

M | NAM CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES



2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Nam Center,

In July 2021, after twelve years of transformative leadership and remarkable service, Nojin Kwak left the University of Michigan to become the Vice Provost of International Education at State University of New York, Buffalo. I am honored to be assuming the Center's directorship in his stead and continuing the work of building Korean Studies at U-M.

The transition in leadership and the continuing pandemic notwithstanding, 2021-2022 was a banner year at the Nam Center. Our virtual Chuseok celebration was attended by more than xx people. A hybrid international conference on "Reclaiming the City" brought academics, artists, and activists together. Korean Studies Colloquium series featured cutting-edge research on Korea by leading and emerging scholars, many of whom became featured guests on the Center's newly launched podcast, "Korea in Maize and Blue: How Did You Get Here?" Undergraduate and graduate fellows' programs culminated in student conferences showcasing the next generation of research on Korea. Former recipients of Sang-Yong Nam Award returned to the Center for a joyful tenth-year reunion to honor this year's recipient, Brian Tran. Outreach projects brought Korean art and archeology to K-12 classrooms and traditional Korean music to a peony garden beloved by the larger Ann Arbor community. As part of a new initiative called "Koreans in Ann Arbor," the Center has begun collecting oral histories of the local Korean community.

On the strength of such innovative programming, the Center has been recognized by major government grants. Strategic Research Institute Program grant from the Academy of Korean Studies will support the Center's new academic initiatives for the next ten years including "Korea in Keywords" and "Summer Masterclass in Korean Studies." As part of East Asia National Resource Center, the Nam Center will receive Title VI and Foreign Language and Area Fellowship funding for the next four years. Big Ten Academic Alliance Korean Studies e-School, a coursesharing initiative led by the Nam Center, continues to be supported by the Korea Foundation.



So there is much to celebrate, but this year, I am particularly proud of the Center's performance during the annual Giving BlueDay challenge. By receiving the largest total number of individual donations, the Nam Center won the contest sponsored by the International Institute. These intimate donations may be small in sum but they carry within them a much more precious gift of time and care. Thank you to all of you for your support.

Exciting events and programs lie in store for next year. Please visit us online, on social media, or in person. Our doors—and our ears—are always open.

Go Blue!

Youngju Ryu

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ABOUT US

The Nam Center for Korean Studies (NCKS) is the seat of Korea-related research, education, and public outreach at the University of Michigan. Established in 2007 and renamed the Nam Center in 2010, it is now one of the nation's most vibrant centers devoted to promoting a deeper understanding of Korea, past and present.

At NCKS, we provide research support for faculty, award scholarships and fellowships for students, and host leading experts in the field as guest lecturers and visiting scholars. We also oversee a wide range of innovative programs tailored for different audiences ranging from K-14 educators to established scholars in the field, and sponsor public events in Korean culture and the arts, including exhibitions, film festivals, and performances. We coordinate collaborations with other on-campus departments, schools, and academic units. We are one of the three centers comprising the East Asia National Resource Center on campus, selected and supported by the Department of Education from a nationwide competition. NCKS' external collaborations include the Big Ten Academic Alliance Korean Studies e-School, which it has led over the last ten years. The Center's many initiatives are supported by major external grants from the Korea Foundation and the Academy of Korean Studies among others.

These programs encourage cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and historically situated knowledge about Korea, and facilitate vibrant conversations within the U-M community and beyond about one of the world's oldest cultures.



NAM CENTER FACULTY & STAFF

Director:

Youngju Ryu, Associate Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures(ALC)

Nam Center Core Faculty:

Juhn Ahn, Associate Professor, Buddhist and Korean Studies

David Chung, Professor, Art and Design

Hunjin Jung, Lecturer, ALC

Joan Kee, Professor, History of Art

E. Han Kim, Professor, Business Administration

Hwa-Jin Kim, Professor, Law

Hyun-ju Kim, Lecturer, ALC, Education

Jaeun Kim, Associate Professor, Sociology

Jiyoung Kim, Lecturer, ALC

Jong-Jin Kim, Associate Professor, Architecture and Urban Planning

Soyeon Kim, Director, Korean Language Program, ALC

Ungsan Kim, Assistant Professor, Film, Television, and Media Studies, ALC

Dae-Hee Kwak, Associate Professor, Kinesiology

Anna Jungeun Lee, Postdoctoral Fellow

Angela Yoonjeong McClean, Postdoctoral Fellow

Se-Mi Oh, Assistant Professor, ALC

Jordan Siegel, Associate Professor, Strategy

Rory Walsh, Postdoctoral Fellow

Affiliated Faculty:

Barbara Anderson, Professor, Sociology

Micah Auerback, Associate Professor, ALC

Benjamin Brose, Associate Professor, ALC

Scott Campbell, Professor, Telecommunications

Kevin Carr, Associate Professor, History of Art

Pär Cassel, Associate Professor, History

Joseph Lam, Professor, School of Music, Theater, & Dance

Linda Lim, Professor Emerita, Business

Donald Lopez, Professor, ALC

Julie Ma, Associate Professor, Social Work

Ramaswami Mahalingam, Professor, Psychology, Women's Studies

Abé Markus Nornes, Professor, ALC, Cultures/Film, Television, and Media

Martin Powers, Professor, Emeritus History of Art

Matthew Thompson, Assistant Professor, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Library & Museum Affiliates:

Bohyun Kim, Library Information Technology

Myung Hee Kim, Asia Library

Dawn Lawson, Asia Library

Natsu Oyobe, UMMA

Yunah Sung, Asia Library

Jungwon Yang, Stephen S. Clark Library

Staff:

Kate Klemm-Szeto, Outreach Coordinator

Kelsey Langton, Center Administrator

Peggy Rudberg, Administrative Assistant

Evan Vowell, Program Coordinator

Student Assistants:

Jinny Kim, Office Assistant

Bridgit Jung, Graphic Designer



Asia Library's **Yunah Sung** with Nam Center staff **Kate Klemm, Kelsey Langton, and Evan Vowell** (left to right)



Rory Walsh, Postdoctoral Fellow, with Undergraduate Fellows **Lisa Ryou** and **Olivia Daniel** (left to right) at the Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference

Nam Center Postdoctoral Fellows

The Postdoctoral Fellow enriches the Korean studies community at UM by engaging in research and leading the Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows program. The Postdoc also serves as lead organizer for the annual UM-USC Korean Studies Undergraduate Exchange Conference and the International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars, along with various outreach activities throughout the year.

2021-2022 Postdoctoral Fellows:

Rory Walsh, Nam Center for Korean Studies

Anna Jungeun Lee, Korea Foundation

Angela Yoonjeong McClean, Korea Foundation

A central theme for me this year was the power of conversation – whether I was working with our Undergraduate Fellows on our new oral history project, sitting down with scholars and specialists to enrich my teaching, or interviewing Colloquium Series speakers for our upcoming podcast series “How Did You Get Here?” Making connections, finding commonalities, and learning about the different experiences, skills, and perspectives of my colleagues and students has had a profound effect on my own work and outlook. Together, we are growing the Nam Center’s network and influence, and creating a new vision for the future of Korean Studies.

— **Rory Walsh**, Postdoctoral Fellow

VISITING SCHOLARS

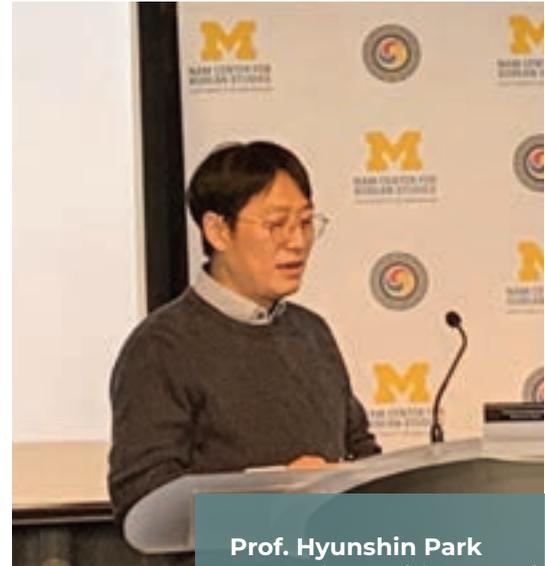
The Nam Center offers affiliation to scholars and fellows visiting the University of Michigan for an extended period. During the 2021-2022 academic year the center hosted two scholars from universities in Korea.

Hyunshin Park, Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Dongduk Women's University

Research Topic: "A Study on the Relationships between Managerial Autonomy and Performance of Executive Agencies in South Korea"

Seung Pil Lee, Associate Professor, Division of Global Sport Industry, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

Research Topic: "Sports-based official development assistance (ODA) system model for Korea"



Prof. Hyunshin Park presenting on his research at the Faculty Maru.

Prof. Seung Pil Lee and his family meeting with Mrs. Moon-Sook Nam.





Ungsan Kim, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, moderating the film roundtable discussion

The **Nam Center Colloquium Series** is supported by the US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant. The series brings Korean studies faculty and other scholars from around the world to Ann Arbor. The 2021-2022 series was held virtually and in person for a diverse audience at the university and beyond. The Winter 2022 speakers also participated as featured guests in the center's new podcast series "Korea in Maize & Blue", discussing their scholarly journeys in an informal, intergenerational conversation with Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows. The podcast series is hosted by Nam Center Lecturer and Research Fellow Rory Walsh.

September 28, 2021

Hwisang Cho, Assistant Professor, Emory University
Epistolary Revolution in Chosŏn Korea

November 30, 2021

Minhyeok Tak, Lecturer, Loughborough University (UK)
'Willing to be Pushed to the Limit': Totalising Power and Individual Agency within the K-elite Sport Development Regime

February 8, 2022

Sharon Yoon, Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame
The Cost of Belonging: An Ethnography of Solidarity and Mobility in Beijing's Koreatown

March 22, 2022

Junyoung Kim, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh
The Birth of a (Korean) Nation (in Mexico): Transpacific Intimacies and Modern Entanglements in Kim Young-ha's Black Flower

April 5, 2022

Kelly Jeong, Associate Professor, University of California-Riverside
Jinsoo An, Associate Professor, University of California-Berkeley
Moderator: **Ungsan Kim**, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan
Film Roundtable: The Margins of Korean Cinema

FACULTY NEWS

Juhn Ahn, Associate Professor of Buddhist and Korean Studies, recently finished his third year serving as the director of undergraduate studies at the department of Asian Languages and Cultures. He joined a Humanities Collaboratory project within the College of Literatures, Sciences and the Arts at the University of Michigan. The project titled, “Centering the Northern Realms: Integrating Histories and Archaeologies of the Mongol Empire (1200 to 1500 CE)” investigates the importance of the northern reaches of the Empire through interdisciplinary research. Ahn was also interviewed in June of 2022 for a BBC radio show, the Forum, to talk about the Koryŏ period.

