chinese Global Television Network (CCTV) on 14 December 2017, 24 February 2018, 14 February 2018, and 8 March 2018, 3 May 2018, and 23 May 2018

ARTICLES
• Tat Yan Kong published the article ‘China’s Engagement-Oriented Strategy Towards North Korea: Achievements and Limitations’. The Pacific Review, (33) 1, pp 76-95.

Yenn LEE
Doctoral Training Advisor

During the academic year of 2017/18, Yenn’s research into digital culture and politics in South Korea continued, with special attention to the gendered experience of being online. She also presented her work to international audiences at various events including the 18th Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers (18-21 October 2017, Tartu, Estonia) and a conference organised by the SOAS Centre for Global Media and Communications on hate speech (31 May 2018, London, UK). The paper presented on the former occasion was titled ‘Privacy as a right to be in public places without fear of digital harassment: A gendered tale from South Korea’, and the latter was “Politics of political coming out: A South Korean case study of digital misogyny as a ‘gateway hate’.”

ARTICLES

CHAPTERS

Owen MILLER
Lecturer in Korean Studies

This has been a busy year of teaching at SOAS with considerably larger numbers of MA students on Owen’s modern Korean history courses than in previous years. He has also participated in a number of conferences and other events, including a conference at the University of Hawai‘i Manoa entitled “Diversity, Identity, and University in Global Korea” where he presented a paper on “Convergence and divergence on the Cold War Korean peninsula through the lens of state capitalism theory.” In June he participated in the third Peace Study Tour to Jeju Island, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the 1948 Jeju Uprising and Massacre. At the associated symposium he acted as a discussant in a panel of activist-scholars. Then at the end of June Owen gave a paper on Korea’s colonial period histography at the “International Workshop on the Landscape of Taiwan Studies and Korean Studies” which took place at the University of Central Lancashire.

Finally, from January until August 2018 Owen enjoyed the privilege of being chair of the Centre of Korean Studies.
In addition to normal teaching and research activities, Jaehoon has been acting as a Project Director for Laboratory Programme for Korean Studies, entitled “Varieties of Korean: Global, Local and Vernacular” by Academy of Korean Studies. In this role, he has overseen the administration and execution of the AKS grant and research projects including seven research members. He is also acting as a Director for King Sejong Institute at SOAS Language Centre. During the last academic year, Jaehoon was invited as a key-note speaker for the following conferences and seminars:

- 20 - 21 April 2018: lecture at the 4th Baltic Seminar on Korean Studies, held at Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius, Lithuania.
- 26 - 27 May 2018: lecture at a special seminar on Korean Studies at Minzu University of China, in Beijing, China.
- 6 - 7 July 2018: lecture at the 28th International conference of International Association of Korean Language Education in Seoul, Korea.
- 20 - 21 July 2018: lecture at the annual conference of the Korean Language Teaching and Research Association of China in Yanbian, Yari, China.

He also gave a lecture on the Korean language and script to British students at a X-Pop Academy organized by Korean Cultural Centre in London on 17th of March. During the last academic year, he conducted fieldwork researches in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 28th April to 6th May, and in Yanji, China from 14th July to 22nd July with his project members.

Prof. Yeon will be on research leave during term 2 in the academic year 2018-19.

**ARTICLES**

2016, (with Dong-zoon Ahn) Kososal Tamlon uy Kyepohak: William Sukhilentu <kotaysosel> uy yenkwusacek uyuy


2018. Her current research interests include Korean modern history, Korean translation history, translation as activism, and narrative framing.
**EVENT LISTING**

**SEMINAR SERIES**

29 SEPTEMBER 2017  
Markus BELL (Sheffield)  
Reimagining the Self: North Korean Multiple Migrants: Remaking Time and Place in Contemporary Japan

3 OCTOBER 2017  
Dian Dang (Bucharest)  
The Confucian (Mis)perception - Implications of holding and abandoning a public position for Joseon Litteral

