

# HARVARD UNIVERSITY KOREA INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013



## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

40<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

REISCHAUER INSTITUTE  
OF JAPANESE STUDIES  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

### Congratulations to the Reischauer Institute

The Korea Institute extends warm congratulations to the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University on the celebration of their 40th anniversary! Best wishes for a successful year to the center and its affiliates.

Thinking of the sizzling and humid summer 2012 in Korea in the middle of a New England cold spell is heartwarming. As my thoughts are filled with memories of the extraordinary rediscovery of Korea's past and present during my field and research trips to South Chōlla Province and North Korea, I feel privileged to have had such an opportunity to experience both South and North Korea in one summer. The field trip in South Korea with graduate and undergraduate students, and with several professors from Harvard and other institutions, included sites of both prehistoric and almost entire historic periods of Korea. We stopped at places representing various cultural traditions including Buddhism and Confucianism, saw a variety of material objects such as architecture, statues, paintings, and pagodas, and studied historical sources such as books, personal papers, and inscriptions. Witnessing geographical features, meeting people, and immersing ourselves in the lifestyles of temple and traditional homes in the countryside gave participants the opportunity to get much closer to Korean history and culture. For more details and photos, you are welcome to visit: <http://isites.harvard.edu/K64659>.

This was followed by an eye-opening, week-long academic tour of North Korea, my first visit to the DPRK. In addition to usual tourist designations such as Pyongyang and Kaesōng, the group visited cities such as Wōnsan and Hamhūng in the east coast. As a historian of Korea, and particularly because my research concerns the northern region during the Chosōn dynasty, I truly appreciated the opportunity to visit historical sites such as the Taedong Gate, Yōn'gwang Pavilion, Ŭlmil-dae, Kija and Tan'gun shrines, and Pyongyang defense walls in Pyongyang, and Royal Confucian Academy and Sōnjuk Bridge in Kaesōng, the ancestral home of Yi Sōnggye in Hamhūng, and the Anak Tomb. In particular, an unexpected encounter with the main provincial administration building called Sōnhwa-dang in Hamhūng, probably the only such extant Chosōn-era building in

*continued on page 2*

## IN THIS ISSUE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL	4
STUDENT SUMMER EXPERIENCES	7
AFFILIATES	12
NEW PUBLICATIONS	15

## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Korea, was one of the highlights of the tour. Most critically, though, I affirmed that the popular understanding of Korean history in the north was quite different from the south, and the conceptual gap between the two countries may become a lot more difficult to reconcile as more time passes.

After an extremely busy academic year in 2011–2012 and an even busier summer 2012, the Korea Institute seemed headed for a comparatively quiet fall semester. But, there is never a dull moment at the Institute. In addition to our regular programs, the Korea Institute organized an inspiring panel discussion on South Korea's Presidential Election, which was held the day after the election on December 20, 2012. A record attendance audience paid keen attention to experts' views on Korea's future under the leadership of President-elect Park Geun-hye and Korea's relationship with China, Japan, and U.S. Earlier in fall 2012, the Institute organized an art exhibit "Retrospective of Exhibition Posters from the National Museum of Korea, 1979 – 2011" curated by Professor Insoo Cho, a former visiting scholar at the Institute, with continued support and co-sponsorship by the National Museum of Korea.

There are two new achievements that I am very proud to announce. Dr. Dong-Won Kim, a scholar of the history of science and philanthropist, pledged to support a post-doctoral fellowship at the Korea Institute for three years. The Soon Young Kim Post-doctoral Fellowship in 20th Century Korea is named in honor of Dr. Kim's mother. Dr. Kim wishes this fellowship to advance new scholarly horizons in Korean Studies by promoting the study of 20th Century Korea with innovative teaching on original topics. In addition, he hopes that this donation serves as a seed funding for larger donations at the Institute by other generous supporters of the Institute. I am truly thankful for the insight and generosity of Dr. Kim, and expect this new post-doctoral fellow at the Institute (in addition to the continuing Korea Foundation post-doctoral fellowship) will further enrich Institute programs and enhance the Institute's presence at Harvard and its contribution to the field of Korean Studies.

I am also happy to announce the second appointment of the Kim Koo Visiting Professor, a position established by the Kim Koo Foundation in 2004. We enthusiastically welcome Y. David Chung, Professor at the School of Art and Design and Core Faculty at the Center for Korean Studies, University of Michigan, to Harvard's Department of Visual and Environmental Studies. Prof. Chung will teach a course titled *Korea Reborn: Postwar Korea As Seen Through Film* (VES-188c), Spring 2013. We are grateful that Prof. Chung, an acclaimed artist of a variety of visual media, agreed to spend a semester at Harvard to offer this course on Korean film, one of the key elements

of the phenomena called the "Korean Wave," for which student interest has been ever growing. I am equally thankful to many at the University for supporting this appointment, and for the tremendous collaborative work over the course of a year between the Institute, the hosting department (VES), and the deans' offices.

The Korea Institute is a "small" research center with limited resources at Harvard, yet we strive to meet ever-increasing programmatic demands and offer the highest quality programs in fulfillment of our academic mission. For every step of the way—whether flagship programs such as Korea Colloquium and Kim Koo Forum on Korea Current Affairs, lectures such as the SBS Distinguished Lecture and Wagner Special Lecture, timely events like the South Korea Presidential Election panel, or various programs for students of Korean Studies and faculty research projects—there is great teamwork and synergy among faculty, students, visitors, staff, and generous donors at the Institute that makes everything happen in a way that successfully and meaningfully contributes to the development of Korean Studies, to enhance Korea's presence at Harvard and vice versa. As the newly fallen snow transforms our campus, and students return rested and rejuvenated from winter break, I am looking forward to an exciting spring semester and summer yet ahead, filled with excellent programs and research projects for the advancement of Korean Studies, here in Cambridge and beyond.

Sun Joo Kim

*Harvard-Yenching Professor of Korean History*

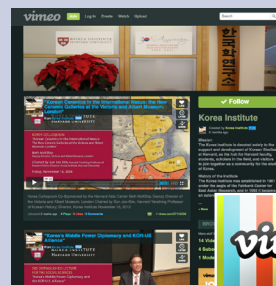
*Director, Korea Institute*

## KOREA INSTITUTE ON VIMEO & FACEBOOK



The Korea Institute is now on Facebook! Log in and "like" our page to connect with the KI and receive event updates.

[www.facebook.com/ki.harvard](http://www.facebook.com/ki.harvard)



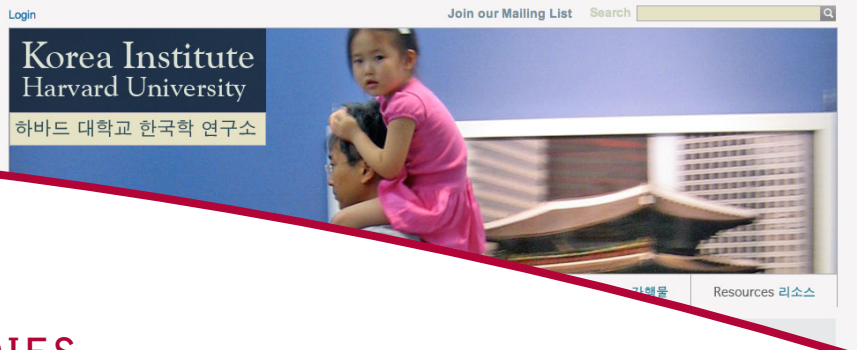
Check out the Korea Institute's Vimeo channel for videos of past events!

