

“Remembering 80 Years of Korean Diaspora in Central Asia”

Since the foundation of the Institute of Humanities for Unification (IHU) at Konkuk University in 2009, we have assigned special significance to the study of Korean diaspora as a function of Japanese colonialism, national division, and the Korean War. The IHU has actively engaged in discussions with scholars both from Korea and around the world in uncovering the history of Korean diaspora, examining its current status, and most importantly, proposing new imaginative ways to heal the trauma of Korean diasporic population. Most recently, the IHU, together with the Al-Farabi Kazah National University, co-organized the 4th Humanities for Unification World Forum in October 2017, as we paid tribute to the past 80 years of Korean diaspora in Central Asia and revisited their experience from various philosophical, political, historical, and literary perspectives. The special feature theme of the March 2018 issue of *S/N Korean Humanities*, “Remembering 80 Years of Korean Diaspora in Central Asia,” represents our on-going efforts to address the issue of Korean people’s diasporic experience as a key research question buttressing the concept of “humanities for unification.”

The first article by Kim Jong-Gon (Konkuk University) revisits the 1937 deportaton of *Koryōin* in Kazakhstan from the aspect of it being a traumatic memory. Kim examines how the memory of deportation was constructed into traumatic memory that is repeatedly summoned to the present rather than just remain in the past. Here, the deportation is seen as an incident that drove the *Koryōin* out to the world of dehumanization where human vulnerabilities become revealed and forced them to live in constant innate fear afterwards. However, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in the late 1980’s, *Koryōin*, rather than forget their past history of deportation, forged their own collective memory and are

performing the act of remaining in mourning. Kim argues that, through such process, the remembering can act as a call for universal human rights to be guaranteed for all ethnic groups in Kazakhstan, against the backdrop of Kazakh-centralism becoming more entrenched.

The second article by Valeriy S. Khan (Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan) sheds light on the current state of *Koryŏ saram* diaspora and emphasize thier multicultural character. Khan points out that the history of *Koryŏ saram* cannot be reduced to a plethora of sad pages. Koreans could and have achieved amazing results in many spheres and have obtained high status in the USSR and later, in Post-Soviet Central Asia. *Koryŏ saram* have lived in different political and economic systems, and in various ethnic environments. Their identity is composed of a multicultural character which includes elements of traditional Korean, Central Asian, Russian, Soviet and Western cultures. This has led to the flexible behavioral models.

The third article by Mi-Jeong Jo (Goethe University of Frankfurt) is a study of *Koryŏ saram* settlement in South Korea. Based on in-depth interviews with ten Uzbekistan-born *Koryŏ saram* women who currently reside in South Korea with their Korean husbands and children, this paper examines intersections of gender and ethnicity in the women's migratory paths and life experiences in the employment and family spheres. After contextualizing the ensuing influx of *Koryŏ saram* to South Korea from the perspectives of ethnic (return) migration and marriage migration, this study looks into how the ten informants' skills are devalorized as coethnic migrants who lack Korean language skills but appear "Korean" to contemporary South Korean people. This research also investigates the ways that the incipient *Koryŏ saram* community allows them to seek new employment opportunities while juggling between work and family as a married migrant with children. By examining two salient social differentiations in (social) mobility of *Koryŏ saram*, this paper not only betokens the social position of *Koryŏ saram* in South Korea, but also underscores the agency of the coethnic migrant women who struggle to pursue inclusion in the affluent homeland.

In addition to the three special theme articles, the March 2018 issue also presents an article by Lee Sin Jae (Institute for Military History). Lee's study is probably

the first in-depth historical examination of North Korean psychological warfare unit and the distribution of propaganda bills during the Vietnam War. With the South Korean troops as its target, North Korea deployed over a hundred psychological warfare troops every year, beginning with the first unit of four dispatched in June of 1966. An analysis of fifty-eight propaganda bills collected at the time demonstrates forms as diverse as writing, photographs, drawings, and a combination of writing and photographs (or at times writing and drawings). The illumination of North Korean participation in the Vietnam War is a crucial facet of better understanding the significance of the Vietnam War in contemporary Korean history as well as the security conditions of the Korean peninsula in the 1960s and the 1970s.