David Chung, Professor of Art and Design, has had his work featured in 3 recent publications: in *Godzilla, Asian American Arts Network* that documents the history and legacy of an influential arts organization; in *One Thing Well, 22 Years of Installation Art*, a survey of installation art at Rice University; and in *Korean Art from 1953, Collision, Innovation and Interaction*, which the New York Times describes as “Lavish yet scholarly, this book is more than an important new chapter of an emerging world history of 20th-century art; it’s a vital artistic genealogy of our planet’s current cultural powerhouse.”



David Chung, Professor of Art and Design, had his work featured in *1953, Collision, Innovation and Interaction*

Jaeeun Kim, Associate Professor of Sociology, was appointed as Associate Professor of Law (by Courtesy), effective July 2022, by the University of Michigan Law School. She will continue as the Associate Director of Graduate Studies of the Department of Sociology (2021–23). She was also elected as the president of the Association of Korean Sociologists in America (AKSA) for 2022–23, and as an executive committee member of the Social Science History Association (2021–23). She started to serve as the editorial board member of *Sociological Theory* (2021–23) and *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (2021–24). She had the article, “Between Sacred Gift and Profane Exchange: Identity Craft and Relational Work in Asylum Claims-Making on Religious Grounds”, published in *Theory and Society* in 2022. An abridged version of her article, “Ethnic Capital’ and ‘Flexible Citizenship’ in Korean Chinese Stepwise Migration”, was included in the edited volume *Routledge Handbook of Chinese Citizenship* published in 2021. Her research profile was published in the official magazine of *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Köpfe und Ideen*.

Youngju Ryu, Associate Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures, secured several multi-year grants as the Principal Investigator, including the Academy of Korean Studies Strategic Research Institute Program, and served as the Director of Title VI East Asia National Resource Center and the Big Ten Alliance Korean Studies e-School in 2021-22. She organized workshops on “From People to Demos: The Cultural Politics of ‘K-Boom’ and ‘Korean Studies Beyond the ‘American Century’: Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” at Seoul National University. She also participated in a roundtable on global Korean studies for the Korean quarterly journal *Changbi*. For her work on K-pop and South Korean democratization, she made media appearances on National Public Radio and BBC World Service. At U-M, she continues to serve on the steering committee of Women of Color in the Academy Project.



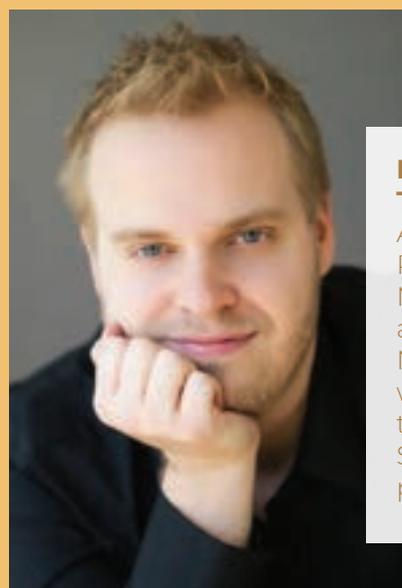
Dae-Hee Kwak, Associate Professor of Kinesiology, in an interview with Arirang TV about the Olympics

Dae-Hee Kwak, Associate Professor of Kinesiology, co-authored an article published in the Journal of Global Sport Management examining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the major spectator sport industry in the U.S. and South Korea. He appeared in numerous media outlets discussing the South Korean archery team's success (Arirang TV) and human rights issues complicating the Olympic sponsors at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics (CBC). In May 2022, he was invited to speak at the international symposium on Olympics and Korea hosted by the University of Edinburgh, UK.

Se-Mi Oh, Assistant Professor of Modern Korean History, Asian Languages and Cultures, worked with Francisco Sanin to co-chair an international conference on Reclaiming the City. The conference will produce an edited volume in the coming years through the Michigan Press.

KOREAN ART SONG RESOURCE: MAKING KOREAN ART SONG ACCESSIBLE FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS

This project began in 2020 and works to make Korean art song accessible to English speakers. To date, the team has collected nearly 1000 unique songs and created a database containing information about these songs: composer, poet, key, vocal range, tempo, instrumentation, and links to recordings. In some cases, materials have been identified which are a good entry point for English speakers curious about Korean art song. These products have translations, phonetic transcriptions, and performance recordings easily available. In other cases, and as a longer range goal, the team works to create phonetic transcriptions, translations, explanations of historic references, and recordings of the texts spoken for study so that Korean art song (가곡) can be as easily studied and performed as German Lieder or French mélodies.



Matthew Thompson, Assistant Professor of Music, is a new affiliate to the Nam Center working on the Korean Art Song Resource project

STUDENT NEWS

NEKST Graduate Student Conference

The 9th International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars (NEKST) was held in Ann Arbor on May 13-14, 2022. The conference organizing committee, comprised of graduate students at the University of Michigan, was led by committee chairs Yeon-ju Bae and Hojung Joo. The conference featured panel presentations, workshop sessions for dissertation chapters and advanced papers, roundtable discussion sessions, and a professional development workshop on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Panel themes included global responses to ROK-DPRK relations, plural masculinities, and lives of those who struggle at the margins of Korean society. Prominent Korean studies faculty members across disciplines and institutions served as discussants and mentors.