<http://vimeo.com/channels/koreainstitute>



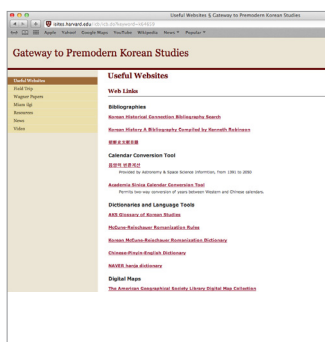
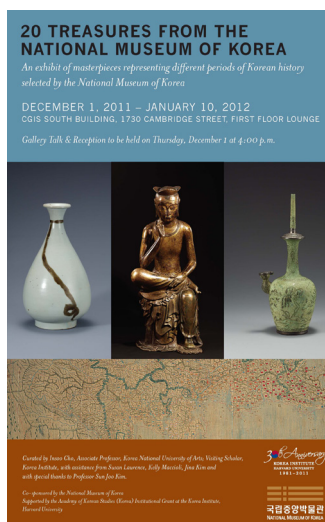
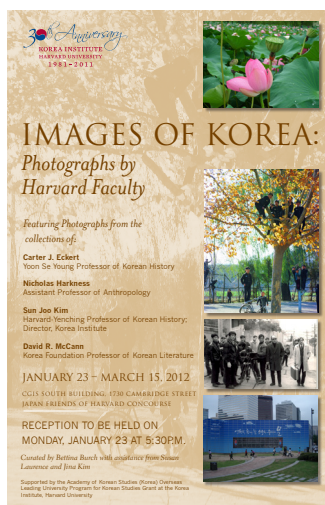


## ACADEMY OF KOREAN STUDIES Five-Year Grant Program at the Korea Institute Concludes



It seems like only yesterday that the Korea Institute was selected as a 2007 awardee of a five-year Korean Studies Institutional Grant (KSIG) from the Academy of Korean Studies, joining a number of universities outside of Korea receiving funding to enhance and grow Korean Studies centers and institutes abroad. A few years later, the grant became known as the Overseas Leading University Program for Korean Studies (OLUPKS) Grant.

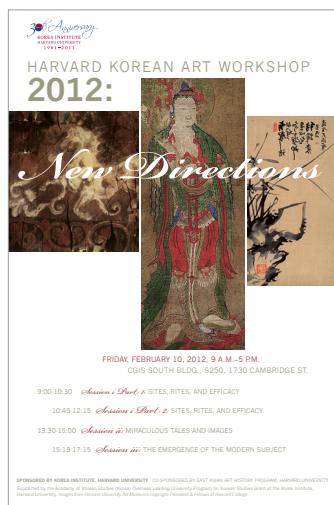
With the support of the Grant, our objective was set forth to broadly support Korea Institute activities in fulfillment of its mission, which is to promote the study of Korea and bring together faculty, students, distinguished scholars, and visitors to create a leading Korean Studies community at Harvard University. Sustained multi-year support of the Harvard Korea Institute provided an invaluable opportunity to strengthen existing programs, incorporate new programs, and to interact with the Korea Studies community beyond Harvard. Several years of consistent activities and core interactions resulted in a stron-



ger, more stable Korean Studies program at Harvard University with increased visibility, including 1) the enrichment of our international exchange programs, 2) the creation of two websites, 3) providing support for junior scholars 4) the establishment of vibrant Korean film activities, 5) acquisitions for permanent library collections, 6) expansion and improvement of student study and work abroad programs and 7) stabilizing staff infrastructure so that activities are successfully managed.

The Grant at the Korea Institute concluded in Fall 2012. As we look back over the past five years of sustained support, as we recount the remarkable range of activities and intense growth that was made possible by the Grant, and as we look forward to the future, it is with hope and gratitude that we see a continuation of the remarkable trajectory set out five years ago, now resting on a foundation made possible with the partnership, support and vision of the Academy of Korean Studies. To all who supported this shared vision, to those who participated in Grant programs and contributed to the success

of our activities, and especially to those whose hard work and dedicated efforts made our shared vision possible, we express our very deepest thanks.



## HIGHLIGHT OF FALL 2012 EVENTS:

### The Republic of Korea Presidential Election Panel Discussion

By AVRAM AGOV

*Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, Korea Institute*



The panel discussion was a very timely event, held the day after the presidential election in South Korea. The panel gathered scholars who offered their insights from different perspectives on the Korean politics in domestic and international contexts. Thus, diverse angles of analysis and various viewpoints were a main advantage of the discussion.

Jina Kim, Korea Institute

events manager, had prepared a slideshow, covering important events from President-elect Park Geun-hye's family history, preparing the audience for the upcoming discussion.

Carter Eckert, Yoon SeYoung Professor of Korean History, Harvard University, moderator of the panel, opened the discussion with a talk focused on elections from Korean historical perspective, covering themes of Park Chung Hee's legacy (creating a division in society based on positive and negative attitudes toward his rule even today) and the role of President-elect Park Geun-hye in the Korean politics. The election of the first female as president of South Korea is significant not only domestically, as the country stands 108th in gender equality measurement by the Davos World Economic Forum, but also regionally, as she is the first female head of state in the current "Confucian world," broadly defined as the area including China, the two Koreas, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Singapore, which constitutes almost a quarter of the world's population.

Sung-Yoon Lee, Kim Koo-Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of Korean Studies, Tufts University, focused his talk on the political

and social dynamics behind the presidential elections in the context of record-high voting during the elections (75% of eligible voters cast their ballots). The demographics of an aging South Korean population (the majority is over 50 years of age) and voting patterns (90% of those over 50 turned out to vote and they are usually more conservative) helped Park's victory. The speaker also outlined the President-elect's policy agenda, including "economic democratization," which is combating inequality, actively supporting small and medium businesses, and putting the practices of chaebol under stricter scrutiny by the state. He also expressed his concern that North Korea may stage a provocation in upcoming months to test the new leadership in South Korea, given the DPRK's history and its policy toward the South.

Kathleen Stephens, Senior Associate, Georgetown University; Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, commented on the election of the first female president of South Korea and U.S.-ROK relations. The speaker drew on her rich experience in South Korea, first as a Peace Corp volunteer and then as a U.S. diplomat and ambassador. She expressed a generally optimistic view on the prospects of South Korea's domestic and international politics. There is an understanding in Washington that although there are many other factors, ultimately the Korean people will decide the future of the Korean peninsula.

