Latent Histories, Manifest Impacts:
Interplay between Korea and Southeast Asia

Thursday 26 February - Friday 27 February 2015, 9:30am – 4:00pm

Seminar Room, Australian Centre on China in the World (Building 188)
The Australian National University

Presented by
ANU Korea Institute
ANU Southeast Asia Institute
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Sponsored by
Academy of Korean Studies
ANU Research School of Asia and the Pacific
ANU Korea Institute
ANU Southeast Asia Institute
About the Conference

The ‘Latent Histories, Manifest Impacts: Interplay between Korea and Southeast Asia’ Conference aims to offer in-depth analyses of the history of contact and the increasingly significant ties between Korea and Southeast Asia in a wide range of areas, including historical connections and divergent developments in civil society, politics and international relations, status in the global economy, religious encounters, shifting gender dynamics, and the creative industries. The conference will be an important platform for fostering cross-regional and cross-disciplinary collaboration to generate a novel and productive analytical framework that could be applied to other linkages between the two regions.

Korea and Southeast Asia share a history deeper and more extensive than is commonly acknowledged. It encompasses trade, the politics of colonisation and Cold War, and military contacts in the context of ‘hot’ wars led by external powers. More recent impacts include diplomatic cooperation, economic interaction and the movement of people and cultures between the two regions. The connections that have been forged between Korea and Southeast Asia offer a rich reservoir for critical analysis. Furthermore, a consideration of Korea and Southeast Asia that is removed from the context of the ‘super powers’ is an expedient way to examine the role of emerging ‘middle-powers’ in the geopolitical, economic and cultural dynamics of the Asian region.

In the era of ‘globalisation’ it is imperative to study the dynamic flow of ideas, capital, people, and material cultures. Relations between Korea and Southeast Asia have received little attention because of the overarching shadow that the great colonial powers have played in their respective histories. This conference promises to explore the transnational dimension of each region’s external engagements in a way that will highlight the significance of middle-power relations. In doing so, the conference will be an important catalyst in facilitating more active dialogue among scholars that can lead to cutting-edge research, public policy ideas and inter-Asia cultural cooperation.
Important Information

Venue

The ‘Latent Histories, Manifest Impacts: Interplay between Korea and Southeast Asia’ Conference will take place in the Australian Centre on China in the World (Building 188, Fellows Lane, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200 Australia).

The conference will take place in the Seminar Room. All meals (morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea) will be held in the Lotus Room and are available free of charge to all participants.

Internet

You can access wireless internet for the duration of the Conference through ‘ANU-Secure.’ The login is ‘KOREAINST’ and the password is ‘korea2015.’ Please note that both the login and password are case sensitive.
Program: Thursday 26 February 2015

9:30-10:30 Opening

Hyaeweol Choi, Australian National University
Robert Cribb, Australian National University
Anthony Reid, Australian National University

10:30-11:00 Morning Tea

11:00-12:30 Panel 1: Regional Politics and (In)Justice

Chair: Fiona Yap, Australian National University

Divergent Dictators: Legacies of Leadership in Three Asian Authoritarian Regimes
Paul Hutchcroft, Australian National University

“This is Not Democracy, Right?” (Anti-) democracy after Democratization in Korea and Thailand
Bo Kyeong Seo, Australian National University

Land Reform, Inequality, and Corruption: A Comparative Historical Study of Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines
Jong-Sung You, Australian National University

Discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Panel 2: Cross-Regional Flow of People, Ideas and Tastes

Chair: Roald Maliangkay, Australian National University

Problematizing the Hansik Globalization Campaign from a Malaysian Position
Gaik Cheng Khoo, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus

Life Stories of Korean Women Married to Filipinos during the Korean War in Light of Unnoticed Histories between the Countries
Minjung Kim, Kangwon National University

A Five-Stage Model of Brokered International Marriages in South Korea: Insight from Complexity Theory
Jiyoung Song, Singapore Management University

