

M | NAM CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Nam Center,

The 2022–2023 academic year saw the full return of many familiar sights and sounds to the Ann Arbor campus: mask-free classes, hammocks on the Diag, the bustle of football Saturdays (and on major thoroughfares from State to Main, the noise of construction, construction, and more construction!). In Dr. Santa J. Ono, the University welcomed a new president, and as the Center’s programs returned to being held in person, the response from the community has been nothing short of joyous. Two

particularly memorable examples are our annual Chuseok celebration, attended by nearly a thousand people including Reps. Debbie Dingell and Grace Meng ('97, History), and the Korean Cinema Now film series for which we had to schedule additional screenings to accommodate the high demand.

The Center’s academic programming this year was, in a word, robust. Perspectives on Contemporary Korea annual conference, superbly organized by Dr. Rory Walsh on the topic of “Korea Around the Table: Food, Culture, and Mobility,” brought together scholars of Korean Studies and Food Studies from the US, Europe, Latin America, and Korea.

Korean Studies Colloquium featured cutting-edge research on topics ranging from US–Korea relations to the webtoon revolution in South Korea. The International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars (NEKST) celebrated its tenth anniversary with a program highlighting the growing diversity of graduate research in Korean Studies, organized by our own Graduate Fellows. The year-long Undergraduate Fellows Program culminated in a conference at USC where our students were recognized for their research projects. In addition, Junior Faculty Manuscript Workshop, “Korea in Maize & Blue” Podcast, and the Big Ten Academic Alliance–Korea Foundation e-School continued to deepen the Nam Center’s mission of contributing to Korean studies field-building beyond U-M. As the latest example of this effort, the Michigan Korean Studies Summer Institute (MiKSSI) was launched as an intensive one-week residential institute focused on graduate training. Fifteen graduate students from around the country were selected to participate in the inaugural institute on the topic of the Global Korean War.

Another accomplishment in 2022–2023 was the strengthening of partnerships with other campus units, which had the effect of cultivating a broader interest in Korean studies within the University. “K-Artsong,” a beautiful evening of lyrical kagok music organized by Dr. Matt Thompson, was made possible by the Center’s collabo-

ration with the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. At the University of Michigan Museum of Art, the Center co-sponsored “Dopamine Dressing,” a colorful exhibition of clay and metal sculptures by Seoul-born artist YehRim Lee. Working with the Wallace House Center for Journalists, as well as the Center for Japanese Studies and the Lieberthal–Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, the Nam Center helped launch “Asia in the Headlines,” a roundtable conversation involving journalists and academics on issues of vital contemporary relevance in Asia. This year’s roundtable addressed the government response to the Halloween disaster in Itaewon.

Throughout the year, distinguished guests visited the Nam Center, including a delegation from Gyeonggi-do Province headed by Governor Dong Yeon Kim (PhD'93, Public Policy). Governor Kim delivered the 2023 Sang Yong Nam Memorial Lecture on a topic of urgency for today’s society—how to address inequality in opportunity for our young people—and met with Provost Laura McCauley to sign an agreement for educational exchange between Gyeonggi-do Youth Ladder Program and the University of Michigan. As part of this exchange, the Nam Center hosted thirty students from low-income households in Gyeonggi-do Province for a month-long summer program in Ann Arbor. The program is part of the Center’s continuing effort to find creative solutions to DEI challenges within international education.

Finally, 2022–2023 has been a year of long goodbyes and new beginnings for the Nam Center administration. Kelsey Langton, the backbone of the family as the Center Administrator for over five years, Kate Szeto-Klemm, the always inspired and ever meticulous outreach coordinator, and Dr. Rory Walsh, who transformed scores of Wolverines into expert undergraduate researchers on Korea, have departed the Center for exciting new careers and educational opportunities. During a time of transition, Evan Vowell, with Peggy Rudberg’s assistance, did a heroic job holding down the fort, and Do-Hee Morsman went above and beyond her role as Asia Centers Manager. Two wonderfully capable staff members have recently joined the Nam Center. Eva Fall ('17, Linguistics) is the new Administrator and Suyun Lee joins Evan as a Program Coordinator. At the heart of the Michigan Difference in Korean studies are the Nam Center staff, both past and present. I cannot be more grateful for their dedication and excellence.

At the Nam Center for Korean Studies, as always, our doors and ears remain open. Please visit us online, on social media, or in person.

Go Blue!

Youngju Ryu



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Nam Center Faculty and Staff	3
Faculty News	5
Student News	7
Student Fellowships & Funding	9
Colloquium Series	9
Korean Language Program	10
Initiatives	11
Outreach	13
Special Events	14
Asia Library	17
Student Groups	18

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 hold international conferences, manuscript workshops, and a graduate summer institute in interdisciplinary Korean Studies annually. 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 campus departments, schools, and academic units, and comprise one of the three centers that together make up the East Asia National Resource Center at Michigan, 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, cultivate historically situated knowledge, and facilitate nuanced conversations about Korea's traditions and transformations within the U-M community and beyond.