The NEKST conference taking place in Weiser Hall.

AKS Dissertation Fellowship

Recipients:

Hojung Joo, Political Science

Yeon-ju Bae, Anthropology



2021-22 AKS Dissertation Fellowship recipients **Hojung Joo** and **Yeon-ju Bae** (left to right)

I am very grateful for all the inspiration and support that I have received from the Nam Center, and the many wonderful seonbae, friends, postdoc fellows, and faculty. Multiple grants from the center for summer research and presentations have greatly assisted me in improving my project and professional skills. Since my first year at Michigan, I have enjoyed serving on the committee for the NEKST conference, which we have cultivated as one of the best graduate conferences in Korean Studies, so it was such an honor to serve as a co-chair this year. I plan to defend my dissertation next spring on the ethical politics in a Korean Buddhist return-to-the-farm village. My graduate years would not have been possible without the Nam Center.

—**Yeon-ju Bae**, 2021-22

Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows Program

This year's cohort of Undergraduate Fellows continued their tradition of excellence while taking on new challenges and opportunities. The program invites students committed to Korean Studies and supports them in building community within and beyond campus, cultivating academic and professional connections, and producing and sharing original research on a variety of topics related to Korea.

Outreach Fellows

Olivia Daniel
Celia Morones
Gwendolyn Park
Mas Syuhada Shaik Abdul Razak
Lisa Ryou
Ray Smith
Krystem Ware-Jones

Research Fellows

Yunseo Cho
Jacqueline Choe
Marissa Deardurff
Yoonjin Kim
Nini Landwe
Andrea Medina

Undergraduate Exchange Conference

The Nam Center hosted the 10th annual Korean Studies Undergraduate Exchange Conference on April 2, 2022. Students from The Korean Studies Institute at the University of Southern California and Research Fellows at the University of Michigan presented their research findings while competing for various prestigious awards.

Conference panels included: Ethnicity, Class, and Koreanness; Gendered Violence & Mental Health; Art & Pop Culture in Korea and Abroad; and Economics, Consumerism, & Information.

Top Paper Award:

Yoon Kim, University of Michigan

Parallels of State Violence: Korean Camptowns and U.S. Massage Parlors

Best Comparative Analysis Award:

Jackie Choe, University of Michigan

Yangban to Chaebol: Korea's Elite Class throughout History

Best Response to a Question Award:

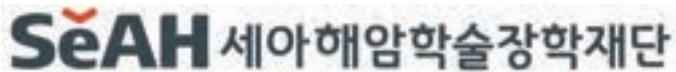
Andrea Medina, University of Michigan

Artwashing Ihwa Mural Village: Residents' Opposition to 'Revitalization'



Undergraduate Exchange Conference winners **Jackie Choe, Yoon Kim, Andrea Medina** (left to right) with Postdoctorate Fellow **Rory Walsh**

SeAH Haiam Arts & Sciences Scholarship



The SeAH Haiam Arts and Sciences Scholarship provides awards each year to support graduate student research projects for academic purposes. This scholarship can be used to fund research travel, data collection, or fieldwork related to Korean studies.

2022 Recipients:

Jieun Chang, Psychology

Research Project: *Compassion, Mindfulness, Perfectionism, and Well-being of Graduate students in South Korea*

Sunhong Kim, Musicology

Research Project: *Constructing the Ideal Sound in kugak: Gender Hierarchy and Power Relations in Musicians' Careers*

So Yoon Ryu, History of Art

Research Project: *From Soil to Land to Place: Environmental Art in South Korea, 1960-80*

Summer in Korea

A gift from alumnus Chairman Dae-Won Moon (MBA, '78) provides annual awards on behalf of the Nam Center to support travel to Korea to attend Yonsei International Summer School in Seoul, Korea. Students spend six weeks in the heart of Seoul to improve their fluency in Korean and deepen their knowledge of Korea. The scholarship also funds tuition, fees, field trips, and travel expenses, making a summer in Korea possible for any UM undergraduate.

Marissa Deardruff, Asian Studies, Senior

Sarah Kim, Statistics, Junior

Jinny Kim, Psychology, Sophomore

Conference Travel Grants

The following students received funding to present at conferences during the 2021-22 academic year:

Yeon-ju Bae, Anthropology

Paper: *Addressing Activism: The Politics of Address Terms in Ethico-Political Movements*

Chelle Jones, Sociology

Paper: *Jigsaw Migration: How Mixed Status LGBTQ Families (Re)Assemble their Fragmented Citizenship*

Kaeun Park, Asian Languages and Cultures

Paper: *Gendered Representations of Body and Labor in Everyday Life Photography in Late 1950s South Korea*

Sunhong Kim, Ethnomusicology

Paper: *Gendering the "Rightful" Sound: Discipline, Power, and Misogyny in p'iri Musicianship*

Seulgi Son, Urban and Regional Planning

Paper: *Rethinking "local" and "sustainable" in Territorial Agri-food Chains: A Case of Place-based Public Food Procurement in South Korea*



Chairman Dae-Won Moon meeting Summer in Korea students **Sarah Kim, Jinny Kim, Marissa Deardruff** (left to right) in Seoul



2022 Sang-Yong Nam Award

The Sang-Yong Nam Award is a \$3,000 scholarship given each year to one University of Michigan graduating senior. The award honors a student whose academic achievement, citizenship, service to the community, and commitment to Korean Studies exemplify the values to which Sang-Yong Nam dedicated his life.