Discussion

15:00-15:30 Afternoon Tea
Program: Friday 27 February 2015

9:30-11:00  Panel 3: Deep Historical Connections

Chair: Ruth Barraclough, Australian National University

Contact between Korea and Java between the Late Fourteenth Century and the Early Fifteenth Century
Hung-Guk Cho, Pusan National University

Discomfort Man: The Sad Journey of a Korean Soldier in Wartime and Post-war Southeast Asia
Robert Cribb, Australian National University

A Korean Medieval Folktale: The Vietnamese Royal Narrative in Thirteenth Century Goryeo
David Kim, Australian National University

Discussion

11:00-11:30  Morning Tea

11:30-13:00  Panel 4: The Politics of Trade, Migration and Aid

Chair: Hyung-A Kim, Australian National University

Impact of New Political and Policy Environments on Burmese Refugees in Korea
Sang Kook Lee, Yonsei University

ASEAN+3 Intra-Regional Trade: Trends and Issues
Hee-Ryang Ra, Pukyong National University

A Review of Korea’s Foreign Aid to South-East Asia
Nikhilesh Bhattacharyya, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Discussion

13:00-14:00  Lunch

14:00-15:30  Roundtable

Conference Organising Committee:
Hyaeweol Choi, Australian National University
Robert Cribb, Australian National University
Fiona Yap, Australian National University
Roald Maliangkay, Australian National University

15:30-16:00  Afternoon Tea
Abstracts

Panel 1: Regional Politics and (In)Justice

Divergent Dictators: Legacies of Leadership in Three Asian Authoritarian Regimes
Paul Hutchcroft, Australian National University

This paper examines the highly divergent legacies that came forth from the leadership of three Asian dictators: South Korea's Park Chung Hee (1961–1979), Indonesia's Suharto (1965–1998), and the Philippines' Ferdinand Marcos (1965–1986). Through this comparative analysis, I emphasise how the three authoritarian leaders were shaped by their historical context and how institutional inheritances affected what could be accomplished during their regimes. While leadership and agency are of great importance, they can only be understood within a broader historical and structural context. The comparison of the three regimes will begin by highlighting three important points of convergence: extraordinary leadership skills, the same world historical context, and broadly similar international environments. I will then proceed to examine three major elements of divergence: institutional inheritances (particularly the character of each country's bureaucratic structures as they evolved from colonial times), the historical character of state-society relations, and the personal goals of the authoritarian leader. In each of these three factors, the Korean and Philippine cases stand at extremes and Indonesia is an intermediate case. These elements of variation, I conclude, help us to understand the institutional legacies and political economy outcomes bequeathed to subsequent democratic regimes in each country.

“This is not Democracy, Right?” (Anti-)democracy after Democratisation in Korea and Thailand
Bo Kyeong Seo, Australian National University

The lingering crises of Thai democracy reached a new phase when junta leader General Prayuth Chan-o-cha was appointed as the prime minister in August 2014. While several Western governments had expressed their concern and opposition to the military regime in Thailand since a coup in May, the Korean government appeared as one of the sympathetic allies that understood the role and necessity of military-led ‘Thai-style democracy.’ By focusing on critical affinities that the current turbulent political situation of Thailand shares with Korea’s authoritarian past and conservative present, this paper examines how conflicts of “democracy after democratisation” (Choi Jang Jip 2012) are played out in these two countries. I suggest that the comparison between these two countries’ democratization process is productive for reanalysing and demystifying ‘Thai-ness,’ a hegemonic construction of particularity. Rather than setting Korea up as an advanced democratic model, this paper aims to find ways in which languages of democratic politics can be translated and expanded across historical and cultural differences.
Land Reform, Inequality, and Corruption: A Comparative Historical Study of Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines

Jong-Sung You, Australian National University

This paper explores how inequality increases corruption via electoral clientelism, bureaucratic patronage, and elite capture of policy process through a comparative historical analysis of South Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines that shared similar conditions at the time of independence. It finds that success and failure of land reform, which was little affected by corruption but largely determined by exogenous factors such as external communist threats and U.S. pressures for reform, produced different levels of inequality, which in turn influenced subsequent levels of corruption through capture and clientelism.