NAM CENTER FACULTY & STAFF

Director

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

Nam Center Core Faculty

Juhn Ahn, Associate Professor, ALC

YuhJoo Byun, Lecturer, ALC

David Chung, Professor, Art and Design

Jeehyae Chung, Lecturer, ALC

Hunjin Jung, Lecturer, ALC

Joan Kee, Professor, History of Art

E. Han Kim, Professor, Ross School of Business

Hwa-Jin Kim, Professor, Law

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

Dae Hee Kwak, Associate Professor, Kinesiology

Se-Mi Oh, Associate Professor, ALC

Doo Jae Park, Lecturer, Kinesiology

Thoman Ryan, Postdoctoral Fellow

Na Ri Shin, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology

Jordan Siegel, Professor, Ross School of Business

Rory Walsh, Research Fellow and Lecturer

Affiliated Faculty

Barbara Anderson, Professor, Sociology

Micah Auerback, Associate Professor, ALC

Benjamin Brose, Professor, ALC

Scott Campbell, Professor, Communication & Media

Kevin Carr, Associate Professor, History of Art

Pär Cassel, Associate Professor, History

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

Donald Lopez, Professor, ALC

Julie Ma, Associate Professor, Social Work

Ramaswami Mahalingam, Professor, Psychology, Women's Studies

Abé Markus Nornes, Professor, ALC, Film, Television & Media

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



Do-Hee Morsman, Eva Fall, Evan Vowell, Rory Walsh, Thomas Ryan, Kate Klemm, Youngju Ryu, and Kelsey Langton (left to right)

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

Jeonghyun Eom, KF Global Challenger Library Intern

Staff

Eva Fall, Center Administrator

Kate Klemm-Szeto, Outreach Coordinator

Suyun Lee, Program Coordinator

Peggy Rudberg, Administrative Assistant

Evan Vowell, Program Coordinator

Student Assistants

Jinny Kim, Office Assistant

Claire Yang, Graphic Designer

New Faculty & Staff



Ji Yeon (Jean) Hong

“I am delighted to introduce myself to the community of the Nam Center for Korean Studies (NCKS). I am a political scientist working on authoritarianism with a regional focus on East Asia. I have studied politics since my undergraduate program at Seoul National University. I earned my Ph.D. at New York

University and taught in Hong Kong for eight years before joining the University of Michigan. My research is on historical and contemporary political phenomena in South Korea, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Substantively, I am interested in what drives authoritarian leaders to make certain political decisions and how the citizens evaluate and react to them in the short and long run.

Although my research and teaching involve multiple countries in East Asia, my experience of democratization in South Korea as a young child has been a foundational motivation to study politics as a career and an irreplaceable asset as a political scientist. Although today’s global public, including college students, considers South Korea an economic and cultural powerhouse with a consolidated democracy, my research tries to understand various political challenges in Korean politics from an angle of authoritarian legacies. How authoritarian legacies have affected democracy in South Korea also sheds light on ongoing political struggles in many other new democracies in Asia and other regions.

I consider it an immense privilege in my career to be part of the Nam Center, collaborating with esteemed colleagues who have an incomparable expertise in Korean Studies. It would be a true honor for me to play a role in elevating the Nam Center and the University of Michigan an indispensable hub for global Korean Politics

research, which is increasingly in demand with Korea’s growing presence worldwide. I look forward to all the opportunities to learn from and collaborate with all members.”

Eva Fall

“I am thrilled to have joined the team here at the Nam Center for Korean Studies and to have returned to Ann Arbor after several years away. Born and raised in the Ann Arbor area, I attended the University of Michigan, where I graduated with a B.A. in Linguistics and minors in German and East Asian Studies in 2017. Upon receiving my degree, I moved to South Korea, where I spent a couple of years living and working in Seoul before returning to the United States. Professionally, my experience ranges from private-sector



institutions to non-profits, including, prior to Michigan, Emory University.”

Suyun Lee

“Before coming to Ann Arbor, I lived and worked across the globe; with the UN in Ethiopia and the Korea

Foundation and Seoul Metropolitan Government in Korea. I hold MAs in International Studies (Korea University) and Interpretation/Translation (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies) as well as BA in German (Korea University).

I have been part of the Nam Center as the first e-School coordinator and am grateful to be back, this time as the external relations coordinator. I hold many happy memories with the Nam Center and am delighted to be welcomed back by familiar faces as well as new ones, all with the same buzzing and vibrant energy as before.”

Nam Center Postdoctoral Fellows

The Postdoctoral Fellow enriches the Korean studies community at U-M 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.

2022-2023 Postdoctoral Fellows:

Thomas Ryan, Korea Foundation

Rory Walsh, Nam Center for Korean Studies



“The Nam Center has provided me with an ideal environment in which to work on my own research projects in close proximity to faculty members working in Korean and Asian Studies. I have been able to present and receive feedback on my work at several events throughout the year, including the Nam Center Colloquium Series. At the same

time, our faculty and staff have worked to integrate me in the larger Korean Studies community at the University of Michigan and beyond. Our many conferences and programs allowed me to build relationships with not only our own undergraduate and graduate fellows but also major scholars in the field.” —Thomas Ryan.