2 NOVEMBER 2017  
John TREAT (Yale)  
Yi Sang’s Queer Time in Colonial Korea

7 NOVEMBER 2017  
Mark ZEMÁNEK (Charles)  
Dynamics and Change in Korean Buddhist Rituals

5 DECEMBER 2017  
KIM Seung-Hee (Sogang)  
The Confucian (Im)perfection of Renunciation - Implications of movement and resettlement in shaping a diasporic identity. These issues are contextualised within the larger social processes and historical forces that shaped the latter half of the twentieth century in Northeast Asia, and the epoch defining challenges that continue to cast a long shadow on relations between North Korea, South Korea, and Japan. Markus is currently working on a book manuscript based on his research in Korea and Japan titled, ‘Heaven Across the Water: Migration, Memory, and Identity in North Korea’

**SEMINAR SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Markus BELL**  
Markus Bell is a social and cultural anthropologist currently based at the School of East Asian Studies, Sheffield University. His current research uses ethnographic research methods to examine contemporary out-migration from North Korea. Markus is particularly interested in the significance of multiple migrants’ memories of movement and resettlement in shaping a diasporic identity. These issues are contextualised within the larger social processes and historical forces that shaped the latter half of the twentieth century in Northeast Asia, and the epoch defining challenges that continue to cast a long shadow on relations between North Korea, South Korea, and Japan. Markus is currently working on a book manuscript based on his research in Korea and Japan titled, ‘Heaven Across the Water: Migration, Memory, and Identity in North Korea’

**Marjorie ALTHORPE-GUYTON**  
Writer and curator Marjorie Althorpe-Guyton trained as an art historian at the University of East Anglia. After PhD research at the Courtauld Institute, she published A Happy Eye, a history of Norwich School of Art 1850-1982 and British art education. In 1982/4 she was a selector for the Arts Council’s British Art Show and became UK Contributing Editor for Flash Art, a contributor to Art Forum and in 1992 she was appointed Editor of Artcicle International. She was a Turner Prize judge in 1994. Marjorie Althorpe-Guyton was National Director of Visual Arts, Arts Council England 1993-2006. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Art and the Royal Institute of British Architects. Her most recent essays include ‘Monuments to Hubris’, in the Venice Biennale 2017, in Populism, Critical Muslim 24.

**Kerry BROWN**  
Kerry Brown is Professor of Chinese Studies and Director of the Lau China Institute at King’s College, London. From 2012 to 2015 he was Professor of Chinese Politics and Director of the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, Australia. Prior to this he worked at Chatham House from 2006 to 2012, as Senior Fellow and then Head of the Asia Programme. From 1999 to 2005 he worked at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as First Secretary at the British Embassy in Beijing, and then as Head of the Indonesia, Philippines and East Timor Section. He lived in the Inner Mongolia region of China from 1994 to 1996. Professor Brown directed the Europe China Research and Advice Network (ECRAN) giving policy advice to the European External Action Service between 2011 and 2014. His recent publications include: The New Exmperors: Power and the Princelings in China (2014) and What’s Winning with Diplomacy: The Case of the UK and China (2013).

**Javier CHA**  
Javier Cha is an assistant professor of East Asian Studies in the College of Liberal Studies at Seoul National University. Before moving to Seoul in 2010, he worked in the Netherlands and Hong Kong. As a historian of medieval and early modern Korea, he is interested in the social, philosophical, and geopolitical factors that contributed to Korea’s adoption of the Confucian tradition. Cha is also committed to experimenting with computational methods in historical studies. His current project in digital history involves the discovery of unidentified assemblages using the agnatic and affinal data of 50,000 individuals and the automated classification of 198 million characters worth of writing. In addition to macrohistorical research, Cha has been dabbling in anthropological history in the Annexes series, capturing local knowledge and information using high-resolution photographs, audiovisual sources, and drone footage.

**Pavel EM**  
Pavel Em is a Research Fellow at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales) in Paris. He holds a DSc in Social and Economic Geography from Lomonosov Moscow State University and has published and presented extensively in both English and Russian on urbanisation on the Korean Peninsula.

