

The Korean Diaspora in the Colonial and Post-Colonial Eras

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Byungwook Jung (RIKS, Korea University)

Migrant Labor and Ethnic Conflicts: A Comparison of the 1923 Massacre of Koreans and Chinese during the Great Kanto Earthquake and the 1931 Anti-Chinese Riots in Colonial Korea

This paper compares and analyzes the massacre of Korean and Chinese people during the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake and the 1931 anti-Chinese riot in Korea. It argues that the massacre and riot essentially stemmed from competition within the labor market, rather than from a particular ethnicity or nation, and that these phenomena could occur at any time in the modern capitalist world as migrant labor increases due to efforts to find cheap labor. With this knowledge, this paper aims to reveal the generality of “migrant labor and riots,” along with the regional context and characteristics of modern East Asian capitalism through these two cases.

Ryuta Itagaki (Doshisha University)

The Border Crossings and Diasporic Life of a Korean Linguist: Kim Sugyeong during the Korean War

This paper focuses on the life and works of linguist Kim Sugyeong (1918–2000), who migrated to North Korea in 1946. Exerting his broad knowledge of linguistics and rare language skills, he became one of the founders of Korean language studies and language policy in North Korea. Immediately after the outbreak of the Korean War, he was mobilized as a political lecturer of the Labor Party and as an interpreter in the People’s Army. He crossed the border four times, finally arriving in Pyongyang in 1951, only to discover that his wife had already left North Korea with their children in order to search for him. The separation of Kim's family caused him to devote himself to rebuilding Korean language studies, based on the latest thesis about linguistics written by Joseph Stalin in 1950. Tracing Kim Sugyeong’s footprints during the Korean War drawing on a wide range of materials, including a newly discovered memoir, this paper offers a historical narrative that combines personal, intellectual, and political histories.

Jae You Lee (University of Tübingen)

Migrants, Spies, and Internal Security: The Transnational History of the “East Berlin Affair” between Germany and South Korea, 1967–1970

This paper deals with the so-called “East Berlin Affair” in 1967, in which seventeen South Korean citizens living in West Berlin and West Germany were kidnapped by the South Korean secret service. They were only a small part of a larger investigation of a spy ring in South Korea, where over 300 people were accused of being North Korean spies according to national security law. Many of these individuals had previously studied in Germany. This case evoked a deep diplomatic crisis between the governments of South Korea and the Federal Republic of Germany. In the crisis management of both sides, we can observe, on the one hand, the significant differences between the perceptions of the Cold War situation and the Communist threat of these two divided nations in Europe and East Asia. On the other hand, we realize that the South Korean migrants (students, labor migrants, etc.) were deterritorializing South

Korean security. In the age of migration, it was no longer sufficient to oppress the opposition within South Korean territory. All overseas migrants could be a potential danger, in particular in those countries where the borders between the two blocs were penetrable, as in Berlin, or where North and South Korean fellow travelers were living side by side, as in Japan. In the 1970s and 1980s, after the “East Berlin Affair,” Berlin became one of the centers of the Korean overseas democracy and unification movements. This paper traces how Korean migrants in Berlin have developed a special consciousness in dealing with division and Cold War logic in a very specific location.

Jin Woong Kang (RIKS, Korea University)

North Koreans in South Korea: Hierarchical Nationhood and Ethnicized Citizenship

This article analyzes how the Republic of Korea (ROK) governed North Korean settlers through establishing hierarchical nationhood and how they have defined and formed their ethnicized citizenship in the South. In the post-Cold War era, contemporary ROK politics of nationhood has disciplined North Koreans as a social minority who should be acclimatized for South Korea’s capitalist labor markets as well as nationals from a hostile country who should be reformed. These political and social mechanisms have ethnicized North Koreans and instilled a sense of alienation or otherness. This article explores South Korean hierarchical nationhood and North Korean identity formation in terms of the legacy of Cold War politics and the mechanisms of inferior subalternity and backward modernity.