FACULTY NEWS



Juhn Ahn, Associate Professor of Buddhist and Korean Studies, organized a panel and presented a paper titled, “Buddhism and Legal Codification in

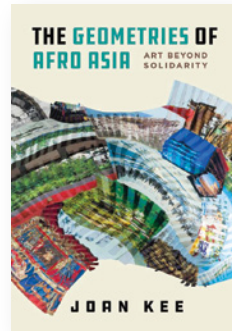
Early Chosŏn Korea,” at the 31st AKSE conference in Copenhagen in June. As the principal investigator of the Humanities Collaboratory project titled, “Centering the Northern Realms: Integrating Histories and Archaeologies of the Mongol Empire (1200 to 1500 CE),” he also led a research expedition to Outer Mongolia in late June. Professor Ahn and his team visited various sites scattered across the steppes of Mongolia such as the Tsogtiin Tsagaan Baishin ruins, Ovgon Monastery ruins, the old capital of the Mongol empire Khara-khorum, Tuvkhon Monastery, Tsetserleg, Jargalant Valley, and Amarbayasgalant Monastery. Later in July, Professor Ahn visited Seoul and recorded public talks for a Korean government funded project titled “K-MOOC.” These talks, 35 in all, cover various topics related to Korea and East Asian Buddhism. The lectures are scheduled to be made available to the public on the K-MOOC website next year.



Design. He is currently collaborating with Pratap Rughani, British filmmaker

David Chung, Professor of Art and Design, has been appointed for a third term as the director of the MFA Graduate Program at the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and

and Associate Dean of Research at the University of Arts London on a new video installation. Professor Chung’s work was featured in “Rereading of American Art 1950-2000: Invitation to the Others” by Jina Kim.



Joan Kee, Professor in the History of Art, spent 2022-2023 as an inaugural Ford Foundation Scholar in Residence at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

This unique residency program supports the work of three thought leaders with demonstrated records of achievement to pursue independent research projects with full access to MoMA’s collections, library, archives, and other research resources. Kee’s book, *The Geometries of Afro Asia: Art beyond Solidarity*, was published by the University of California Press in April 2023, in addition to catalogue essays for two landmark exhibitions on modern and contemporary Korean art, “The Space Between: The Modern in Korean Art” at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and “Only the Young: Experimental Art in Korea 1960s-1970s” co-organized by the Guggenheim Museum and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Korea. Upcoming projects include co-editing a Korea-focused edition of *Primary Documents*, MoMA’s flagship series of anthologies presenting crucial art historical writings and primary source materials from regions outside the U.S.



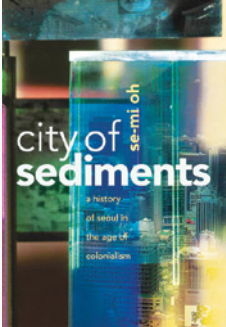
Jaeun Kim, Associate Professor of Sociology, accepted the invitation of a courtesy appointment from the University of Michigan Law School as Profes-

sor of Law (Courtesy), effective January 2023. She won the Associate Professor Support Fund for 2022-2024 from the University. She was elected as a council member of the American Sociological Association (ASA) International Migration section for 2022-2025. She also accepted the invitation to serve as the editorial board member of *Theory and Society* (2023-2025).



Dae Hee Kwak, Associate Professor of Sport Management Program in the School of Kinesiology, published several articles including “Investigating

U.S. Professional Sports Teams’ #BlackLivesMatter Statements”, and “Political Identity, Risk Perception, and Sport Participation” in 2023. He was invited to speak at an international colloquium “Olympic Legacies on the Globe” hosted by the Korean Institute for Olympic Studies in summer 2022. He also organized an invited talk co-sponsored by the School of Kinesiology and the Nam Center. The talk was titled “Playing for the Enemy: A New Perspective on the Olympic Games in Colonial Korea (1910-1945)” by Dr. Seok Lee. He currently serves as the Executive Committee (2022-2024) of the School of Kinesiology and the Director of Sport Management Graduate Program.



Se-Mi Oh, was promoted to Associate Professor of Modern Korean History in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. Her new book titled *City of Sediments:*

A History of Seoul in the Age of Colonialism was published by Stanford University Press in April 2023. She will be spending the next year at the Asia Center, Seoul National University, as a Fulbright Scholar, researching on the project titled “The Han River: A Story of Urban Planning and Ecology.”



Doo Jae Park, Lecturer of American Culture (Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies) and Kinesiology (Sport Management) co-authored an article, currently

published in the *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*. The article, titled “Branded Media Representations of Coach Sarah Murray: The Intersection of Olympic Nationalism, Gender, and Whiteness in Ice Hockey” examines how an aspiration of global Koreanness redeploys Koreanness, gender, and hegemonic whiteness in a context of global sports like the Olympics. He was also invited to talk at Yonsei University, titled “Imagine Otherwise on Korean Diaspora: Heterogeneity and Flexible Citizenship of Korean American Baby Boomers” in December 2022. He was a recipient of the 2022-2023 Honored Instructor, acknowledged by the Student Housing at the University of Michigan.



Youngju Ryu, serving as the director of the Nam Center, Title VI East Asia National Resource Center, and the BTAA-KF Korean Studies e-School in 2022-2023, oversaw the

launch of several new projects including Michigan Korean Studies Summer Institute and Asia in the Headlines Roundtable Series. She completed several translations for publication, including works of fiction by ethnic Korean writers in China and writings by Korean intellectual Song Kŏn-ho, and began work on *The Cambridge History of the Korean War* as a co-editor with Heonik Kwon and Steve Hugh Lee. The Korean translation of her research monograph was published in Korea by Somyung Press under the title *겨울 공화국의 작가들: 박정희 시대의 문학과 저항* in July 2023. At U-M, she continues to serve on the steering committee of Women of Color in the Academy Project and on the executive committee of the Institute for the Humanities.