Andrew Gordon, Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History, Harvard University, offered his view of the elections outcome from the perspective of the Japan's international politics and Japanese-ROK relations. He found similarities in the elections of the two countries, as both governments are facing similar problems: aging population, high suicide rates, economic inequality in the form of advantage to a few companies, etc. The election of Shinzo Abe from the Liberal Democratic Party marked a return to a conservative government, but the speaker also noted that in social and cultural terms Abe tends to be more liberal, while on economics he is close to President Obama's policies. At least in words, Prime Minister Abe is expected to seek a break on controversial historical issues and the territorial dispute with South Korea over Tokto (Takeshima) island. Still, the speaker does not consider the Japanese-South Korean territorial dispute as dangerous as the one between China and Japan over Senkaku (Diaoyu) islands.

William Overholt, Senior Research Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School, discussed the state and prospects of relations between China and the two Koreas. He stated that if South Korea changed course on North Korea, the United States would follow its ally in its policy toward



the DPRK. A Grand Bargain (massive aid plus resolution of nuclear problem) is needed to overcome North Korea's isolation and put the country on a reform course. Such a multinational agreement would solve simultaneously the problem of North Korea as a "failed state" (in economic terms) and the nuclear issue.

The panel held an extremely valuable discussion at a time when countries in the East Asian region have undergone leadership changes in the last year: North Korea, Taiwan, China, Japan, and South Korea. The panel participants agreed that these changes may trigger new dynamics in the region, although policies and international relations from the past will persist as well. Cautious optimism dominated discussion on the election of Park Geun-hye, who may strive to reach reconciliation between the Right and the Left at home and pursue a more pragmatic and active policy toward the North than her predecessor Lee Myung-bak.

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*"The Republic of Korea Presidential Election Panel Discussion" was held on December 20, 2012. The event was supported by the Kim Koo Foundation, and co-sponsored by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University Asia Center, and Weatherhead Center Program for U.S.-Japan Relations. This event can be viewed on the Korea Institute Vimeo channel: <http://vimeo.com/channels/koreainstitute>.*

## HIGHLIGHT OF FALL 2012 EVENTS:

### Retrospective of Exhibition Posters from the National Museum of Korea, 1979-2011

Korea Institute Harvard University

#### Retrospective of Exhibition Posters from the National Museum of Korea, 1979 - 2011

September 5 - November 5, 2012  
First Floor Lounge, CGIS South Building, 1730 Cambridge Street

Curated by Insoo Cho, Associate Professor, Korea National University of Arts, with assistance from Susan Laurence, Kelly Maccioli, Jina Kim and special thanks to Professor Sun Joo Kim.

Co-sponsored by the National Museum of Korea  
Supported by the Young Chul Min Memorial Fund at the Korea Institute, Harvard University



In Fall 2012, the Korea Institute hosted an exhibit of posters from the National Museum of Korea. They are a collection of posters of various exhibitions held at the National Museum of Korea between the years 1979 to 2011. The posters were displayed in the First Floor Gallery of the CGIS South Building, from September 5 to November 5, 2012. This exhibit was curated by Insoo Cho, Associate Professor of Korea National University of Arts, co-sponsored by the National Museum of Korea, and supported by the Young-Chul Min Memorial Fund of the Korea Institute, Harvard University.

## 9TH ANNUAL HARVARD COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Korea Institute congratulates the winners of the 9th Annual Harvard College International Photo Contest, for undergraduates who have studied, worked, interned, or done research abroad.



The Korea Institute Winner is **Sarah Berlow, '13**, for her photograph titled "On the Road Up." Sarah participated in the Korea Institute internship program last summer.



The Korea Institute Honorable Mention Winner went to **Margaret Emi Nietfeld, '15**, for her photograph titled "Woman on the Pyongyang Metro, North Korea." Emi participated in the Korea Institute internship program last summer, followed by an independent travel to the DPRK.

## SOON YOUNG KIM POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN 20TH CENTURY KOREA

The Korea Institute is pleased to announce an exciting new postdoctoral fellowship opportunity made possible by the thoughtfulness and generosity of Dr. Dong-Won Kim, a scholar of the history of science and philanthropist. The Soon Young Kim Post-doctoral Fellowship in 20th Century Korea, named in honor of Dr. Kim's mother, is intended to advance new scholarly horizons in Korean Studies by promoting the study of 20th Century Korea with innovative teaching on original topics over the next three years. The first appointment of a Soon Young Kim postdoctoral fellow will be made in AY 2013-14.

For more information, please visit the Korea Institute website: <http://korea.fas.harvard.edu/news/new-soon-young-kim-post-doctoral-fellowship-20th-century-korea-korea-institute-harvard-universi>

## APPOINTMENT OF KIM KOO VISITING PROFESSOR: Y. David Chung, Professor, Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design, University of Michigan



We are pleased to announce that Y. David Chung, Professor, School of Art and Design and Core Faculty, Center for Korean Studies, University of Michigan, will come to Harvard as Kim Koo Visiting Professor in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies where he will teach a seminar course titled *Korea Reborn: Postwar Korea As Seen Through Film* (VES-188c), Spring 2013.

Born in Bonn, Germany, and educated in the United States, Y. David Chung is an acclaimed visual artist and filmmaker known for his films, multi-media installations, drawings, prints, and public artworks.

Prof. Chung's documentary film, *Koryo Saram*, co-directed with Matt Dibble, won the Best Documentary Award from the National Film Board of Canada. He has been commissioned to design permanent artwork for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority and the New York City Public Art Program. His work has been exhibited at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Asia Society, Walker Arts Center, Wadsworth Atheneum, Gwangju Biennale, Tretyakov Gallery of Art (Moscow), and in a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, to name a few.

Prof. Chung's work is currently on view at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History's Korea Gallery. He has been commissioned to design and install permanent artwork for the Rosslyn Metro Station, VA and the New York City Public Art Program.

Prof. Chung has been the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Individual Fellowship in New Genres, the Washington Mayor's Art Award, the Lila Wallace Readers Digest Fund-Artist at Giverny Fellowship, two Artslink Collaborative Projects Fellowships (Kazakhstan), the Rosebud Best of Show Film and Video Award (with Matt Dibble), and the Michigan Faculty Fellowship at the Institute for the Humanities.

This coming summer, Prof. Chung will have co-instructed the Harvard Summer School-Korea program's course on film and film-making in Korea with Harvard faculty for three years.

The Kim Koo Visiting Professorship at Harvard University was established by a generous gift from Dr. Ho Youn Kim and Mrs. Mee Kim of the Kim Koo Foundation, in honor of the memory of Kim Koo, the famous Korean patriot and president of the exiled Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea during Korea's colonial occupation by Japan. The Korea Institute Executive Committee, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, works to identify appropriate departments for possible Kim Koo Visiting Professorship appointments where an academic and teaching interest is expressed.

### Kim Koo Visiting Professors at Harvard University

**Chong Wook Chung**, Department of Government (Spring 2011)

**Y. David Chung**, Department of Visual and Environmental Studies (Spring 2013)



## CHECK THE KOREA INSTITUTE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS



For more information on Korea Institute events, please visit the official website at <http://korea.fas.harvard.edu>.



## HARVARD SUMMER SCHOOL IN KOREA

Janin Alfonso, '15



I applied to the Harvard Summer School in Korea and add-on internship with unnaturally high expectations. After studying Korean for two semesters, and enjoying Korean music and television many years prior, I was ready to encounter all I loved and thought I knew. However, soon my expectations were forgotten. I realized that no benchmark could measure up

to the intellectual rewards, friendships and enjoyment I extracted from this trip abroad.