In the Philippines, failed land reform maintained high inequality and domination of the landed elite in both politics and economy, which led to persistent political clientelism, increasing patronage in bureaucracy, and policy capture by the powerful elite. In contrast, successful land reform in South Korea and Taiwan dissolved the landed class and produced egalitarian socioeconomic structure, which helped to maintain state autonomy, contain clientelism, promote meritocratic bureaucracy, and develop programmatic politics over time. South Korea’s increasing chaebol concentration, however, is increasing the risks of capture.

Panel 2: Cross-Regional Flow of People, Ideas and Tastes

Problematising the Hansik Globalisation Campaign from a Malaysian Position

Gaik Cheng Khoo, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus

There are currently 20,000 South Koreans in Malaysia. They include international students, retirees who take up the Malaysia My Second Home Scheme (MM2H), businessmen and those working for South Korean transnational corporations and migrants who specifically migrate for the sake of their children’s education (to study in English or Chinese). When asked by journalists what prompted them to choose Malaysia, the mild climate, less pressure on the children’s education and Malaysia’s multicultural society were benefits many cited. The rise of the K-wave in the mid-2000s, specifically popular soap operas like Jewel In the Palace (Dae Jang Geum) that played on Malaysian television eased the way for Korean restaurant operators and sparked interest in Korean cuisine. Today, there are many Korean restaurants and even Korean-owned grocery stores like Galaxy and LotteMart that cater both to Koreans and Malaysians. One Ampang Avenue in Kuala Lumpur is informally known as Little Korea. This paper explores the expansion of Korean restaurants and foods in Malaysia. What processes of localisation occur through the food and foodways (e.g. in tweaking recipes, modifying tastes, etc.)? How much interaction with Malaysians and non-Koreans occur with these new migrants or diasporic Koreans; and through shared tastes and foodways? Do Koreans in Malaysia experience a multicultural experience in their daily lives? The paper also asks conversely whether the multicultural experience in Malaysia has any impact on these Koreans when they return to a Korea that is rapidly pluralising.
Life Stories of Korean Women Married to Filipinos during the Korean War in Light of Unnoticed Histories between the Countries

Minjung Kim, Kangwon National University

The Philippines and Korea have both been under the influence of the United States throughout the 20th century. It is this very similarity that provides an interesting historical context between the two countries. 7,420 Filipinos went to Korea during the Korean War as part of the UN forces and some Korean women married Filipino men in Busan and Incheon at the time. Among these couples, around 30 families moved to the Philippines in the 1950s and 1960s. The diaspora experiences or migrant histories of this Korean group have not, however, been paid attention to by researchers on migration or gender studies.

The term ‘feminisation of migration’ has characterized the Asian migration phenomenon since the 1990s. Marriage emigration from Asian countries to Korea, where patriarchal norms still rule family relations, has been largely feminized as well. The existence of Korean wives who migrated to the Philippines about half century ago, however, allows us to search the latent history of a transnational process between the two countries.

This paper delivers some ‘unnoticed’ histories between the Philippines and Korea since the early 1900s and introduces life stories of Korean women who married Filipinos during the Korean War. Their life stories serve as ‘a missing link’ in understanding the history and configuration of the Korean community in the Philippines. These life stories also give clues to interpreting the linkages among gender, diaspora identities, and economic position of the countries in an inter-Asian context.

A Five-Stage Model of Brokered International Marriages in South Korea: Insight from Complexity Theory

Jiyoung Song, Singapore Management University

The paper examines the evolution in international commercial marriage migration from Southeast Asia to South Korea from a Complexity Theory (CT) framework, originally from natural sciences but vastly entering the field of social sciences. CT stresses the non-linear nature of complex systems that are composed of a large number of individual components operating within a conditioned boundary whose interactions lead emergent properties in an unpredictable way. The study is based on the author's fieldwork interviews and participatory observations of Vietnamese, Philippines and Cambodian marriage migrants, regional government officers, and social workers in three regional cities in Ch‘ungchŏng Province, South Korea, in 2010-2013, which establishes the five-stage model of brokered marriages, namely, 1) Outsourcing Brides (late 1980s-), 2) Emerging Anti-Trafficking Norms (early 2000s-), 3) Institutionalising Multiculturalism (2006-), 4) Regulating Brokers (2008-), and 5) Sham Marriages and Emerging Nationalism (2010-). She explains the key elements of marriage migration as a complex adaptive system such as feedback loops, adaptation, emergence, self-organisation and agency, and suggests persistent observation and CT as an alternative methodology to study migration.
Panel 3: Deep Historical Connections