NaRi Shin, Assistant Professor of Sport Management in the School of Kinesiology, co-authored a paper titled “Branded Media Representations of Coach

Sarah Murray: The Intersection of Olympic Nationalism, Gender, and Whiteness in Ice Hockey” in the *Journal of Social Issues* with Doo Jae Park, also a core faculty of the Nam Center for Korean Studies. She was elected to co-chair the Diversity and Inclusion

Committee of the North American Society for Sport Management and is serving until June 2024. This year, she received the Marie Hartwig Research Grant from the School of Kinesiology to examine Korean diasporic communities’ ethnic sport teams in the U.S. and their influences in ethnic Koreans’ sense of belonging and community building. In this project, she has been conducting fieldwork in Korean ethnic enclaves in the U.S. and interviewing members of Korean amateur sport teams.

Visiting Scholar

The Nam Center offers affiliation to scholars and fellows visiting the University of Michigan for an extended period. During the 2022-2023 academic year the center hosted one scholar from Korea.

WooJoo Byun, Professor (Ph.D. in Law), School of Law, Dong-A University

Research Topic: “A Comparative Study on the Legislation of Real Estate registration system in the United States and Korea.”



STUDENT NEWS

Nam Center Graduate Fellows Program

The Center continues to strengthen graduate commitment to Korean studies through its Graduate Fellows program. The group is now a registered student organization with the sponsorship of the Nam Center. This network of students meet monthly throughout the academic year. They are connected by a common interest in Korea, but their areas of study range greatly.

Kaeun Park, Committee Chair, Asian Languages and Cultures

Adelina Pinzaru, Asian Languages and Cultures

Dongkyu Yeom, Asian Languages and Cultures

Gahyun Lee, Environment & Sustainability

Gerald Brian Sutton, Asian Languages and Cultures

Hojung Joo, Political Science

Jieun Chang, Psychology

Sunhong Kim, Musicology

Chelle Jones, Sociology

Megan Savoy, Anthropology

Okyoung Noh, Art

Sujin Cha, Political Science

Yeon-ju Bae, Anthropology

Youngkyun Choi, Romance Languages and Literatures

AKS Dissertation Fellowship

Recipient: Kaeun Park, Asian Languages and Cultures

“As a Graduate Fellow since 2021, I have been grateful to be part of this great intellectual community that fosters special friendship and provides many moments



of inspiring conversations and collaborative opportunities. It was an honor to serve as the chair for this year's NEKST conference, which was particularly meaningful as this year marks its tenth-year anniversary. The grant and support I received from the Center this year have greatly benefited me in various ways – improving my professional skills and developing

my dissertation project. Based on the research I conducted, in the upcoming fall, I plan to write my prospectus for my dissertation, which investigates how South Korea's territory in the 1970s was newly imagined, visualized, and materialized in the form of documentary photographs that were produced in the discourse of the landscape.”

NEKST Graduate Student Conference



The 10th International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars (NEKST) was held in Ann Arbor on May 12-13, 2023. The conference organizing

committee, comprised of fourteen graduate students at the University of Michigan, was led by committee chair Kaeun Park. The conference featured panel presentations, workshop sessions for dissertation chapters and advanced papers, a graduate student networking session, a professional development workshop on the elevator pitch, and an artist talk. Panel themes included masculinity and wars in Korean visual culture, politics of representation in Korean Literature, politics and activism, and issues of mental health and social provision. Prominent Korean studies faculty members across disciplines and institutions served as discussants and mentors.



Yujin Julia Jung (University of Missouri)



**Left: Caroline Yoo (Carnegie Mellon University)
Right: Hyeree Ro (Yale University)**



Undergraduate Exchange Conference

The Nam Center Undergraduate Research Fellows traveled to Los Angeles to take part in the 11th Annual Undergraduate Exchange Conference, hosted by the Korean Studies Institute at the University of Southern California. The Michigan Fellows presented the findings of their year-long research projects while competing for prestigious awards recognizing excellent papers and presentations. Panels covered topics such as economy, politics, religion, media, language, health, and urbanism. Discussants provided comments and the Fellows engaged in panel discussions with their peers from USC.

Best Paper Award:

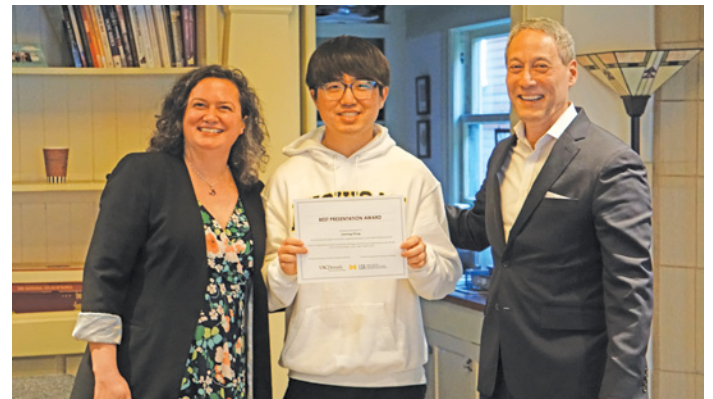
Yoon Kim, *University of Michigan*

“From Collective Han to Diasporic Han: Minjung Theology in the Korean (Immigrant/-American) Church”

Best Presentation Award:

Jooyoung Chung, *University of Michigan*

“The Weaponization of Feminism in the 2022 South Korean Presidential Election”



Yoon Kim (middle, above) and Jooyoung Chung (middle, right) with Dr. Rory Walsh, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Dr. David Kang, Director of the Korean Studies Institute at USC

Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows Program

The Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows program supports students committed to Korean Studies 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:

Avery Crystal
Jinny Kim
Skyla Park

Research Fellows:

Jackie Choe
Jooyoung Chung
Olivia Daniel
Lisa Ryou
Piero Guerra
Yoon (Yoojin) Kim

Janice Lee

Lena (Madeleine) Lee

William Lee

Celia Morones

Gwen Park

Mas Syuhada Shaik Abdul Razak

Emily Saito

STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS & FUNDING

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.