I arrived at Ewha Womans University on June 24 and immediately began a course in filmmaking taught by Professors David Chung, Haden Guest, and David McCann with film technical advisor Bertrand Laurence. I applied to the summer school partially because I sought a different lens through which I could understand culture and societies. Documentary filmmaking provided a unique opportunity to interact with individuals who played key roles in their communities. My group, composed of a Harvard classmate and two Korean Ewha students, sought to explore Korea's modern religious landscape. In school, I might have approached such a project by consulting ethnographic accounts, but in Korea I was able to interview people who actively shaped and took part in religious practice. I was jittery with shock and joy when we got to talk to a Korean shaman. She shared with our group her journey into the shamanistic profession, and confided in us her worries, expectations and beliefs. This experience was only made more surreal by the fact that months back, I was reading about Korean shamans, enthralled by someone else's account of shamanic practices, unsuspecting of how much I would learn from my own encounter.

Beyond filmmaking, I was also lucky enough to learn Korean language in a country where opportunities to use it and perfect it were endless. I took Korean 120s at Ewha and benefitted from the help of an Ewhain language buddy. My skills improved not only due to extensive practice, but also due to greatly increased motivation. After

interviewing deeply interesting individuals, and interacting with Korean natives in and around Ewha, I realized how badly I wanted and needed to fully communicate with those people. I established close bonds with Ewha students despite language barriers, and enjoyed my broken interactions with Sinchon natives immensely. Studying Korean became more than a hobby or luxury-- it transformed into a practical goal that I knew would open doors to new friendships and interpersonal learning experiences. Not only this, as an aspiring anthropologist I realized how much closer direct interaction could bring me to understanding my subjects.

After my filmmaking and Korean language courses finished, I was lucky enough to stay for an additional two weeks working for a Korean company. I interned at Ewha's International Summer College where I enjoyed being a member of a tight-knit, efficient and enthusiastic group. I was surprised that as a foreigner I could contribute something of worth to a Korean organization.

This motivated me to consider international employment in a near future. Further, the internship nurtured my language and culture curiosities. In the mornings, I practiced my Korean with co-workers both formally and informally. During the afternoon, my generous supervisor urged me to attend daily lectures on Korean economy, pop culture, and language, well aware that like the students we served I was also in the midst of a learning experience.

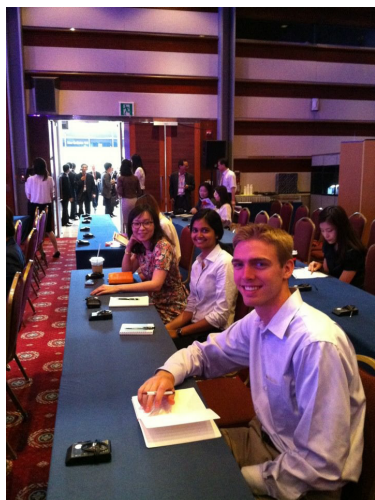
I thank Harvard Summer School and the Korea Institute for allowing me the chance of a lifetime. This experience has broadened the scope of my interests, cemented my passion for Korean culture and given me the confidence to follow my intellectual curiosities, wherever they may lead. I plan to return to Korea for a semester to continue my study of the language and culture, and I hope to apply for a full internship next summer so that I may continue to grow personally and academically.





## INTERNSHIP IN SEOUL, KOREA

Zachary Sherwood, '13



When I embarked upon the daunting summer internship search in the fall of my junior year at Harvard, I faced the ever-present dilemma of determining whether or not I should consider internship experiences that I was expected to pursue or ones that I genuinely wanted to pursue. As an economics concentrator, I was naturally

expected to strive for a summer analyst position at a major finance or consulting firm, but I quickly found such opportunities to be, quite frankly, all too conventional. Having discovered a passion for travel during my first two years at Harvard, I instead wanted to look beyond the all-too-familiar, Harvard student-friendly confines of cities like Boston, New York, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. and see what opportunities were available in places that I was largely unfamiliar with yet wanted to learn so much about. I wanted an internship experience that was exciting, engaging, challenging, and, most importantly, enlightening, and fortunately, my participation in the Korea Institute's Summer Internship Program fulfilled all of these expectations and more.

In summer 2012, I worked as an intern in the Global Business Unit at Coex, Ltd., the owner and operator of Seoul's largest and most popular convention and exhibition center. Over the course of my eight-week internship, I edited and improved marketing materials, revised websites, drafted market reports, and conducted research, all with the goal of helping Coex attract more overseas buyers and exhibitors to the major exhibitions and trade shows that the company manages in Seoul each and every year. Like any internship, some of my responsibilities were tedious or difficult to understand at times, yet my superiors and co-workers always tried to provide me with variety of tasks that

were both challenging and informative, including a major project in which another intern and I were expected to present actionable ways in which Coex could improve its appeal to overseas visitors and international tourists. By the conclusion of my internship, I had learned more about the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions) industry that I ever thought I would, and I can confidently say that I made a number of positive and concrete contributions to Coex during my time at the company.

Arguably the most memorable aspect of experience at Coex, however, was what I learned beyond my role as an intern. Through regular seminars, excursions, lunch events, office outings, and programs arranged specifically for interns, I had the opportunity to meet many of my managers and fellow co-workers, whose kindness, guidance, and hospitality made my stay in Seoul immeasurably more satisfying. I also enjoyed learning about the unique characteristics of Korean office culture specifically as well as the rewards and challenges that come with working in an international setting more broadly, and the fact that Coex has agreed to continue what proved to be its inaugural summer internship program for foreign students is a testament to how enriching my experience this summer was for both me and my co-workers at Coex.

Having the opportunity to live and work in a dynamic and fascinating city like Seoul was definitely unforgettable: I loved exploring the city, acquiring a newfound appreciation for Korean cuisine, interacting with countless Koreans who never refrained from doing everything in their power to make my stay in Korea as pleasant as possible, and even managing to have a little fun every once in awhile (okay, maybe too much fun). Yet what I found to be the most rewarding aspect of my participation in the Harvard Korea Summer Internship Program this summer was the fact that I had the opportunity to immerse myself in a culture that I had previously known so little about, and I am grateful that the Korea Institute allowed a student like me who had absolutely no prior experience with Korean language, culture, or history to participate in such a fascinating and worthwhile program. My experience in Seoul this summer not only allowed me to acquire an indelible appreciation of Korea's role in the world but also has inspired me to remain engaged in Korean affairs both on and beyond Harvard's campus, and I that the Korea Institute will continue to provide such incredible opportunities in the near future to students like myself.