The recipient of the 2020 Sang-Yong Nam Award was **Brian Tran**. Brian is a double major in Computer Science and Korean Studies. After graduation, he plans to work at ExtraHop Networks Inc. as a software engineer located in Seattle, WA.

During his time at the University of Michigan, Brian started his online startup, Korgi University, to provide resources to students who do not have access to affordable formal Korean language education. He educated 70+ students with four other native Korean teachers since the beginning of the pandemic and offered beginner and intermediate classes three semesters a year. He collaborated with ASIANLAN 479 (Teaching Korean in the Community) students to give them first-hand experience in teaching grammar and conversational skills. In addition, Brian wrote an honors thesis on the convergence of K-pop and gaming fandoms through augmented reality technology.

Receiving the Sang Yong Nam Award and joining the other alumni recipients is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will forever be grateful for. My Korean professors recognized my passion for the language and culture, which helped cultivate my knowledge of everything I have accumulated over the years. The time I had at the University of Michigan and the Nam Center was short, but will forever have a positive impact on me. It will continue to push my passion for searching for new knowledge and opportunities for my future career.

— **Brian Tran**, 2022
Sang Yong Nam Awardee

Korean Studies e-School

The Korea Foundation (KF) Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) e-School program, in its tenth year, is comprised of thirteen universities in the Midwest. Using video conferencing technology, faculty at the various member institutions are able to offer Korea-related courses to participating universities in real time.

Fall 2021 Courses:

Spectacular History of Korea, **Se-Mi Oh**, University of Michigan

Making Places in Seoul, **Pil Ho Kim**, Ohio State University

The Koreas: Korean War to the 21st Century, **Charles Kim**, University of Wisconsin

Korean Languages and Contemporary Pop Culture, **Sang-Seok Yoon**, University of Iowa

Language and Society of the Two Koreas, **Hangtae Cho**, University of Minnesota

Spring 2022 Courses:

Dating, Sex, and Marriage in Korea, **John Finch**, Indiana University

Controversies in Contemporary Korea, **Juhn Ahn**, University of Michigan

Global Korean Diasporas, **Ji-Yeon Yuh**, Northwestern University

From Sijo to K-Pop: Song Lyrics as a Literary Genre, **Young-mee Cho**, Rutgers University

Michigan Korean Initiative



Local students participating in the focus group pose for a picture with the U-M student leads following a Korean language lesson.

The Nam Center is working on expanding its outreach to provide Korean language education to K-12 students in the state of Michigan. In a trial program, the center collaborated with ALC's "Teaching Korean in the Community" course to develop Korean language learning activities. A focus group of students from grades 5-10 attended a program led by undergraduate students in an advanced Korean language course at the university.



Unyeon Choi, owner of One Bowl, with Undergraduate Fellows **Lisa Ryou** and **Gwendolyn Park** (left to right)

Connecting “Korean Ann Arbor”

This year, the Nam Center began a new oral history project aimed at local Korean and Korean-American small business owners. The Center’s Outreach Fellows sat down for conversations with Unyeon Choi, owner of One Bowl in the South U district, and Sung-Hui Kim, owner of Hola Seoul and The Seoul in the State Street district, as well as several other restaurants in southeast Michigan.

Choi and Kim shared powerful stories of their lives in Korea and the US, their entrepreneurial journeys, and what they’ve learned about success, happiness, and the role of small businesses in their communities. As this project continues, the Center’s Fellows will continue to build bridges between the campus and its surroundings, and learn more about Korean Studies not just in the abstract, but as something happening right here in Ann Arbor every day.

Mr. Nam was my customer when I met first time. Very kind and very humble. And then he’s kind of number one in Michigan, even in this area like Chicago and this area. Mr. Nam said ‘You be number one woman in Michigan.’

—**Sung-Hui Kim**

A lot of my friends told me I have a lot of jeong. I was born like that. We are here for what? To make money? To be rich? No, I don't think so. I make money, yes, but you know we need to take care of each other, love and care.

—**Unyeon Choi**

Film Screening | "Round and Around"

April 15, 2022

Directed by **Jang Minseung**, music by **Jung Jae-il** | 2020; 89 min; Experimental Documentary
The Nam Center for Korean Studies presented a free screening of *Round and Around*, followed by Q7A with Director Jang Minseung. With soaring music and powerful images, the documentary offered an evening of sustained meditation on a decade of violence that began with the May 18 Gwangju Democratization Movement.

시를 잊은 그대에게: 육사와 동주 To You Who Forgot Poetry: Yi Yuk-sa, Yun Dong-ju, and Poetry of Anticolonial Resistance

May 3, 2022

A lecture and discussion with Professor **Jaechan Jeong** of Hanyang University, known for his best-selling book, *시를 잊은 그대에게: 공대생의 가슴을 울린 시 강의*, was hosted by the Nam Center. The lecture shed light on little-known aspects of the lives and works of Yi Yuk-sa and Yun Dong-ju, two beloved Korean poets of anticolonial resistance.