**Masato HASEGAWA**  
Masato Hasegawa received his Ph.D. in History from Yale University in 2011 and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. Previously, he taught Chinese, Korean, and East Asian history at the University of Oregon, Columbia University, and New York University. His research has centered on the question of how human lives, animals, and technologies intersected in the Asian borderlands, in particular the Sino-Korean borderland in the early modern and modern periods. His dissertation, “Provisions and Profits in a Wartime Borderland: Supply Lines and Society in the Border Region between China and Korea, 1592-1644,” examined the devastating effects of war mobilization on the society and farming cycle of the Sino-Korean borderland from the late sixteenth to the early seventeenth century. He is currently revising his dissertation for book publication and preparing a new project on the notion of resilience in the use of transport technologies in the Sino-Korean borderland of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
Jim E. HOARE
Jim E Hoare is an Associate Fellow of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House). He conducted a Research Associate at SOAS, where he obtained his PhD in Japanese history in 1971. He joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1969 and served in the British Embassies in Seoul and Beijing. In 2001-2002, he was the first British representative in Pyongyang, DPRK. Since retirement in 2003, he has been a teacher, writer and broadcaster.

Kim Seung-Hee

Her accolades include the Youngyang Shimmin’s New Writers’ Award (1973), Seoul Poetry Prize (1991), Kyo-Yong Hye Literature Award (2003), and Sogang University’s This Year’s Art Awards (2006). Collections of her poetry in English translation include I Want to Hijack an Airplane (Homa & Sekey, 2004) and Walking on a Washing Line (EAS Cornell University Press, 2011).

Jae Ho KANG
Jae Ho Kang is Senior Lecturer in Critical Media and Cultural Studies, SOAS. Kang has been working on the sports mega-events in East Asia with particular reference to the media spectacle and the formation of national identity.

Wonjung MIN
Wonjung Min is a professor in the Department of History and Executive Committee Member of the Asian Studies Centre of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. She holds a doctorate in Latin American literature and her research areas include intercultural communication between Korea and America, culture and hybridization in identity formation of Korea and Chile and popular culture.


Jae Ho KANG
Jae Ho Kang is Senior Lecturer in Critical Media and Cultural Studies, SOAS. Kang has been working on the sports mega-events in East Asia with particular reference to the media spectacle and the formation of national identity.

Youngsook PAK
Prof. Youngsook Pak is an Emeritus Reader at SOAS’ Department of Art and Archaeology. Following her PhD in History of Art from Heidelberg University, she has extensively on Korean Art and Art History in addition to teaching at SOAS, Yale, and the Graduate Centre of City University of New York.

Verity POSTLETHWAITE
Verity Postlethwaite is Teaching Fellow, CISD - is exploring how legacy and policy interacted during the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. Ongoing research more generally about governance and diplomacy of global sporting spectacles.

Simon ROFE
Simon RoFe is inaugural director of CISD’s Global Diplomacy Masters programme (Distance Learning). Currently, teaches on Sport and Diplomacy: “More than a Game”. Research interests lies in diplomacy of international sports.
Hazel Smith

Hazel Smith is a Profesional Research Associate in the Centre of Korean Studies at SOAS and Professor Emeritus of International Security at Cranfield University. Prof Smith received her PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics in 1993 and has held prestigious competitive fellowships at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2012/2013) and the East-West Center, Honolulu (2008 and 2015), among other institutions. She is regularly called on to advise governments, in the UK, the US and elsewhere, and is a frequent broadcaster for the global media on North Korea, where she lived and worked for United Nations humanitarian organisations for two years. Her publications include North Korea: Markets and Military Rule (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and Hungry for Peace: International Security, Humanitarian Assistance and Social Change in the DPRK (2020).

Speaker:

Maria Zemanek

Maria Zemanek teaches at the Charles University, Prague, in the Korean Studies Seminar of the Institute of East Asian Studies and in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. She studied Korean Studies at the Charles University, Buddhist Studies at Dongguk University and Religious Studies at Seoul National University and Charles University. Her research focuses on Korean Buddhism both contemporary and pre-modern and Korean religions in general, especially on religious rituals in contemporary Korea.

Sejong Institute

The Sejong Institute is a non-profit research institute that promotes Korean language and culture to the worldwide public. It was established in 2004 by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to promote and support Korean language learning and teaching programmes overseas as well as in Korea. Currently there are 135 institutes worldwide.