## TUITION WAIVER AT EWHA WOMANS UNIVERSITY

### Pooja Venkatraman, '12 KOREA INSTITUTE SUMMER RESEARCH TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP

Chelsea Carlson, '13



"Daybreak in Korea": The Social Impact of the Kabo Reforms on Korean Women as Witnessed by Women Christian Missionaries, 1890 – 1910

This summer, I spent a lot of my time doing research for my senior thesis in Korea. I am currently writing a mi-

crohistory on Jeonju Kijeon Women's High School in Jeonju, northern Cholla Province, and the students' involvement in the March 1, 1919 independence movement. I have compiled information on that school, and am working on getting more research on a couple other high schools in the Jeonju area that were also involved in the movement before I leave. While the exact thesis of my project has yet to take shape, being here in Korea and having access to primary sources on these schools—particularly rare books by alumni that cannot be found in the United States—will undoubtedly help me to write a better senior thesis.

My research experience has made obvious the fact that no major project is completed without the input and kindness of many people. I was moved by how kind Korean professors were to me during my research process, sending me copies of rare books, giving me copies of their articles, emailing detailed bibliographies tailored to my topic, or putting me in touch with friends or colleagues that could direct me to other resources. In every case, it was clear that they all put time and effort into compiling the things that they sent to me. I am thankful for their patience with my Korean abilities, and for their willingness to guide me in my research. Meeting them not only made my research experience more enjoyable, but also shaped my project in unexpected and exciting ways.

Above all, I was very thankful to have my advisor, Sun Joo

Kim, and my graduate tutor, John Lee, in the country for part of the summer to help me address problems with my thesis as I encountered them. They provided invaluable advice on how to work through problems finding evidence, or how to begin interpreting my research. This process would have been much more difficult without their help, and I am thankful that they were here to guide me through parts of the process.

One of my favorite things about my research was that it took me outside of Seoul. I made a couple of trips down to Jeonju in northern Cholla Province to visit the school site and local museums in search of more information. It was lovely to take a break from city life in Seoul. While the bus ride to Jeonju was long, I was happy to have the chance to take in Korea's beautiful countryside scenery. My research also took me to places like Daejeon to visit the National Archives, as well as the National Library in Seoul.

For those considering research in Korea in the future, I would encourage them to jump at the opportunity to find funding and just try their hand at research in Korean history. While researching in Korea is certainly more difficult if you are not a native speaker, challenging myself to research in a different language and go outside my comfort zone has taught me never to sell myself short. There were times during my experience that I was anxious about how my project would turn out,

or that I would be unable to find something because my language skills were not as good as they could be, but I have learned to take those anxieties in stride and keep focusing on exploring new

source possibilities. I have surprised myself by how much I was able to do. Doing research here is so fun, and so exciting, and I am so glad that I was able to spend a large portion of my summer focusing on my thesis research.

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*Undergraduate student summer programs in Korea were supported by the Academy of Korean Studies (Korea) Overseas Leading University Program for Korean Studies Grant; David Rockefeller International Experience Grants at Harvard College; MinYoung-Chul Memorial Fund; LGYonam Endowment Fund at the Korea Institute, Harvard University; Anonymous Donors; other Korea Institute funds, and Asia Center funds.*



## GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT

John S. Lee, Ph.D. Candidate,  
East Asian Languages and Civilizations



From June 6, 2012 to August 12, 2012, I was in South Korea to continue research on my dissertation project, “Protect the Pines, Punish the People: The Social Implications of Forest Conservation in Early Modern Korea, 1600-1876,” an integrated analysis of Chosŏn-era woodland protection policies, their implementation, and consequences. My project is

also the first English-language dissertation to analyze Korean history through an environmental perspective.

In June, I made a presentation about my dissertation topic at Seoul National University as part of the SNU-UCLA-Harvard graduate student workshop. I received excellent feedback from a wide variety of professors and graduate students, and I was able to make valuable connections that greatly enriched my research progress. I was able to meet numerous professors, including Kim Kŏntae of Seoul National and ChŏnYŏngu of Kookmin University, who were able to impart their respective expertise, introduce me to graduate students, and generally benefit my research and time in Korea through their generosity.

Also, from late June through mid-July, I went on three separate field trips through western and southern Korea. The first field trip, which was organized by Professor Sun Joo Kim, took a variety of professors and graduate students through Chŏlla province. There, we visited old archeological sites, spent a night at a Buddhist temple, and (most importantly for my research) visited a remarkable little village called Kurim. Since 1748, Kurim villagers have maintained a Pine Association (songgye) that cultivated and protected local pine forests. These Pine Associations, which spread throughout southern Korea during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, are crucial to my dissertation’s argument that forest conservation became a critical issue for government officials as well as local villagers during the late Chosŏn period. The villagers generously allowed me to see numerous documents that will be invaluable to my research.

Then, in July, I embarked on two more field trips. First, I traveled to the city of Mokpo in southwest Chŏlla province. Mokpo was an important shipping and shipbuilding area during the Chosŏn

period, and I was able to glean much important information from the National Maritime Museum located there. Also, I was able to consult Professor Kim Kyŏngok of Mokpo National University, an expert on the social and environmental history of the southern Chŏlla coastal zone. She gave me excellent advice on how to find sources and better organize my dissertation.

During my last field trip, I visited the T’aean peninsula on Korea’s western coast. There, I visited old protected pine forests that had been first established back during the Chosŏn dynasty. On Anmyŏn island off the peninsula’s western coast, I was able to visit a protected pine reserve, arboretum, and forest history museum that taught me much about how the Chosŏn government selected and conserved these forests. Most importantly, I also was able to absorb the topography and characteristics of the landscapes I will be writing about. Because space and landscape are so critical to environmental history and because the field is dedicated to the study of both anthropogenic and ecological change, no proper environmental history of late Chosŏn Korea would be complete without an eyewitness examination of the environment itself.

Finally, in August, I was able to conclude my trip by participating in a historical reenactment. For one day, I was a commander of a ceremonial guard regiment at Tŏksugung, an old Chosŏn palace. In full authentic Chosŏn-era costumes that had been painstakingly gleaned from historical archives, I participated in the changing of the guard ritual and stood guard in front of the palace gate. After weeks of peering at sources, talking to professors, and observing locations all relevant to the latter stages of a past dynasty, it was perhaps quite fitting to end my trip realistically immersed in the costume, rituals, and home of that dynasty.

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## GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT

Javier Cha, Ph.D. Candidate,  
East Asian Languages and Civilizations

I spent two months of this summer in Seoul. Thanks to Korea Institute’s generous research grants in previous years, as well as the current one, I went to Seoul with high familiarity. My visits in the summers of 2008 and 2011 prepared me well for this research trip. I navigated through the ins and outs of Seoul like a local. I had a very comfortable stay in Seoul and returned to Cambridge deeply missing its connectivity and efficiency.

This time in Seoul, the efficiency of this metropolis left me awestruck. As do most incoming foreign visitors to South Korea, I landed at Incheon International Airport. My experience with the AREX train at a previous trip left me underwhelmed, so I opted to take the Limousine Bus instead. What amazed me was that from the





moment of my plane's arrival at the gate to purchasing my bus ticket, no more than 30 minutes had passed. In less than 30 minutes, I moved across a large airport terminal, cleared customs, and picked up my check-in luggage. I hopped on the Limousine Bus and made my way to Bongcheon-dong, a neighborhood just down the hill where Seoul National University is located.