2023 Recipients:

Youngkyun Choi, Romance Languages and Literatures

Ohkyoung Noh, Art & Design

Adelina Pinzaru, Asian Languages and Cultures

Kaeun Park, Asian Languages and Cultures

I-Lun Shih, Sociology

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. 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.

2023 Recipients:

Hermela Benyam, Psychology/Computer Science

Annika Burman, Architecture/Urban Technology

Olivia Daniel, Biology, Health & Society

Priya Ganji, Information/Economics

Hannah Kim, Information/Computer Science

Conference Travel Grants

The following students received funding to present at or attend conferences during the 2022-23 academic year:

Jieun Chang, Psychology

Attended: The Korean Psychological Association Annual Conference

Hojung Joo, Political Science

Paper: "Repression during Wars: Evidence from the Korean War"

Yeon-ju Bae, Anthropology

Paper: "Settling down through unsettlement: The ethical politics through narrative scales in a Korean Buddhist return-to-the-farm village"

Gahyun Lee, Environment and Sustainability

Paper: "The political ecology of a territorial dispute: local conflict on Misingo Island"

Kaeun Park, Asian Languages and Cultures

Paper: "Outside the Military Milieu: Annual Exhibition Winter Daesungri in 1980s South Korea"

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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 2022-2023 series was held in-person as well as virtually. The speakers also participated as featured guests in the center's 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.



Erik Mobrand



Cheehyung Harrison Kim



Jung Joon Lee

October 12, 2022 Erik Mobrand, *Korea Policy Chair, Rand Corporation*; "Washington's Democracy in Asia: South Korea and the Prospects of a Global Partnership"

November 16, 2022 Cheehyung Harrison Kim, *Associate Professor of History, University of Hawaii*; "Machines of the Quotidian: Architecture and Technology in Postwar North Korea"

December 7, 2022 Jung Joon Lee, *Associate Professor of Theory, History of Art and Design, Rhode Island School of Design*; "Sensing Borderlands: The DMZ, Camp towns, and the Theater of Repetition"

January 25, 2023 Yumi Moon, *Associate Professor of History, Stanford University*; "Correspondence from the Soviet Zone: Northern Refugees and the Rise of Cold War Nationalism in South Korea, 1945-1949"

February 8, 2023 Thomas Ryan, *Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Michigan*; "Mirages of Pacification: Inscripting the Home Front from Korea to Vietnam"

February 22, 2023 Erica Vogel, *Professor of Anthropology, Saddleback College*; "Migrant Conversions: Money, Religion, and Global Projects of Peruvians in South Korea"

March 15, 2023 William O'Grady, *Professor of Linguistics, University of Hawaii*; "Jejueo: Korea's Hidden Language"

April 5, 2023 Heekyoung Cho, *Associate Professor of Asian Languages and Literature, University of Washington*; "Web Graphic Narrative and Platform Culture"

KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Korean Language Program Faculty

Soyeon Kim, Director

YuhJoo Byun

Jeehyae Chung

Hunjin Jung

Jiyoung Kim

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. This year's language tables included game days, movie nights, and a Korean potluck.

Seoul National University Exchange

KLP students engage in online exchanges with students at Seoul National University throughout the year. In 2022-2023, students enrolled in Accelerated Korean and Third Year Korean collaborated with their exchange partners to create a video podcast.



Global Course Connections in Seoul, South Korea

In the Spring term, KLP students have the opportunity to take their Korean language learning to a practical setting through the three-week Global Course Connections (GCC) program led by KLP faculty. After three years of hiatus due to the pandemic, the program resumed in 2023 with eleven students visiting Seoul with the KLP Director, Soyeon Kim.



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. The grand prize for the 2023 Nam Essay Contest was awarded to Qingyi Zeng, who wrote about her dream as a doctoral student of literature.

Korean Language Awards

The best student performances in each class are recognized at the annual celebration in April. Awardees receive a book prize.

2022-2023 Awardees:

First-Year: Toby Buckfire, Emily Chung, Emma Lee, Karina Yang, Christopher Zhang

Second-Year: Kate Chung, Jordan Key, Noah Kim, David Koo, Lindsy Mackensen

Third-Year: Emily Bunnell

Fourth-Year: Andrea Medina



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. In the 2023

Midwest Speech Contest, three students participated as contestants in three different levels, respectively. Zilin Zhu, a student in Third Year Korean, won an honorable mention in the advanced level.



INITIATIVES

Korean Studies e-School

In 2022-2023, the Korea Foundation (KF) Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) e-School program entered its tenth year. In this program, member universities, comprised of thirteen out of the fourteen universities that make up the Big Ten consortium, share Korea-related courses across campuses in real time, using video conferencing technology to eliminate barriers of distance. The program diversifies course offerings and expand enrollments in Korean studies across the Midwest, while providing opportunities for collaboration in teaching and curricular development.