Since 2011 SOAS Language Centre has hosted London's King Sejong Institute. It supports its intermediate and advanced language courses.

LONDON ASIA PACIFIC CENTRE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE (LAPC)

The LAPC is an officially constituted centre of King's College London (KCL) and SOAS University of London.

Compared with most regional/country centres, the LAPC is distinctive in terms of both its regional expertise and thematic social science concentration. As such, it is designed to combine depth of empirical coverage while advancing key theoretical and practical knowledge on the region.

While the principal aim of the LAPC is the generation of high quality academic research, the nature of the core themes mean that the research findings will be of interest to governmental agencies, NGOs, business and the media. By raising the social science profile of both KCL and SOAS in the Asia-Pacific region, the LAPC would also facilitate their aims of attracting high quality students, institutional collaborations, and external funding.

www.soas.ac.uk/lapcs/

COLLABORATIVE EXTERNAL CENTRES

KING SEjong INSTITUTE LONDON AT SOAS

The King Sejong Institute (or ‘Sejong hakdag’in Korean) is an educational institute which teaches Korean language and culture to the worldwide public. It was established in 2004 by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to promote and support Korean language learning and teaching programmes overseas as well as in Korea. Currently there are 135 institutes worldwide.

Since 2011 SOAS Language Centre has hosted London’s King Sejong Institute. It supports its intermediate and advanced language courses.

www.soas.ac.uk/sejong/

SYMPОUSІМ

Colonialism and its Reverberations: ‘Comfort Women’ and Historical Revisionism in Korea and Japan.

A CKS symposium on controversies in modern Korean history was held on a Saturday afternoon, attracting an audience of around 100 people. Opportunity to hear three prominent scholars working in the field of East Asian historical memory and historiography. The symposium gave rise to a lively discussion on matters relating to scholarship on the so-called ‘comfort women’ and the recent issue of government-mandated textbooks in the Republic of Korea.

Professor Yongson Ahn of the University of Frankfurt presented a paper entitled “The Contested bodies of Korean comfort women”, looking at how the ‘comfort women’ (women forced into prostitution for the Japanese military) are remembered in contemporary South Korea. Her paper specifically focused on the difficult question of the relationship between women and men in postcolonial South Korea’s women’s bodies and sexuality had become the property of the masculinised nation. Meanwhile, Japanese neo-nationalists also constructed Korean comfort women within a patriarchal paradigm as ‘willing participants’ in the Japanese imperial project.

The paper presented by Professor Youngwan Chong of Meiji Gakuin University approached the same topic from a different angle, focusing on the recent controversy surrounding the work of the South Korean scholar Park Yuna and her book “The Comfort Women of Empire” (제국의 위안부) and the role of liberals in Japan in promoting a sort of revisionism on controversial historical topics. Her paper was entitled “Two types of revisionism: historical perceptions and the consciousness of Japan’s Military Sexual Slavery”.

Finally, Professor Vladimir Tikhonov of the University of Oslo presented a paper entitled “Old Right in New Clothes? The ‘New Right’ and the Quest for Ideological Hegemony in South Korea”. Professor Tikhonov carefully analysed the rise of the New Right tendency within South Korean academia and its attempt to introduce a new type of right-wing revisionist history to Korea. Although this tendency began with the criticism of national imperialism, from around 2006, it became increasingly focused on the falsification of modern capitalist civilization and argued vigorously for the importance of the Japanese colonial period in laying the foundations for South Korea’s later economic success. However, although the New Right achieved some short-lived success under the Park Geun-hye government in getting government-mandated history textbooks approved, it has been in decline and never achieved much success. In establishing its view of Korean history either in scholarly circles or in the wider arena of public opinion and historical memory, it has been in decline and never achieved much success, in establishing its view of Korean history either in scholarly circles or in the wider arena of public opinion and historical memory.

FILM SCREENING

British premiere of the documentary ‘The Longest Tomb’.