"100 Years in Bloom" Pungnyu in the Peony Garden



June 4, 2022

Performers: **Hilary Finchum-Sung**, Executive Director of the Association for Asian Studies; **Chan E. Park**, Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University; **Sunhong Kim**, U-M graduate student in ethnomusicology

A performance by "Pungnyu in the Peony Garden" concluded the centennial anniversary of the peony garden at Nichols Arboretum. It featured a variety of traditional Korean instruments and genres including: danso, haegeum, janggu, geomungo, piri, pansori.



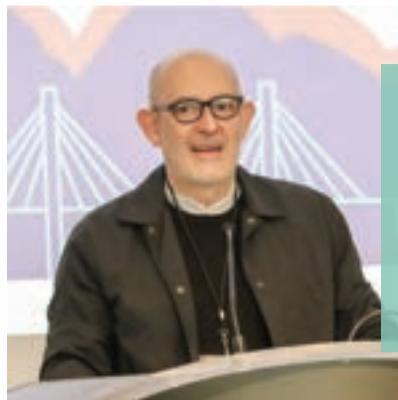
Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference

November 12-13, 2021 | Ann Arbor, Michigan

The Nam Center held its eleventh annual conference on contemporary Korea: “Reclaiming the City.” This event was co-organized by Se-Mi Oh, Assistant Professor of Modern Korean History at Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan, and Francisco Sanin, Professor of Architecture at Syracuse University, and was hosted by the Nam Center for Korean Studies and co-sponsored by the Taubman School of Architecture.

The conference asked fundamental questions about the right to the city, which was heightened during the pandemic, and explored various modes of practices with the focus on social and spatial justice. It provided a space for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary dialogue by bringing together artists, curators, architects, activists, collectives, and communities as well as multi-generations of scholars in disciplines and fields such as anthropology, architectural history, architecture, art, art history, film, gender studies, geography, history, literature, sociology, theater and performance studies, and urban planning. It highlighted how creative and critical endeavors merge to make a new political and conceptual space, also interconnected with the visual, the imaginary, and the digital.

The conference utilized different formats of presentation both online and offline, including mini-podcast series, film screening, panel discussion, roundtable, artist talk, and performative gathering. This was also the first hybrid conference that the Nam Center hosted. On the webinar, nearly 250 individuals registered for the conference with participants joining from sixteen different countries.



Francisco Sanin,
Professor of
Architecture
at Syracuse
University and
faculty
organizer, giving
keynote remarks



Se-Mi Oh, Professor
of Assistant
Professor of Modern
Korean History at
Asian Languages
and Cultures and
co-organizer

Careers after Korean Studies

March 11, 2022

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Sang Yong Nam (SYN) Award, all twelve SYN Award alumni returned to Ann Arbor for an all-day career expo. The alumni prepared an impressive array of presentations from a variety of career paths following their Korean Studies experiences at U-M, offering career advice and networking opportunities to current undergraduates. The alumni also joined the 2022 SYN Award Ceremony to celebrate the newest awardee and to bestow a plaque of appreciation to the Nam Family.

Connecting with Alumni Abroad

Lyndsey Twining (2014 awardee), PhD Candidate in Cultural Informatics at the Academy of Korean Studies
Sae Yeon Yoo (2015), Director at Global ELITE Sports School

Exploring the Arts

Danielle Kim (2020), Post-Production Assistant at Legendary Television & Amazon Studios
Tommy Kim (2019), Singer-Songwriter/Graduate Student
Rachel Epperly (2018), Masters Student at California Institute of the Arts

Thinking Business & Finance

MJ (Minjoo) Kim (2013), Portfolio Management Associate, Fortress Investment Group
Cynthia Yoon (2012), US Head of SMB Financing, Amazon

Building Bridges Globally

Hunter Frederick Zhao (2018), Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State
Sara Stearns (2015), Associate, Morrison & Foerster, LLP

Emerging Media & Communication

Gracie Cackowski (2014), Graphic Designer
Kendall Dumas (2017), Content Creator
Jamie V. Forgacs (2017), Communications Specialist, University of Michigan





Something Impossible **by Gracie Cackowski**

During her time at College for Creative Studies, Gracie Cackowski used photoshop to create a time machine laundromat for a project titled "Something Impossible."

As a Korean adoptee, who left Korea as a toddler, Gracie's memories of her childhood are in black and white. They are marked by a sense of loss: growing up with parents and friends who look like you and experiences adulthood and marriage without always wondering what might have been. The faces the black and white photos are covered with news articles about adoption in Korea, but also with blooming flowers that convey beauty, pathos, and hope.

In the first washing machine, I chose daffodils to symbolize rebirth and new beginnings. I didn't grow up with a good relationship with my adoptive family, so I often dreamed about a new beginning if things hadn't changed for me.

In the second washing machine is a young girl with her father's face blooming with white magnolias to show perseverance. During my birth family search, it seemed that my birth father was reluctant to speak with me, but I still didn't want to give up hope.

In the third washing machine is a group of young school girls enjoying their time together with a flower called alstroemeria that is known to represent friendship. I'm grateful for the friends and connections I've made within the Korean community here in Michigan since I was young, but I still felt distant having to learn language and culture on my own.

In the last machine, I have an individual dressed in Korean traditional wedding attire with their face covered in irises to represent hope, courage, and admiration. I wanted to show what I'm hopeful for the future and bloom despite all the setbacks that I have experienced."