Fall 2022 Courses:

Introduction to Korean Linguistics,
Hyo Sang Lee, *Indiana University*

The Korean War: A Local and Global History, Alyssa Park, *University of Iowa*

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

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

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

Korean Food Cultures: Past and Present, Charles Kim, *University of Wisconsin*

Spring 2023 Courses:

South Korean Education, John Finch, *Indiana University*

Rocks, Wind, and Women: Environment and Identity on Korea's Jeju Island, Rory Walsh, *University of Michigan*

Korean Film and Media, Travis Workman, *University of Minnesota*

K-Pop: Genre, Identity, Industry, Fandom, Pil Ho Kim, *Ohio State University*

Imagining Disaster: Korea and the Apocalyptic Modern, Jae Won Chung, *Rutgers University*



Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference

Dr. Hyaewool Choi (University of Iowa)

The Nam Center held its twelfth annual conference on contemporary Korea: “Korea Around the Table: Food, Culture, and Mobility.” This event was co-organized by Rory Walsh, the Nam Center Postdoctoral Fellow.

This conference focused on food as a fundamental component of culture and an ideal subject for interdisciplinary social inquiry. From the origins of Korean foodways to the pop culture icon K-food has become, the participants explored the significance of food in the concept of Koreanness both domestically and in diaspora, while shedding light on regional histories and transnational movements in which food is embedded. Topics covered included historical Korean foodways, and the role of food in colonialism, diaspora, heritage politics, and popular culture.



Tessa Nguyen, R.D., Cara Harbstreet, R.D.,
Dr. Robert Ji-song Ku (Binghamton University),
Dr. Miliann Kang (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)



Dr. Rory Walsh, Postdoctoral Fellow



Summer Institute

“**T**his summer, the Nam Center held the inaugural Michigan Korean Studies Summer Institute (MiKSSI) with a grant from the Academy of Korean Studies. The theme of this week-long program was the Global Korean War, and the program began on June 25, the 73rd anniversary of the war’s beginning. Fifteen graduate students from institutions throughout North America and Europe brought their own projects and disciplines into conversation with seven faculty instructors. Our visiting seminar leaders, who graciously stayed with us in Ann Arbor for the entire week, included Steven Lee of the University of British Columbia, Heonik Kwon of Cambridge University, and Bruce Cumings of the University of Chicago. The week also included talks from Suzy Kim of Rutgers University, Mitchell Lerner of the Ohio State University, and Nam Center Director Youngju Ryu. As a postdoctoral fellow here, I was honored to round out the list of faculty presenters.

The goal of the Summer Institute was to cultivate a shared set of concerns and questions amongst graduate students by focusing on the Korean War as a foundational issue in the expanding field of Korean Studies. Participants were united, in turn, by a commitment to ending the Korean War and reunifying the Korean peninsula, which remains to this day the potential site of global nuclear war. The program was designed, in addition, to give students the opportunity to share their own projects and experiences with major scholars in Korean Studies. The friendships developed amongst young scholars at our inaugural Summer Institute, it is hoped, will long outlast the week they spent here.” —Thomas Ryan, *Nam Center Postdoctoral Fellow*



Summer in Michigan

The Summer in Michigan Program in English Language (Su:M) was relaunched this year for the first time since the Covid pandemic suspended the program in 2020, under a new partnership with the Youth Ladder Program offered by the Gyeonggi-do Province government. The program is an intensive four-week academic English and American cultural experience for 30 Gyeonggi-do residents. The program is offered jointly by the English Language Institute and the Nam Center for Korean Studies, and enriched by the participation of ten U-M students who serve as cultural liaisons, providing peer mentoring in language practice and university life.

The program featured a two-part curriculum: an initial academic English course, which culminated in a capstone project in which students research a topic and display their findings in a presentation; and a later course focusing on art and performance, also culminating in a performance by students. In addition, students experienced student life at the University of Michigan, while participating in cultural and volunteer activities in and around Ann Arbor and Detroit, including volunteering at the Detroit Public Library and a Detroit urban farm.

2023 Cultural Liaisons:

Anh Nguyen
Emily Bunnell
Eui-Pyo Daniel Kim
Hannah Ju Glass-Chapman
Jacqueline Choe
Katherine Hattersley
Leah Ehrhardt
Lisa Ryou
Maevis Rosengart
Raven Brown

Podcast

The Nam Center published the second season of its podcast series, “Korea in Maize and Blue: How Did You Get Here?” This podcast focuses on the journey that leads scholars to Korean studies. The series is hosted by Rory Walsh, the Nam Center’s Postdoctoral Fellow, who is joined by an Undergraduate Fellow to interview an established scholar. An informal, intergenerational conversation that results traces the guest’s life as a researcher and highlights their advice for younger scholars.



This season’s episodes include interviews with:

Dr. Eric Mobrand, *Korea Policy Chair and a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation*

Dr. Cheehyung Harrison Kim, *Associate Professor at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa*

Dr. Jung Joon Lee, *Associate Professor at the Rhode Island School of Design*

Dr. Yumi Moon, *Associate Professor at Stanford University*

Dr. Thomas Ryan, *the Nam Center’s Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow 2022-23*

Dr. Erica Vogel, *Professor at Saddleback College*

Dr. William O’Grady, *Professor at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa*

OUTREACH

Korean Cinema NOW

Every winter term, the Korean Cinema NOW series brings to Ann Arbor the best of contemporary popular Korean cinema released within the past year in Korea. Films are screened in Korean with English subtitles at the historic Michigan & State Theaters. The 2022-2023 series attracted over 1,200 attendees.