In May the Centre of Korean Studies played host to the UK premiere of an important new documentary on one of the bloodiest episodes in modern Korean history; the Daejeon Massacre of summer 1950, in which the South Korean government killed thousands of suspected leftists at the start of the Korean War. The ‘Longest Tomb’ produced by Knowledge is Power and ‘The Education Centre for Peace and Reconciliation’, is the first ever documentary on the controversial subject of the mass killings near Daejeon. The film was presented with English subtitles and included an introduction from the production team. The screening was followed by testimonies from two of the witnesses appearing in the film; Ms Jeon and Mr Lee, who travelled from South Korea to tell their stories. There were readings from Ms Jeon’s recent book of poetry on the massacre and a question and answer session. The event was a powerful and moving chance to learn about one of the most painful episodes in Korea’s history, and a very rare opportunity to hear from those who were actually affected, as children of massacre victims. Mr Lee, who spoke at the screening, was recently featured on the BBC World Service programme Witness: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cxo64y

Knowledge is Power is an internet podcast that covers local politics in the Daejeon area. Set up by Mr Chinho Jung in 2017, it is a non-profit organization that aims to provide a space for the empowerment of Daejeon citizens.

The Education Center for Peace and Unification is a cultural centre in Daejeon promoting peace and reconciliation. Mr. Jaejeun Im, an instructor, is the film’s narrator.
CONCERT
SOAS Korean Music Societies Annual Concert
9 June 2018

This academic year was again brimming with Korean traditional music activities at SOAS. Beginning with the Korean Drumming Society under the initiative of Professor Emeritus Keith Howard more than a decade ago, Korean traditional music at SOAS has now multiplied into five different societies, each of which focuses on another area: SOAS now hosts societies for Korean drumming (among which we have the widely known Samulnori), singing (Pansori and Minyo), wind instruments, Gayageum (a zither-like string instrument) and traditional dance. Not only does this wide array of available Korean performing art forms promote the cultivation, study and awareness of Korean culture at SOAS, but also, it allows students to gain precious and colourful experience to support their own learning, and enrich the unique knowledge that can be acquired here. Once a year, students from the different societies give a performance that they have developed over the year. This year’s concert was especially well-received, exciting furious participation and applause from the audience, and closing off the evening with a second half where audience members could play traditional Korean games, or try out some of the instruments themselves.

WELCOME TO SOAS LIBRARY

LIBRARIAN’S REPORT

SOAS Library is one of the world’s most important academic libraries for the study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, which attracts scholars from all over the world to conduct research. The Library houses over 1.2 million volumes at the SOAS campus at Russell Square in central London, together with significant archival holdings, special collections and a growing network of electronic resources.

The Library holds some 80,000 items for Korean studies including publications from North Korea and over 500 audio-visual materials for teaching and research in Korean studies. The SOAS online catalogue is available at http://lib.soas.ac.uk/. The SOAS Digital Collection has been growing in recent years. Images for Korean studies are available in the Collection. The Library purchased an archival database, The Korea Times (1956-2016) in 2017. It also subscribes to major research databases including Korean language databases with financial support from the Korea Foundation (US$4,500 in 2018). New subscriptions to Kyobo Scholar and Koreascholar began in 2017. The details are available at the Library’s databases list. External members are welcome to use these databases in the Library.

The Library has received more reading lists this academic year in comparison to previous years. The lists are helpful in identifying the needs for additional copies and e-books. The Library aims to replace paper copies with e-books for core reading titles.

The Library has received resources for Korean studies from various institutions in Korea including the Academy of Korean Studies, Dongguk University, the Institute for the Translation of Korean Classics, Korea Foundation, Korean Film Archive, Korean Publishers Association, Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies, Literature Translation Institute of Korea, National Assembly Library of Korea, National Institute of Korean History, National Library of Korea, National Museum of Korea, Northeast Asian History Foundation, and Suwon Museum.

www.soas.ac.uk/library/subjects/jap-kor/

Jiyeon Wood (Jiyeon Wood (Subject Librarian for Arts and Multi-Media)) attended the 2017 Overseas Korean Studies Librarian Workshop held at the National Library of Korea (15-21 October).