Asia Library

Staff:

Yunah Sung, Korean Studies Librarian / Project Manager

Myung Hee Kim, Korean Cataloger

Sangmi Kim, Korean Acquisition Specialist

Acquisitions

Even though the Korean Language Team has faced a series of difficulties during the pandemic, they have received over 5,500 volumes of Korean language books and provided more than 9,000 titles of ebooks from July 2020 to June 2021. As of June 2021, the library holds more than 88,000 volumes of Korean language materials and provides over 12,000 titles of scholarly e-journals.

Clark Library

Jungwon Yang published her article titled "Korean Government Publication: Publishing, Preservation and Access Policies" in an IFLA series called *The Government Information Landscape and Libraries* in 2021. In 2022, she was a panel discussant to the first Open Social Science Data Forum at the Korea Social Science Data Archive (KOSSDA), where she explained the research data management services at U-M.

In 2022, Jungwon was also invited to participate in the organizational development project of KOSSDA. As one of the principal investigators, Jungwon will provide information about other countries' social science data archives and evaluate current KOSSDA service models. She will also prepare a white paper for a long-term strategic plan for KOSSDA's organizational development and a new service model with other PIs.

Dr. Mary M. Cutler Collection

Dr. Mary M. Cutler (1865-1948) graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1888 and served in the Korea mission field for forty-six years from 1893-1939. She was one of the early shapers of Ewha Womans University's curriculum and helped establish a training school for nurses. According to a library report, she donated 50 volumes of *Corean* books to the library in March 1902.

This collection was discovered by Dr. Ok Kyoung Baek, director of Archives at Ewha Womans University, who visited Asia Library in January 2022. Dr. Baek is working on a book project of Dr. Mary M. Cutler. Asia Library has been compiling a list of Dr. Cutler's donations and will highlight the collection in the near future.



Yunah Sung, Korean Studies Librarian / Project Manager and **Prof. Ok Kyoung Baek** of Ewha Womans University searching archives at the Asia Library



Soyeon Kim, KLP Director, and **Nini Landwer**, singing contest winner

Korean Language Program

KLP Faculty:

Soyeon Kim, Director

Hunjin Jung, Lecturer

Jiyoung Kim, Lecturer

Hyun-ju Oh, Lecturer

Language Tables

Hosted by KLP faculty and student staff, language tables help students deepen their experience of the Korean language, culture, and society in a participatory setting. The events include a game night, a singing contest, and an impromptu skit.

Nam Essay Contest

The contest honors the memory of Elder Sang-Yong Nam, a benefactor whose generosity and personal dedication helped create momentum for the establishment of the Korean Language Program at the University of Michigan in the early 1990s. Students write an essay on a given topic and the best essays are recognized with scholarship awards of up to \$200 at the annual celebration in April.

Seoul National University Exchange

KLP students engage in online exchanges with students at Seoul National University throughout the year.

Korean Language Awards

The best student performances in each class are recognized and awarded at the annual celebration in April.

Awardees:

First-Year: **Tessa Henry, Zalifah Zarim, Brian Georgis, Wanyi Lou, Bridgit Jung**

Second-Year: **Mas Razak, Hannah Hook, Zilin Zhu**

Accelerated (First + Second Year): **Lauren Kim, Seonga Oh**

Third-Year: **Hannah Park**

Midwest Speech Contest & Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK)

With generous support by the Nam Center for Korean Studies, KLP students are fully funded to take part in the Midwest Speech Contest and take the TOPIK exam administered by the Korean government.



K-pop dance team **K-Motion** at the KLP End-of-the-Year Party

Korean Cinema *NOW*

Showcasing the best and brightest of contemporary popular Korean cinema, the Korean Cinema *NOW* film series, held throughout the winter term bring to Ann Arbor Korean films of note released in the previous year. Films are screened in Korean with English subtitles at the historic Michigan Theater. The 2021-2022 film series brought in over 600 attendees.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| January 8, 2022 | 모가디슈 (Escape From Mogadishu, Dir. Ryoo Seung-wan, 2021) |
| January 15, 2022 | 인질 (Hostage: Missing Celebrity, Dir. Pil Kam-sung, 2021) |
| January 29, 2022 | 청산, 유수 (Days of Green, Dir. Shin Dong-il, 2021) |
| February 5, 2022 | 기적 (Miracle: Letters to the President, Dir. Lee Jang-hoon, 2021) |
| February 19, 2022 | 싱크홀 (Sinkhole, Dir. Kim Ji-hoon, 2021) |
| February 26, 2022 | 발신제한 (Hard Hit, Dir. Kim Chang-ju, 2021) |

East Asia Teacher Workshop: Addressing Discrimination in the Asian Diaspora

December 11, 2021

The Nam Center, in partnership with the Center for Japanese Studies and the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, hosted a workshop for Michigan's K-12 educators. Removing the screen from "over there," experts in Area and Asian-American studies explored identity, immigration and nationality, and led discussions on adapting these ideas for classroom use. Covered content included mid-19th century-20th century histories of China, Japan and Korea; push-pull factors for immigration; exclusionary immigration policies in the US; and the complexities of Asian American identity.



Korea From a Single Shard

The "Korea from a Single Shard" program is based on the novel *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park. The program provides Michigan educators with the opportunity to teach their students about Korean culture through literature and art. Students take a field trip to the UMMA for a docent-guided tour focused on Korean celadon located throughout the Woon-Hyung Lee and Korea Foundation Gallery. The trip also features a hands-on Shipwreck Dig Activity, where students work in teams to excavate model shipwrecks, putting together clues to track the ancient trading routes of celadon. The activity brings to life what students encountered throughout the novel.