January 14, 2023

브로커 (*Broker*, Dir. Hirokazu Koreeda, 2022)

January 21, 2023

헌트 (*Hunt*, Dir. Lee Jung-jae, 2022)

February 11, 2023

범죄도시 2 (*The Roundup*, Dir. Lee Sang-yong, 2022)

February 18, 2023

이상한 나라의 수학자 (*In Our Prime*, Dir. Park Dong-hoon, 2022)

March 11, 2023

한산: 용의 출현 (*Hansan: Rising Dragon*, Dir. Kim Han-min, 2022)

April 8, 2023

헤어질 결심 (*Decision to Leave*, Dir. Park Chan-wook, 2022)



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 teachers with the opportunity to expose their students to 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 the locale and travel of Tree-Ear, the main character of the book, into reality for the students. This year, the program’s curriculum also highlighted the background of UMMA’s visiting artist, a modern Korean ceramicist, Yehrim Lee. The tour featured a special activity within Artist Yehrim Lee’s exhibit, “Dopamine Dressing,” following her path being born into a family of traditional ceramicists and stepping into the world of modern art.



East Asia Teacher Workshop

East Asian Migration & Borders: Stories of Identity & Connection

The Nam Center, in partnership with the Center for Japanese Studies and the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese studies, hosted a synchronous in-person and asynchronous virtual workshop for Michigan’s K-12 educators with the goal of increasing East Asia related content in their classrooms. The workshop theme focused on migration as a shared experience that is not always delimited by spatial relocation, and explored the complexities of traveling across and within borders of East Asia. Over 27 educators, U-M faculty, and staff participated in the workshop.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Korean ArtSong Recital

Dr. Matthew Thomson with Dr. Youngmin Kim of Moody Chorale

On September 16, 2022, Dr. Matthew Thomson, Assistant Professor of Voice at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance wove a narrative among eleven performances, sometimes providing historic information about the works, and at other times personal, describing his connection to this repertoire. A pianist, Thomson was joined by current students Hayoung Jung, Minji Kim, and Jack Morin, as well as alumni, Yongmin Kim and celebrated opera star Vince Yi in the evening's performance. Thomson explained that after decades of teaching songs in German, French, Italian, English, and other languages, he began to question what the barrier for Korean song was.

Thompson has spent the last two years collecting musical scores and studying Korean lyric diction. Over the summer, he trav-

eled to Korea to meet with composers, performers, and administrators who specialize in this repertoire. All of this work led him to create a database (<https://ii.umich.edu/ncks/news-events/news/search-news/korean-artsongresource.com>), the only of its kind about Korean art song. The database currently contains information about the name, key, poet, composer, and other details about the songs. As he continues to build the website, Thompson plans to have phonetic guides for singers in IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) and spoken recordings of song texts by native speakers.

The event had incredible attendance and received great attention. "One of my colleagues said he'd never seen such turnout for a Voice recital," Thomson laughed. "There's no question that was in part because this project touches so many different parts of the University and community. I was ecstatic with the audience and continue to delight at the online reception afterward." Thomson was interviewed by Yonhap News and several online news agencies made videos about the event, at least one of which went viral. "I'm so grateful for the support of the Nam Center, Youngju Ryu, and Yunah Sung. I couldn't have done this without them. Thank you! I look forward to more collaboration in the future."



Jack Morin, bass-baritone



Dr. Vince Yi, countertenor



SPECIAL EVENTS

Chuseok Party

The Chuseok Party returned to its fully in-person glory after the pandemic forced the festival to be held virtually for two years in a row. The festival was the twelfth annual celebration of Korean Thanksgiving at the Nam Center. Over 1,000 attendees including U-M students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community residents of all ages had the opportunity to experience Korean culture, cuisine, and arts through various hands-on activities. Michigan representative, Debbie Dingell, and New York representative and U-M alum, Grace Meng also made appearances at the event. The largest attraction of the festival was the 9 student group performances featured for attendees to enjoy.



Over 1,000 attendees including U-M students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community residents of all ages had the opportunity to experience Korean culture, cuisine, and arts.



US Congresswoman Grace Meng and her family at the Chuseok Party with Dr. Youngju Ryu

Asia in the Headlines: Journalists' Roundtable

“Social Impact of Mass Trauma: Processing Tragic Events in Japan and Korea”

Asia in the Headlines Roundtable brings journalists and academics together for in-depth and multi-perspectival conversations on issues of vital importance in Asia. These discussions seek to unpack historical contexts, comparative frameworks, and



dynamic forces at work behind some of the most complex developments taking place in Asia today, while raising awareness of the role of news media in shaping public understanding of the region.



This year's roundtable focused on mass trauma and management of

public disasters in Korea and Japan, two countries with poor track-records in mental health and some of the highest suicide rates in the world. KyeongRak Min, who reports for Yonhap News, and Antoni Slodkowski, former Japan deputy bureau chief at Reuters, discussed their insights from the field in a conversation moderated by Professor Ann Lin, Director of Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies.