Fujiko Kobayashi (Subject Librarian for Japan and Korea) attended:
• the UK Korea Library Group meeting at the British Library (8 November).
• a workshop, “Building a Network of European Korean Studies Librarians / Korean Resource Specialists” at Freie University Berlin in cooperation with The Korea Foundation (May 3-4).
• the 2017 Korean Studies Librarian Workshop held at the National Library of Korea (15-21 October).

www.soas.ac.uk/library/subjects/jap-kor/

Staff activities

www.soas.ac.uk/library/subjects/jap-kor/

EVENT REPORTS: MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS
BURSARY RECIPIENTS: IMPACT OF FUNDING

Chris DEACON
MA Korean Studies and Intensive Language (Korean)
Contrasting the South Korean and Japanese government's approaches and policies towards North Korea regarding the 'abduction issue' (working title)

The CKS Bursary has covered the first year of Chris’s two-year master’s degree in Korean Studies and intensive Korean language at SOAS.

Chris intends to specialise in modern and contemporary relations between South Korea, North Korea and Japan, particularly with regard to how such relations interact with the societies of these countries. With an existing background in Japanese Studies, Chris has undertaken this degree in order to obtain in-depth specialization in the Koreas, as well as ability in the Korean language, so as to assist with research in this area.

In his first year, Chris has concentrated his study on the modern and contemporary history of the Korean peninsula, pre- and post-division, as well as Korean language. As part of the course, he has also spent ten weeks during the summer studying Korean at Korea University in Seoul.

Further language study in the second year of the course will allow him to use Korean language texts in his dissertation research and, hopefully, in future doctoral research.

In his second year, Chris intends to concentrate on regional relations and politics. His dissertation will focus on the North Korea abduction issue and seeks to contrast South Korea and Japan’s approaches to this issue. While Japan, particularly under Abe Shinzo, has given this issue paramount importance in its regional policy, South Korea has tended to raise the issue only quietly, if at all.

Without the CKS Bursary, it would have been unlikely that Chris would have been able to undertake this degree, so he is very grateful indeed to have received it. It has also meant having more time to focus on his studies. Chris is also very grateful that the second year of the course will be supported by a generous Graduate Fellowship from the Korea Foundation.

Yasmin Elisah Michael
MA Korean Studies
From Annihilation to Demilitarisation: Spatial Theory and Korean Literature between 1910 and 1951

Yasmin’s main topic and interest of her dissertation is to try and identify a trajectory between the act of physically mapping locations, spaces and their boundaries and spaces of the mind through a discussion of Korean literature and spatial and post-structuralist theory. Through the lens of literature the dissertation will look at several shifts within Korean history in which both the geography of Korea and perceptions of self identity were challenged or altered. After being accepted to study abroad for a year in Seoul during her Bachelor’s degree, Yasmin began to develop a strong academic interest in Korean literature and media which then motivated her to apply for a postgraduate degree in Korean Studies. Yasmin previously studied English Literature for her undergraduate degree and developed an interest in language and its links to our identities and perceptions of others. This interest has only increased during her Masters while she has been encouraged to look more at the cultural and personal factors involved in the presentation of one’s identity through a text and the socio-political space that Korea occupies.

Thanks to the CKS bursary she has been able to take a step further her career making her Master’s degree possible. She hopes to continue her studies further within the discipline and next embark on a PhD using knowledge and research gained from her MA in Korean studies at the foundation. Yasmin is highly grateful to CKS for the opportunity to continue her education and research in an area that she is very passionate about.

CLNL MK OF KOREAN STUDIES (CKS) BURSARIES

The Korean Studies Fund (KSF) will fund a number of CKS bursaries for students undertaking a full-time postgraduate Korean Studies programme.

The value of each bursary is up to £6,000 for students classified as Overseas for fee purposes and up to £5,000 for students classified as Home/EU for fee purposes.

For more information and to download an application form, please visit the SOAS Scholarship Office:
www.soas.ac.uk/registry/scholarships/also postgraduate-bursary.html

SOCHON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Sochon Foundation has generously provided SOAS with scholarships for students undertaking full-time postgraduate programmes in Korean Studies. The Sochon Foundation scholarship, valued at £7500 in total is for tuition fees with the remainder, if any, for living costs.