Contact between Korea and Java between the Late Fourteenth Century and the Early Fifteenth Century
Hung-Guk Cho, Pusan National University

The fourteenth century is an important turning point in the development of the history of various Northeastern and Southeastern countries such as China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Indonesia, particularly in the history of the trade there. Against the background of this period, a certain Chen Yan Xiang, apparently a Chinese merchant, from Majapahit Kingdom in Java, Indonesia, visited Joseon Kingdom in Korea between the late fourteenth century and the early fifteenth century. His visit is recorded only in the Korean historical document Joseon Wangjo Sillok.

This paper which deals with the contact between Joseon and the kingdom of Majapahit between the late fourteenth century and the early fifteenth century will provide an opportunity to look into an aspect of the trade that the ancient kingdom in Indonesia conducted with East Asia in this period, particularly the trade in which the Chinese merchants in Java were engaged in the South China Sea and the East China Sea. And this study will make it possible to see a side of an attitude on the part of Korea toward foreign trade in this period, and will demonstrate that Japanese pirates' threat was significantly attributable to the failure for the exchange between Korea and Java to develop any longer after the early fifteenth century.

Discomfort Man: The Sad Journey of a Korean Soldier in Wartime and Post-war Southeast Asia
Robert Cribb, Australian National University

Between early 1942 and August 1945, Imperial Japan occupied most of Southeast Asia. With Japanese troops needed on the front lines, the Imperial authorities turned to their Korean subjects for the carrying out of less essential military tasks in the region. From 1942, Koreans were conscripted into the Japanese army and sent to Southeast Asia, where they provided local garrisons, as well as guards for the hundreds of prisoner-of-war and civilian internment camps that the Japanese authorities had established for the captive Western population of the region. In the aftermath of the war, a significant number of these Koreans were accused of excessively brutal treatment of their captives and were charged with war crimes. After hearings in Allied military courts, some dozens were convicted and sentenced to prison terms which they eventually served in Japan, despite the fact that Japan had repudiated their former status as imperial subjects. Most Western discussion of these Koreans mentions only their brutality. Using records assembled for the trial, this paper examines the experience of a single Korean soldier, who went by the Japanese name of Kumoi Eiji. Kumoi was prosecuted with nine others by a British court in Singapore which sat on 12-13, 19, and 22 August 1946. He was charged with three war crimes and was found guilty of one: 'Committing a War Crime in that they [seven of the defendants] at KINSAYOK and KRIAN KRI POW Camps Siam between 1 August 1943 and 31 March 1944 while employed as members of the staff of the said camps in violation of the laws and usages of war were together concerned in the ill-treatment of British, Australian and Allied PsQW interned therein.' He was sentenced to 15 years in jail, but was subsequently allowed early release. By looking at the Kumoi case, this paper will seek to give greater depth to our understanding of Koreans in the Japanese army in wartime Southeast Asia.
A Korean Medieval Folktale: The Vietnamese Royal Narrative in Thirteenth Century Goryeo