That bus trip was very time-consuming, because of Seoul's chronic traffic problems. In just short of 90 minutes, I arrived at the SNU Entrance metro station and looked for the real estate office that I had contacted a few days prior. The agent was expecting me with a list of four to five apartments, and I immediately went house-hunting. I settled for a small, but cozy, new, and very comfortable apartment that was located three minutes from Bongcheon metro station on foot. Then, expecting to stay at a hostel somewhere for about a week, I asked my agent when I could move in. Apparently I could move in immediately, so I signed a short-term lease agreement and moved in that evening. I arrived in Incheon Airport at 3:30pm; I was in my new apartment looking up dinner options in the neighborhood by 8pm.

Unlike previous years, I did not utilize the Kyujanggak archives as much. Instead, I found a new sanctuary in the National Library in Seocho district and worked on my dissertation chapters while exploring the highly developed coffee shop culture in Hongdae district. My apartment's convenient location placed me within 20 minutes of the National Library (10 minutes on the subway and 10 minutes on foot) and 30 minutes to Hongdae on the green line. The commuting time was not wasted either, because the entire Seoul Metro system provides 3G connection as well as WiFi hotspots to the Internet. I set up my iPad so that I could read primary sources online or make minor edits to my writing during travel. At National Library, I spent most of my time at the Digital Library in the basement, which provided me access to any of the hundreds of computer stations and digitized archival materials. I visited the National Library sources, and did most of my writing at coffee shops. Those coffee shops were designed with students in mind, so I was able to work on my projects on comfortable chairs, access to WiFi and AC power, and refreshments for a modest charge without any time pressure.

As usual, I reconnected with my contacts in Korea and established ties with new scholars. Among them, I had the fortune of

engaging in a lengthy discussion with Professor Yi Ikchu of University of Seoul over dinner. The positive feedback and constructive pointers I received from a specialist of my research time period was enormously helpful for me. It provided me with a renewed sense of reassurance that my dissertation research is heading in the right direction. In late June, I attended the annual SNU-UCLA-Harvard graduate student conference, hosted this time at SNU's Kyujanggak Institute. There I was introduced to a host of undergraduate and junior graduate students with loads of enthusiasm and amazing breadth of knowledge about Korea. We keep in touch regularly still.

This summer I made the extra effort to visit as many historical sites as my schedule allowed. I visited a number of memorial halls, reconstructions of pavilions belonging to famous Chosŏn-period scholars, palace compounds, among others. Of those trips, the day tour I arranged with Professor Yi Ikchu, along with a couple of other graduate students, in the traditional districts of Seoul was particularly memorable. We met in the morning at the Chosŏn dynasty's National Academy in Sungkyunkwan University, hiked up to the northern segments of the city wall, then down to the royal palaces and ancestral temples. Professor Yi's expert commentaries not only enriched our tour, as we had predicted, but also allowed us to experience many aspects that would not have been accessible to us even with the aid of guide materials.

I am truly grateful to the Korea Institute for providing me with this fantastic opportunity to carry out my summer research in Seoul, reconnect with my very important network of scholars there, and work on my dissertation chapters with immediate access to sources not available at Harvard-Yenching Library. My summer stay in Korea will prove to be invaluable in positively shaping the future direction of my dissertation.

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*Graduate student support were made possible by the Academy of Korean Studies (Korea) Overseas Leading University Program for Korean Studies Grant; the International Communications Foundation (Korea); Min Young-Chul Memorial Fund; Kim & Kang Endowment Fund; San Hak Fund; Wagner Endowment Fund at the Korea Institute; the Modern Korea Economy and Society Endowment Fund at Harvard University; other Korea Institute funds, and Asia Center funds.*



## KOREA INSTITUTE AFFILIATES AY 12-13

### Visiting Scholars



#### Myoung Sook Kim

*Associate Professor, Department of Korean History,  
Dongduk Women's University*

Myoung Sook Kim is Associate Professor of Korean History in the Department of Korean History at Dongduk Women's University. She specializes in the study of the history of politics in the 19th century called 'Sedo Politics (勢道政治)', with a current interest in the gender history of Korea. After completing her college education from Dongduk Women's University in 1982, she received an M.A. in 1986 and a Ph.D. in history in 1997 from Hanyang University in South Korea. She is the author of *A Study Politics in 19th century* (Seoul: Hanyang University Press, 2004) and co-author of *A Study on Prince Hyomyoung* (Seoul: Doosol, 2005) and *The Age of Sex, Sexuality and Love* (Hakjisa, 2004).

Prof. Kim is currently researching the influence of Japanese colonial rule on women's lives in the Chosŏn era. In connection to this, she is trying to analyze the school registers (學籍簿) of girls' high schools in the Japanese colonial era to examine school activities, careers, and social activities of school girls of Chosŏn, and then to explain the real condition of colonial education policy of Japan. The school registers are useful historical data for understanding what dreams and ideals Korean female students had at the time, and whether and how they came true. For the period of her sabbatical year at the Korea Institute, Harvard University, she is also conducting research on female students who studied in America in the Japanese colonial era. This work is supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea Grant funded by the Korean Government (MEST, Basic Research Promotion Fund) in 2012.

Research Project Title: *A Study on Korean Women Students in American Universities in the Japanese Colonial Era*



#### Oh Young Kwon

*Professor of Korean History, Academy of Korean Studies*

Oh Young Kwon is Professor of Korean history at the Academy of Korean Studies. His research focuses on the ideas of Chosŏn scholars especially in the Chosŏn sŏngnihak tradition (性理學, xinglixue in Chinese). He received his B.A. from Yeungnam University in 1982, his M.A. in 1984 and his Ph.D. in 1994 from the Graduate School of Korean Studies, Academy of Korean Studies.

Prof. Kwon has written about Chosŏn scholars and their thoughts, representative of which are *Ch'oe Han-gi ūi hangmun kwa sasang yŏn'gu* (A study of the scholarship and thought of Ch'oe Han-gi, Seoul: Jipmoondang, 1999), *Chosŏn hugi yurim ūi sasang kwa hwalldong* (Thoughts and Activities of the Yurim in Late Chosŏn, 2003, P'aju, ROK: Dolbegae), *Chosŏn sŏngnihak ūi ūimi wa yangsang* (Aspects and Significance of Chosŏn Neo-Confucianism, 2011, Sŏul: Iljisa), and *Kŭndae ihaenggi ūi yurim* (Yurim during the Period of Transition to Modernity, 2012, P'aju, ROK: Dolbegae).

He was also in charge of a three-year project in which 5,400 of King Yŏngjo's writings called "Yŏngjo ŏje" at the Changsŏgak Library were catalogued and annotated from 2005 to 2007. He is generally interested in conducting research on aspects and significance of Confucian thought in Korea's traditional period, and he is currently investigating the characteristics of Chosŏn sŏngnihak (性理學).

Research Project Title: *Development and Characteristics of Chosŏn Neo-Confucianism*

## THE MISSION OF THE KOREA INSTITUTE

The Korea Institute is devoted solely to the support and development of Korean Studies at Harvard, as the central hub for Harvard faculty, students, leading scholars in the field, and visitors to join together as a community for the study of Korea.