For more information visit the SOAS Scholarship Office:
www.soas.ac.uk/registry/scholarships/sochon-foundation-scholarship.html

So Yoon RYU
MA Contemporary Art and Art Theory of Asia and Africa
Looking in the Mirror of Theory: Reading Bahc Yiso’s Art Through His Theoretical Writings on Postmodernism (working title)

So Yoon’s dissertation looks at South Korean artist Bahc Yiso (1957-2004), particularly a body of his conceptual artworks and written works produced during his residence in New York from 1982 to 1993. The dissertation aims to provide a dual yet integrated lens to look at the artist; by considering him as both an artist and a theorist of postmodernism. It first discusses two published articles by Bahc and their contributions in localising (and transcending) the Euro-American discourse of postmodernism in the 80-90s South Korea. Then, by using these theories as a guide to read his artworks, it further examines how Bahc’s art becomes a mirror of his texts but simultaneously seeks to evade their theoreticism, by voiding the artworks reference points from the formal realm and thus making the works abstract in their form and plastic in their meanings.

So Yoon came to SOAS to study modern and contemporary art in non-Western context, while developing her area interests in East and Southeast Asia. Studying art history in this institution, whose own dedication lies in comparing North and South Korea’s strategies of political and economic development at that time, their relations with their main allies – the USSR in case of the DPRK, and the USA in case of the Republic of Korea, and the effects that the state policies had on the everyday lives of the people. It is expected to reveal how the differences and similarities in the external and domestic situations of the two Koreas influenced the choices made by the leaders. To achieve those goals, the project uses a variety of primary sources, among them the declassified documents from the former Soviet archives in Moscow, and South Korean archives in Seoul; the publications and speeches of the North and South Korean leaders; and the periodicals from the two Koreas.

Natalia MATVEEVA
MPhil/PhD Japan and Korea
Building a New World: North and South Korean economic and political development in the late 1950s-early 1960s in the context of the Cold War in East Asia

Natalia is doing a PhD in Modern Korean History. Her research looks at the period of the late 1950s-early 1960s in North and South Korea, the time when some of the most important choices in economic and political spheres were being made. Combining political and economic analysis and social history, this project aims to compare North and South Korea’s strategies of political and economic development at that time, their relations with their main allies – the USSR in case of the DPRK, and the USA in case of the Republic of Korea, and the effects that the state policies had on the everyday lives of the people. It is expected to reveal how the differences and similarities in the external and domestic situations of the two Koreas influenced the choices made by the leaders. To achieve those goals, the project uses a variety of primary sources, among them the declassified documents from the former Soviet archives in Moscow, and South Korean archives in Seoul; the publications and speeches of the North and South Korean leaders; and the periodicals from the two Koreas.

Natalia is most grateful to the Centre of Korean Studies for its generous support, without which she could not have afforded to undertake research. She hopes that her project, made possible by the CKS Bursary, will contribute to better understanding of the period of Cold War in East Asia and in Korean History.
HONORARY APPOINTMENTS LISTING

PROFESSORIAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Professor Martina DEUCHLER
Research: Social and intellectual history of pre-modern Korea
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Professor Keith D HOWARD
Research: Social and intellectual history of North Korea
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Professor Hazel SMITH
Research: State, society, economy and international politics of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
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RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Dr James HOARE
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Dr Miseon KIM
Research: Sociolinguistics; immigrant language; language use in Korean communities in Japan
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Dr Hyunseon LEE
Research: Literature and media studies
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POST DOC RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Dr Hyelim KIM
SOAS, University of London
Research: Re-contextualising the Korean Taegum and its music: past, present and future
Date of appointment: May 2014 - October 2018
hk12@soas.ac.uk

Dr Hyunseon LEE
Research: Re-contextualising the Korean Taegum and its music: past, present and future
Date of appointment: May 2014 - October 2018
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VISITING SCHOLARS

Professor Young-hwan CHONG
Meiji Gakuin University
Research: Creation of the “Third World” and the Korean Peninsula in the post-WWI (1918-1933)
Date of Appointment: June 2017 - March 2018

Dr Ahsoon SEOH
Seoul Metropolitan Government
Research: Korean modern housing design related with architecture and urban regulation
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Mija KANG
Research: Improvement of productivity of public companies
Date of Appointment: June 2017 - September 2018