Sinaboro returns after a two-year hiatus.

Daebak 3, is an official all-male K-Pop/Hip-Hop dance crew at the University of Michigan. They actively perform in major dance and cultural events around campus year-round and occasionally create dance covers.

Korea is currently a world-renowned country for its progress and achievements in breakdancing.

Element 1 is the only breakdancing club at U-M.

Female Gayo is an official female K-Pop dance team under the Korean Student Association.

The **Korean International Student Association** is an organization that promotes the unity and well-being of Korean students at UM. KISA organizes a series of cultural and social events that bring incoming and current students together.

K-Motion is a Korean pop dance group that performs at various events held on campus. Their purpose is to create lasting relationships through dance as they participate in these events. The group specializes in popular Korean pop songs.

The **Korean Student Association** promotes Korean and Korean-American awareness and culture through academic, political, and social activities by interacting with surrounding communities.

The **Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association** was established to give young, intelligent students opportunities to connect with professionals and develop a broader career foundation as scientists and engineers.

The **Korean Student Association - Graduate** is for Korean graduate students, visiting scholars, research fellows, and the faculty community on campus to generate greater interaction within the community and to increase awareness about the Korean culture outside the community.

The **Korea Business Club** at Ross School of Business is a graduate student organization open to all MBA students who are interested in Korean cultures, communities and businesses.

Liberty in North Korea's purpose is to foster leadership development through the understanding of refugees and the North Korean people.

Seoul Juice is a Korean American singing and instrumental cover group.

Sinaboro is a Korean Traditional Drumming Group, founded in 1998, and has had members of all backgrounds learn and perform samulnori. Sinaboro seeks to share Korean culture with the Ann Arbor community and beyond through samulnori.

Michigan Taekwondo Club is a student-run club that teaches the fundamental aspects of taekwondo. The team competes across the country as well as locally.

You Can Help!

Gifts to the Nam Center for Korean Studies help support research, teaching, the Korean Language Program and the Korean Collection in the Asia Library. The Center also helps student organizations, provides graduate fellowships, and sponsors visiting scholars, public lectures, our film series and many other special events. Your gift will also help us recruit and retain the finest students and faculty.

Find out how to donate:

<https://ii.umich.edu/ncks/donate.html>

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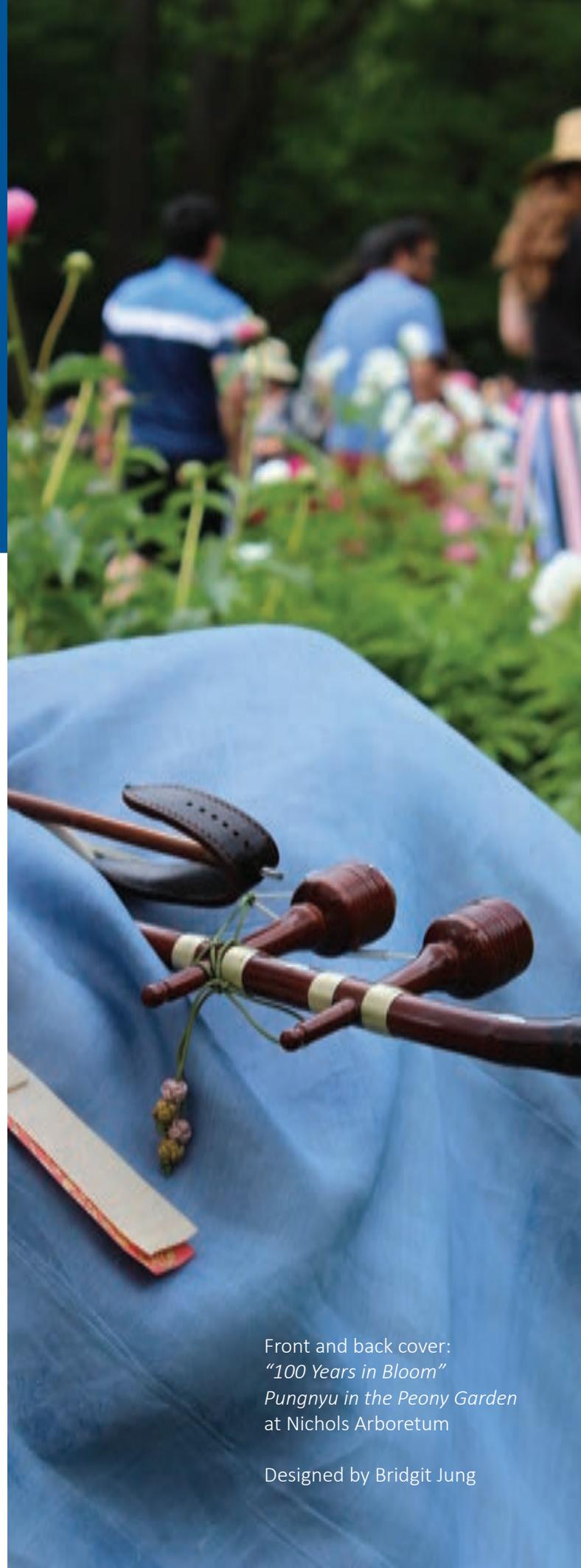
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Front and back cover:
"100 Years in Bloom"
Pungnyu in the Peony Garden
at Nichols Arboretum

Designed by Bridgit Jung