David Kim, Australian National University

Contemporary Korea has experienced a multi-cultural society from the 1990s in which there was a boom of international marriages with other Asian countries. The official figure of the cross-cultural family, announced by KIS on 29/05/2014, shows that the ethnic background of partners is diverse, but predominantly from Southeast Asia (except China and Japan), such as Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Laos. Among them, the rate of the Vietnamese-Korean couple is the highest record at 26.4%. The recent statistics indicate that Vietnam has been a significant nation not only as political-economic but also as blood relation. The foreign relationship of Korea, with the mainland southeast country, previously launched through the Vietnam War in the initial Cold War era of 1950-70s. When the neologism of Hánliú (so called, ‘Korea Wave’) rose across the Asian region through the spread of K-dramas and K-pop in the late 1990s-2000s, many people including Vietnamese also concerned about Korean culture and life-style. Is there any other connection or historical interplay between the two countries? If there is, how did they relate to each other? Was the relationship positively interactive like these days or complicated? This paper explores the medieval folktale Vietnamese and Koreans can identically share, that the Vietnamese royal families of the Lý dynasty (1009-1225) under the political crisis exiled to Goryeo (918-1392), so the Korean king Kojong (1192-1259) welcomed the Vietnamese royal refugees including Prince Lý Dương Can and Prince Lý Long Tường, and that the Vietnamese royal forces during the settlement time defeated the Mongol invaders twice (1232 and 1253) for Goryeo. This paper will approach the Korean medieval folktale in a religio-political insight that the global Mongol empire was the common enemy for the Lý dynasty and the Goryeo dynasty, as well as that they both strongly had followed the tradition of Buddhism as the national religion in the thirteenth century.

Panel 4: The Politics of Trade, Migration and Aid

Impact of New Political and Policy Environments on Burmese Refugees in Korea

Sang Kook Lee, Yonsei University

This study examines how new political and refugee policy environments have an impact on Burmese refugees in Korea. Given that Myanmar has been democratised, some of them have been returning for good to their original country, giving up a refugee status recognized by the Korean government while many of them have transformed themselves into transnational settlers, not political activists any longer. At the same time, the Korean government began to implement new refugee policies the prime example of which was the establishment of a refugee reception centre. It means that the government began to engage and regulate refugee-status applicants. Certainly this new policy direction affects not just refugee-status seeking people but existing refugees the majority of who are Burmese. This study looks at how they react, negotiate and reconstruct their everyday lives in the face of these new political and policy conditions.
ASEAN+3 Intra-Regional Trade: Trends and Issues
Hee-Ryang Ra, Pukyong National University

ASEAN+3 intra-regional trade recorded US$4.8 trillion which amounts more than 29-fold increase and more than 12% annual growth rate in the past 30 years (1980-2012). However, this rapid increase of trade volume in ASEAN+3 would not be a sufficient condition for explicit deepening of regional economic integration. Therefore, the more in-depth and thorough analysis of ASEAN+3 intra-regional trade would be important and necessary ahead of the realisation of mega-FTA, such as RCEP, TPP, and the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

In this paper, we examine the structures and characteristics of the ASEAN+3 intra-regional trade through an analysis of intra-regional trade share, intra-regional trade intensity index, and regional trade introversion index of ASEAN+3 in terms of primary goods, intermediate goods (processed goods, and parts & components), and final goods (capital goods and consumption goods). Furthermore, the comparative analysis with the main economic integration zone such as EU, NAFTA, and MERCOSUR would be discussed as well.

We could expect that the economic integration of ASEAN+3 would be enlarged and deepened through the progress and advancement of ASEAN+3 intra-regional trade. However, we would show that although the value and share of ASEAN+3 regional intra-trade has been growing, this may not indicate or guarantee the inherent advancement of ASEAN+3 intra-regional trade or the bias toward region. More specifically, we compare the ASEAN+3 case with EU, NAFTA, and MERCOSUR to see whether the economic integration in terms of intra-regional trade has similar pattern or not.

This may allow us to have quality guidelines and reasonable policy implications for the deepening and reinforcement of ASEAN+3’s economic integration, which would be the most crucial factor for the activation of ASEAN+3 Initiative.

A Review of Korea’s Foreign Aid to South-East Asia
Nikhilesh Bhattacharyya, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Over the past decade Korea has increased its foreign aid to South-East Asia by a greater percentage than any other OECD donor. This paper reviews the factors that motivated the Korean government to rapidly scale up foreign aid to South-East Asia. Altruism and self-interest are found to be important factors. Altruism is reflected in aid being allocated to sectors and countries where there is the greatest need as reflected by poverty and other development indicators. Self-interest is also an important factor as ASEAN is Korea’s second largest trading partner and South-East Asia an important region for Korean businesses.
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