Dr Eunhee KIM
Architecture and Urban Research Institute
Research: Policies and Systems on Building safety and Remodelling
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Professor Kilim NAM
Kyungpook National University
Research: Searching the soul the soul of Language through the Lens of Corpus Linguistics: The Construction of a Korean Emotion Vocabulary DB
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Dr Sangho PARK
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Dates of Appointment: January 2018 - December 2018
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Dr Myunghye YANG
Chung-ang University
Research: Korean Linguistics, Korean Language Teaching.
Date of Appointment: March 2018 - February 2019
my8@soas.ac.uk

HONORARY APPOINTMENTS: RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Martina DEUCHLER
Professorial Research Associate
Martina was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Zurich on 28 April 2018.

Professor Hazel SMITH
Professorial Research Associate
In 2017 Hazel was awarded the prestigious international teaching accolade in the Humanities for her 2015 book North Korea: Markets and Military Rule (Cambridge University Press). By the International Convention of Asian Scholars. In 2017 this book was translated into Korean and published in Seoul by Changbi publishers.

Professor Smith examined a number of PhD theses including Korean and published in Seoul by Changbi publishers. In 2017 this book was translated into Korean and published in Seoul by Changbi publishers.

My conference contributions/lectures are:

- 7th Korean Screen Culture Conference 2018 (KSCC), 15th November 2017
- "Between the Exotic and the Global: South-Korean Auteur Cinema in Europe", 1st Research Seminar, Centre for Media and Film Studies, SOAS, University of London, 15th November 2017
- "Between the Exotic and the Global: South-Korean Auteur Cinema in Europe", 7th Korean Screen Culture Conference 2018 (KSCC), University of Helsinki/Finnland, 24-25th May 2018

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS


Dr Hyunseon LEE
Research Associate
Hyunseon has been awarded Competitive Research Funding 2017/18 from the Academy of Korean Studies with her Research Project “Korean Film Festivals: Global Transcultural Flows” (Principal Investigator: Hyunseon Lee), and within this project she participated in the 74th Venice International Film Festival in September 2017 and the 71st Festival de Cannes in May 2018.

My conference contributions/lectures are:

- Hyunseon Lee: Shamanism in Korean Cinema. 1970’s film adaptations of Kim Dong-yi’s Munyeodo (1915), 1936) and the female shamans in visual culture, Seminario de literatura coreana. Chamanismo en la literatura coreana,, Universidad de Malaga, Spain. 2-3 November 2017
- Between the Exotic and the Global: South-Korean Auteur Cinema in Europe, 1st Research Seminar, Centre for Media and Film Studies, SOAS, University of London, 15th November 2017
- Between the Exotic and the Global: South-Korean Auteur Cinema in Europe, 7th Korean Screen Culture Conference 2018 (KSCC), University of Helsinki/Finnland, 24-25th May 2018

Dr James HOARE
Research Associate
- Various talks and seminars all about North Korea. They include, Chichester Literary Festival, Pembroke College Cambridge, USA Cambridge, Cambridge Union debate, Asia Scotland Institute, Guardian debates, UK UNA 5 and SE England AGM, London CND, Leeds University East Asia Society, Kings College London; Ruslip High School 6th Form (2001); RICS, Chatham House.
- Background briefing for many newspapers and magazines, plus print items in the Daily Mirror and Metro.
CONNECT WITH THE CKS

The SOAS Centre of Korean Studies is the forum for Korean-related activities at SOAS University of London.

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We produce, on a fortnightly basis during term time, a News and Updates eBulletin which provides information about the activities of the SOAS Centre of Korean Studies.

The eBulletin highlights the latest events, funding and knowledge being shared and other topical opportunities that we think will be of interest to you.

www.soas.ac.uk/koreanstudies/news/cks-bulletin/

A YEAR AT THE CKS

From left: Diane Dooley, Grace Koh, CKS seminar speaker Kim Seung-Hee and Seoung Yun Lee in December 2017

Paektusan mountains on the China–North Korea border

Jaehoon Yeon meeting current and former SOAS students in Seoul, June 2018

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