## Fellows



### Avram Asenov Agov

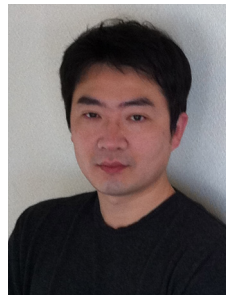
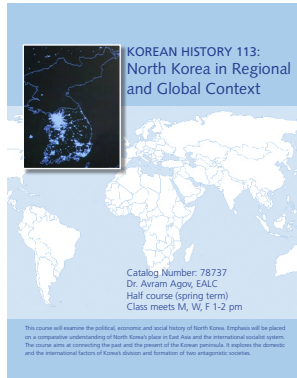
*Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, Korea Institute*

*Lecturer, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University*

Avram Agov received a B.A. in philosophy (second major, history) from Sofia University, Bulgaria in 1988. He was a visiting scholar at Columbia University on a Fulbright Fellowship in 1991-1992. He received an M.A. in Regional Studies-East Asia from Harvard University (1992-1994). He studied at the Korean Language Institute of Yonsei University in Seoul and worked in Samsung Electronics (visual media business, export marketing) for six years (1996-2002). In 2001, the Seoul municipal government awarded him the title "Honorary Citizen of Seoul" for his contributions to the ROK-Bulgarian relations. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, in 2010; his thesis title was "North Korea and the Socialist World: Integration and Divergence, 1945-1970." He spent a year and a half in Shanghai studying Mandarin at Jiao Tong University and doing research on Sino-North Korean relations.

Research Project Title: *North Korea in the Socialist World: Integration and Divergence, 1945-1991*

Course: *North Korea in Regional and Global Context* (Spring 2013)



### Koonsam Im

*Fellow, Korea Institute, Harvard University  
Research Fellow, Graduate School of Law,  
Hitotsubashi University*

Koonsam Im is Research Fellow at the Graduate School of Law and Political Science, Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, Japan. He specializes in political economy of Korea. After completing his college education from the Department of Mass Communication, Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea in 2001, He received an M.A. in 2005 and a Ph.D. in 2012 in International Relations from the Graduate School of Law and Political Science, Hitotsubashi University. His dissertation title is "Political Logic of Korean Financial Crisis of 1997." He was a Japanese Government Scholarship Student from 2002 to 2007. He received the Institutional Program for Young Researcher Overseas Visits Grant from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science in 2012 and Research Grant Program for Foreign Doctoral Candidate in Japan from the Fuji Xerox Setsutaro Kobayashi Memorial Fund in 2008. His current research interests are the political party system of Korea, politics in economic reform in Korea, Korea and Japan's FTA(EPA) policy, and the Korean minority in Japan.

Research Project Title: *The Political Logic of the Korean Financial Crisis in 1997: Composition of the National Assembly over Economic Policy since the Democratization of Korea*

## Rhodes Scholarship Student



Congratulations from the Korea Institute to Allan J. Hsiao, '13, for being selected as a Rhodes Scholar! Please see below for his bio, provided by the Rhodes Scholarship website.

Allan J. Hsiao, Louisville, is a senior at Harvard with majors in economics and East Asian studies. Elected as a junior to Phi Beta Kappa, Allan is editor-in-chief of the Harvard Asia Quarterly, a professional academic journal, and the only undergraduate on its editorial board, senior editor of the Harvard Health Policy Review and of the Harvard Global Health Review.

Allan participated in the Harvard Summer School-Korea program in 2010 titled *Experiencing Korea, Experiencing Comparison* and the Korean Language Program. Allan plans to attend Oxford University.

**KOREA** **KF**  
**FOUNDATION**

## KOREA FOUNDATION GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS (2012-2013)

Ilsoo David Cho, East Asian Languages and Civilizations  
Dmitry Mironenko-Hubbs, East Asian Languages and Civilizations

## KOREA LANGUAGE PROGRAM UPDATES

This year, the Korean Language Program continues to have increasing enrollment. The Korean Language Program also welcomed two new preceptors, Hee-Jeong Jeong and Heeyeong Jung.

**Hee-Jeong Jeong** (*Ph.D. in Korean Language, University of Hawaii*)

Hee-Jeong Jeong received a Ph.D. in Korean linguistics from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and she has been teaching all levels of Korean, from beginning to highly advanced levels and also from undergraduate to graduate levels. Her research interests are Korean morphology, syntax, and pedagogy.

**Heeyeong Jung** (*ABD in Korean Language, University of Hawaii*)

Heeyeong Jung received an M.A. in Linguistics, specialized in second/foreign language teaching at the University of Oregon in 2007. She is ABD at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, working on a dissertation titled "Style shifts in Korean and Japanese TV cooking shows: A comparative study." She teaches all levels of Korean language, and currently teaching Bx (1st year heritage students) and 130 (3rd year Korean language). Her research interests include discourse analysis and sociophonetics in Korean and Japanese languages.



## HARVARD-YENCHING LIBRARY KOREAN SECTION UPDATES

### • Second phase of the NLK Korean Rare Books Digitization Project

The National Library of Korea agreed to start additional rounds of the Korean rare book digitization project for three years from 2012. The first year's project materials of the three year project plan include copying microfilms of numerous Korean genealogies and rare books and scanning of books selected by the NLK. The project began in the middle of May 2012.

### • Re-arrangement of the Korean collection stacks in the basement of the Harvard-Yenching Library

As part of the Korean book stacks expansion plan, books with call numbers from PL966 to Z and over-sized books in LC call numbers were moved from the basement to the sub-basement in earlier part of 2012. After the move of those books, shifting of books in the basement from A through PL965 started from July, 2012 and will be done by sometime early 2013. As a result, this expansion project of the Korean Collection stacks created about 30% of additional space in the current stacks, and made additional space available for shelving of new incoming materials in the Korean Collection.

### • Digitization plan of photographs and videos in the Hausman Archive

Digitization of the Hausman photographs and videos is currently in progress, and HYL already started to discuss the project with Imaging Services, Harvard Library. This digitization project continues to be supported by the Korea Institute.

### • Organization of the Bertsch Papers

The Bertsch Papers were donated through the Korea Institute from the Bertsch family in 2012, and the Harvard-Yenching Library started to organize 8 boxes of documents, letters, maps, LPs, and photographs, etc. in the Bertsch Papers after receipt. Detailed aids of the Bertsch Papers will be uploaded into HOLLIS and HOLLIS Classic after completion of organization in early 2013.