Dr. Kim Dong Yeon with Mrs. Moon-Sook Nam



Provost Laurie McCauley and Dr. Kim Dong Yeon at the MOU Signing Ceremony

2023 Sang-Yong Nam Memorial Lecture

This year's Sang-Yong Nam Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. Kim Dong Yeon, the 36th governor of Gyeonggi Province, and a distinguished alum of the University of Michigan Ford School. In his lecture titled "Merry Revolt: A Proposal for Twenty-First Century Korea," Governor Kim reflected on how his life and public service led him to confront the structural

problems affecting Korean society today. In seeking solutions to these problems, he encouraged young people to "break with the familiar past." Following this lecture, audience members were able to engage the speaker in a Q&A session. Held in the University of Michigan Museum of Art Helmut Stern Auditorium, the lecture was co-sponsored by the International

Policy Center at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and the University of Michigan Museum of Art. During his visit, Governor Kim also met with Provost Laurie McCauley to sign an agreement for educational exchange between Gyeonggi-do Youth Ladder Program and the University of Michigan.

2023 Sang-Yong Nam Award



Dr. Anne Curzan, Dean of College of LSA, Olivia Daniel, and Dr. Kim Dong Yeon

The Sang-Yong Nam Award is a \$3,000 scholarship given each year to one U-M 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 2023 Sang-Yong Nam Award was Olivia Daniel, who majored in Biology, Health, and Society with a minor in Korean studies. A Michigan resident, she was heavily involved in the University of Michigan community while completing her degree.

Olivia recently worked with the Science Learning Center, University of Michigan Hospital, Michigan Active Citizens-Alternative Spring Break (MAC-ASB), and Women's Organization on Rights to Health (WORTH) on campus. Since 2021, she was a part of the Nam Center's Undergraduate Fellow Program as both an Outreach and Research Fellow. Olivia aspires to enter the medical field as a physician and use her undergraduate studies to expand care to underserved populations.

SPECIAL EVENTS



YehRim Lee: Dopamine Dressing at UMMA

Installation view of YehRim Lee: Dopamine Dressing in UMMA's Irving Stenn Jr. Family Gallery.
Photo by Charles Edwards

UMMA presented the first museum exhibition of emerging ceramic artist YehRim Lee from December 2022 to August 2023. Lee, who grew up in Korea in a family of onggi ware makers, trained in China and the United States and now lives and works in Joshua Tree, California. “Dopamine dressing” refers to a popular fashion trend during the COVID-19 pandemic of wearing brightly colored clothes to create a positive mindset. The exhibition featured Lee’s abstract ceramic and metal works with varied colors, patterns, and textures, displayed on pastel-colored walls and on bases designed by Lee. Many visitors to the exhibition commented that being in the gallery space made them feel joyful. In February 2023, the artist returned to Michigan to give a talk and participate in a one-week residency at the Stamps School of Art and Design. UM students, including many Korean and Korean American students, had the chance to speak with Lee in person.

ASIA LIBRARY & RESOURCES

Asia Library

Yunah Sung, Korean Studies Librarian/Project Manager

Myung Hee Kim, Korean Cataloger
(Vacant), Korean Acquisition Specialist

Jeonghyun Eom, Korea Foundation Library Intern

Korean Studies Collection, 2003-2023

U-M’s Korean Studies Collection is the fastest growing library collection in North America, responding to the rapidly expanding user demand. Starting with 15,000 volumes in 2003, the number of South and North Korean print collections on social science and humanities has reached 95,000 in 2023. In addition to our print collection, the collection offers visual materials, music scores, quantitative and qualitative data, and a wide range of electronic resources, including Kyobo e-books and over 12,000 online full-text journals. Yunah Sung, the Korean Studies Librarian, wrote the history and overview of the collection in 2022 and her chapter was published in “Inside Major East Asian Library Collections in North America” (ISBN 9781802622348).



The Oka Tadoku Room in Asia Library

Korean Language Learning Collection

Asia Library has been developing the Korean Language Learning Collection in collaboration with the Korean Language Program. The Collection is organized for reading levels 1 to 5 and is located at 3 North (3rd floor, Hatcher Graduate Library North) and in the newly opened Asia Library Oka Tadoku Room. Please visit the library to browse the collection and enjoy books on a variety of topics! Some collections are also available in the UM-Kyobo Ebook Collection.

STUDENT GROUPS

Daebak 3, is 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 a female K-Pop dance team under the Korean American Student Association.



Female Gayo

The Korea Leadership Group aims to connect the various Korean communities at the University of Michigan by increasing interactions with alumni, hosting social networking events, and serving as a stepping stone for those interested in developing professional skills and personalized career opportunities. They focus on spreading awareness of Korean culture and the recognition of influential Korean leaders in and out of Michigan through various career fairs and an annual Leadership Summit.

Konnect is a co-ed K-Pop dance group that aims to provide a space for all those interested in dance to come together and have fun. They provide opportunities for all interests and levels to showcase dance. They host K-Pop dance tutorials at the Mason hall posting wall, post member spotlights on Instagram, and have a performance subunit that performs at various events around campus.



Seoul Juice

The Korean International Student Association is an organization that promotes the unity and well-being of Korean students at U-M. 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 American 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.



Sinaboro

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.

For information about ways to support the Nam Center for Korean Studies, please scan the QR code:



Or contact us directly at:

Weiser Hall
500 Church Street, Suite 400
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1042

T: 734-764-1825

F: 734-764-2252

ncks.info@umich.edu

www.ii.umich.edu/ncks



Above: Playing Tuho, a traditional Korean game, at the Chuseok Party
Front cover: Michigan Taekwondo Club students