Yan Jin (East China Normal University) provides a detailed survey of Chinese academic literature on the relations between the United States and the countries of the Korean peninsula during the 1970s. Although Chinese scholars took different perspectives on this subject, the mainstream view maintains that with the ease of the Cold War tensions in the Northeast Asia, the relations between the United States and the countries on the Peninsula changed in the varying degrees in the 1970s. In general, Chinese academic literature on US-South Korean relations is much more profound compared to the scholarly work on the American relations with North Korea. And while in recent years remarkable progress has been made by Chinese scholars, there is still plenty of room for improvement, especially in terms of broadening interdisciplinary studies and theory, utilizing multi-archival material, conducting in-depth research of the political systems, the decision-making processes in the relevant countries, as well as the politics within the lower levels of government, etc.

The last article by Simon Barnes Sadler (SOAS, University of London) brings in a methodologically very novel approach to the study of inter-Korean linguistic divergence. Sadler examines general trends of language in use in the ROK and DPRK in a specific genre of writing and argues that a digital humanities approach could provide new insights for the field. This includes taking advantage of internet mediated data collection and quantitative analyses applied to relatively large amounts of data. In order to demonstrate the potential of this approach more fully,

Sadler presents a small-scale stylometric analysis of ROK and DPRK journalistic texts. The pilot study suggests that national origin determines the stylistic characteristics of these texts to a greater extent than the topic and allows us to tentatively propose general characterising features of ROK and DPRK journalistic style. The study concludes with a prospectus for the incorporation of such methods into the study of ROK/DPRK linguistic divergence.

Changho Jo (The New School for Social Research) and Khue Dieu Do (Seoul National University) contributed book reviews for this issue. In his review of *Women in Two Chosŏn: Body, Language, and Mentality* (Kim Hyŏn-ju, Pak Mu-yŏng, Yi Yŏnsuk, and Hŏ Nam-rin eds.), Changho Jo looks into how the book attempts to restore the multi-faceted historical context in which discourses, practices, and struggles took place in transforming the female subject during the *Chosŏn* period. The three parts of the book respectively focus on the subject of body, language, and mentality, and each chapter within a part deals with a specific historical case which may illuminate the reader regarding how the continuity and transformation traverse and are inserted into historical strata. In the editors' words, the woman should be read as a "multilayered text" since "it is an "event" in itself, for "it is a conclusive 'location' in which actual and ideal movements of tradition and modernity(coloniality) had exerted and exercised compositive force."

Khue Dieu Do (Seoul National University) reviewed David Straub's *Anti-Americanism in Democratizing South Korea*. Written by a career diplomat who spent the tumultuous years 1999-2002 as director of political section at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, the book tries to explain the tangled question of Korean anti-Americanism during this period. The book contains a rich overview of the historical background of U.S.-ROK relations, providing the first well-documented and heavily footnoted account of the many threats posed to the U.S.-Korean alliance by the circumstances of 1999-2002. The author employs a case study approach through which numerous and varied incidents and policy issues were minutely dissected. Straub is meticulous, objective, and fair in his examination of each one, drawing additional perspectives from not only his own experience but also extensive research. His approach, therefore, is both scholarly and conversational, making the book an excellent introduction for both serious students

as well as casual readers.

The articles on the special theme “Remembering 80 Years of Korean Diaspora in Central Asia” and other works published in the March 2018 issue of *S/N Korean Humanities* shed light on new approaches, perspectives, issues, and methodologies that together will contribute to refining and enriching our concept of “humanities for unification.” The Institute of Humanities for Unification at Konkuk University will continue to support the journal as a multidisciplinary channel for academic communication between the East and West as well as the two Koreas with a view to building integrated Korean studies of *Hangukhak* and *Chosŏnhak*.

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