## DAVID R. MCCANN FEATURED IN THE HARVARD GAZETTE



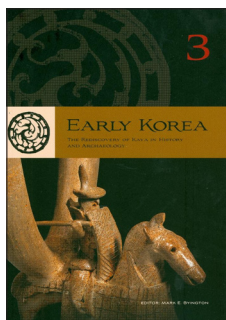
Professor David R. McCann was featured in the Harvard Gazette. To read the full article, please go to: <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2012/11/poetry-in-the-making/>

*Photo: Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard Staff Photographer*





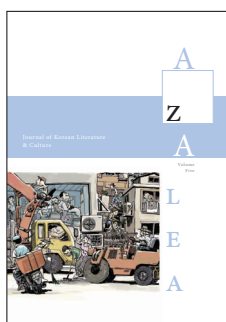
## RECENT PUBLICATIONS



### *Early Korea Volume 3: The Rediscovery of Kaya in History and Archaeology*

Mark Byington

Cambridge, MA: Korea Institute,  
Harvard University, 2012



### *Azalea: Journal of Korean Literature & Culture, Volume 5*

David R. McCann

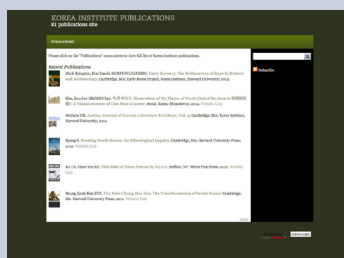
Cambridge, MA: Korea Institute,  
Harvard University, 2012

*Azalea* is supported by the Sunshik Min Endowment for the Advancement of Korean Literature at the Korea Institute, Harvard University, and the International Communications Foundation (ICF), Seoul, Korea.

Early Korea is supported by the Northeast Asian History Foundation in Seoul, Korea. Operational funding for the Early Korea Project is provided by the Korea Foundation in Seoul, Korea.

The Korea Institute, along with the Asia Center, Fairbank Center, and Reischauer Institute, supports the Harvard East Asian Monographs (HEAM) series. The series is produced by the Asia Center Publications Office and distributed by Harvard University Press. Additional support was provided by the Academy of Korean Studies (Korea) Overseas Leading University Program for Korean Studies Grant at the Korea Institute, Harvard University.

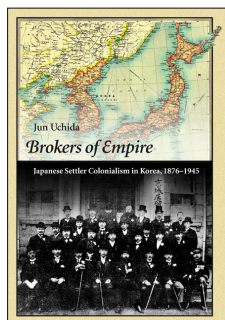
## KOREA INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS SITE



For more Korea Institute  
publications, please visit

<http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/kipublications>

## Asia Center Publications



### Harvard East Asian Monographs 337 *Brokers of Empire: Japanese Settler Colonialism in Korea, 1876-1945*

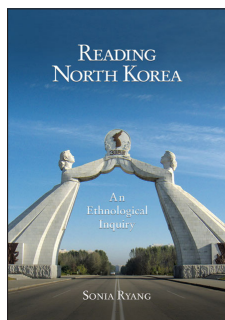
Jun Uchida

Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia  
Center, 2011

Winner of:

2012 John K. Fairbank Prize in East Asian  
History, American Historical Association

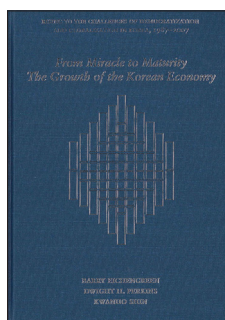
2012 Pacific Coast Branch Book Award, Pacific  
Coast Branch of the American Historical  
Association



### Harvard East Asian Monographs 341 *Reading North Korea*

Sonya Ryang

Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia  
Center, 2012



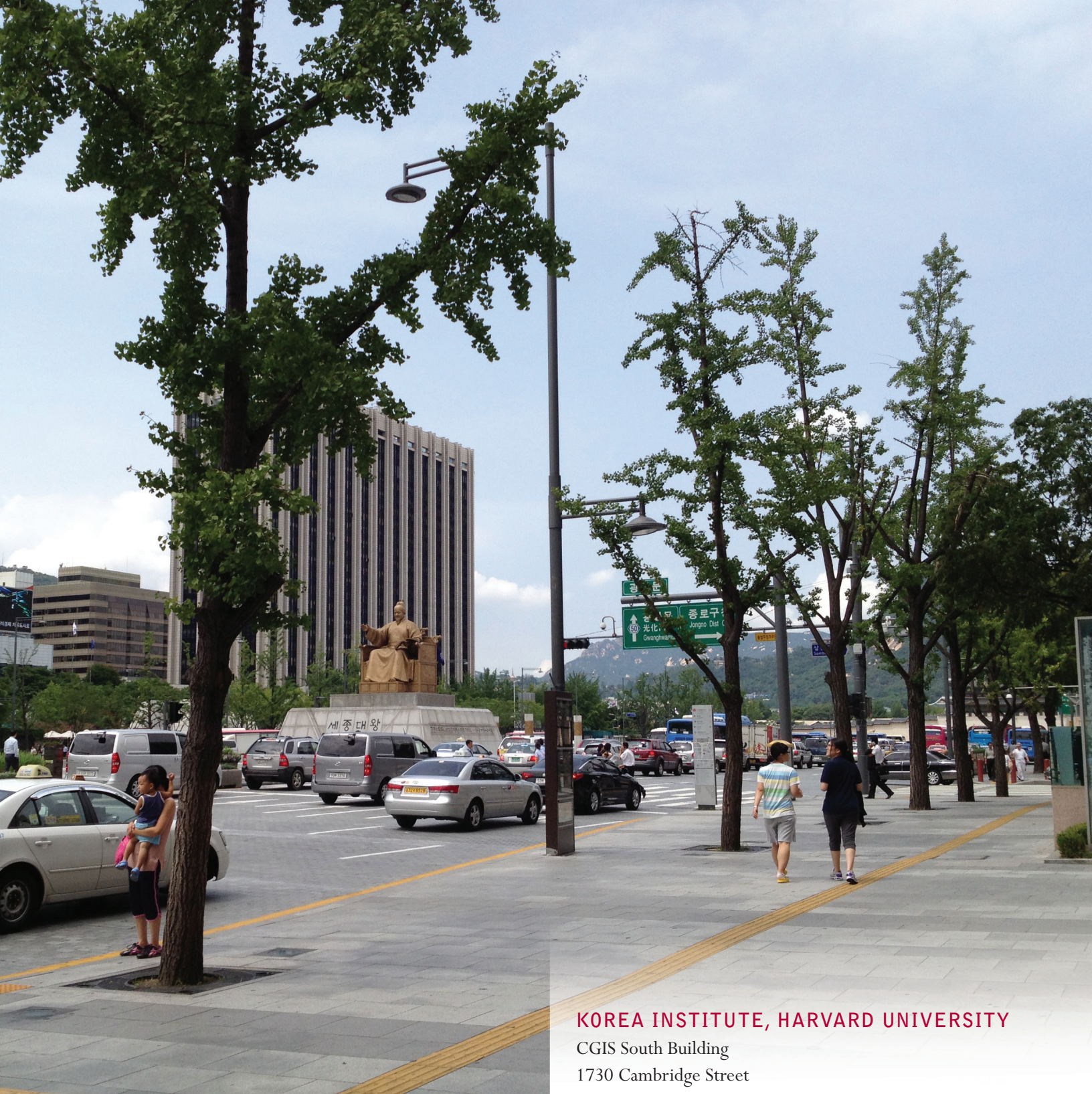
### Harvard East Asian Monographs 350 *From Miracle to Maturity:*

*The Growth of the Korean Economy*

Barry Eichengreen, Dwight H. Perkins,  
Kwanho Shin

Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia  
Center, 2012





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