

AKPS NOW

AKPS

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President's Greetings

Dear Members of AKPS,

Today's global society is facing many challenges. While some of the challenges are new in nature, others have precedents in history. The new challenges include the radical socio-economic transformation with the advent of artificial intelligence and the space exploration as for an alternative to deteriorating earth's environment. The historical parallels of current challenges regard the re-emergence of hatred and violence on a certain segment of populace and leaders which led to the massive scale of destruction in the 20th century. Capitalist greed manifested in the form of environmental degradation and xenophobic populism in the form of electoral tyranny suggest that the current form of modus operandi cannot be sustained. The problems pertaining to the woes of capitalist democracy and the threat to Anthropocene can be addressed by posing one core question: what makes us human?

As the arrival of smart machines has begun to replace error-prone human labor, we are driven to find our own niche vis-à-vis the machines. As the threatened groups lash out on the more vulnerable populations, we are forced to find the ways for peaceful co-existence with Others. These imperatives call for serious soul searching into what constitutes us as uniquely human. We are in



desperate need of alternative paradigm. I believe the pressing questions can be dealt, in part, by the rediscovery and celebration of human attributes. Some of the attributes include our capacity to: imagine, commiserate, empathize, trust in intuition, believe in justice, be kind, think ahead and love. These vague and abstract qualities can be expressed as our devotion to protect and promote human rights where the studies of Korean politics should not be an exception. One of the three AKPS panels at the 2016 APSA annual conference engaged in the various aspects of inter-Korea relations including socio-political construction of North Korean human rights conditions. Whilst Pyongyang's nuclear problems rock the regional stability, its human rights condition should not be relegated to the periphery. It deserves much more active and thoughtful attention from the scholarly community.

Human rights is ultimately about our inherent entitlements to live like humans. Without thinking through what makes us human often contextualized in physical locale and historical temporality, engaging in meaningful rights discourse is difficult. With rising vulnerabilities and accompanying inter-group violence in contemporary milieu, human rights is under attack. In this context, academic freedom is also being undermined. The structural variable such the increasing mismatch between the supply side (the number of available faculties) and the demand side (the size of student pools) is also contributing to the neoliberalist mode of cut-throat competition in academic community. One issue that can unite us as one cohesive group can be the shared belief in academic freedom as our *raison-d'etat*. I would like to (re-)emphasize the importance of these fundamental values pertaining not only to Korean political studies but also the large rubric of global academic community of which we are a party.

The American Political Science Association has been at the forefront addressing the increasing occurrences of academic freedom violations. It has been issuing timely statements denouncing the Erdogan regime's political persecution of vocal academics in Turkey, the US Trump administration's executive order banning the entry of citizens of the seven Middle Eastern countries and the Hungarian government's attempt to shut down the Central European University. The Association of Korean Political Studies has been an ardent supporter of APSA's efforts to bring justice to those accused, persecuted and penalized for exercising their basic rights as academics. And we will continue to show our solidarity as a member of global academic community.

More specifically on the AKPS activities, an edited volume on the Sewol sinking drawn from the 2015 ISA-AKPS panels is forthcoming by Palgrave Macmillan (https://www.amazon.com/Challenges-Modernization-Governance-South-Korea/dp/9811040222/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1492955181&sr=8-3&keywords=mikyoung+kim). So is its Korean version by the Hanul Publishing in May. The AKPS owes greatly to Professor Taehyun Nam of Salisbury University for his leadership in organizing the panel on the Sewol sinking. Year after year, we are repeatedly reminded that Professor Nam's spectacular asset does not stop at his wonderful laughing voice. His tireless devotion to the studies of Korean politics and to the AKPS activities commands our respect and admiration.

Another exciting development regards the on-going group project on corruption and Park Geun Hye's impeachment. After circulating the call for papers, we could collect a set of promising abstracts and are moving forward to secure journal special edition and edited volume contracts at the initiative of Professor Hee Min Kim at Seoul National University. The AKPS will continue its efforts to provide career opportunities for our members.

I would like to conclude my greetings by mentioning the selfless efforts made by Professor Yangmo Ku of Norwich College in organizing two very interesting panels and one roundtable panel on the politics of Korean peninsula at the 2016 APSA annual convention in Baltimore. Those panels attracted an average number of 30 audiences despite the early morning hour slot and the heavy rain. Professor Ku has volunteered to continue his service as the 2018 ISA-AKPS program chair. The AKPS is deeply indebted to him.

Sincerely Yours,

Mikyong Kim
President, AKPS

2017 ISA Conference

Panel: Security and Economic Dynamics between North Korea & East Asian Powers

Chair: Wayne Patterson (University of Pennsylvania)

Discussant: Stephan Haggard (University of California at San Diego) and Jongseok Woo (University of South Florida)

Papers: Sung Chull Kim (Seoul National University), "Divergence between Liability and Ally: China's Relations with North Korea and Cambodia"

Joongho Kim (The Export-Import Bank of Korea), "South Korea's Economic Engagement with the North: Retrospect and Prospect"

Jae-Jung Suh (ICU), "To arm or to disarm? Rhetoric and Intention behind North Korea's Nuclear Weapons Programs"

Inyeop Lee (Spring Arbor University), "Obama Administration's North Korea Policy: The Puzzle of Strategic Patience"

Yangmo Ku (Norwich University), "What if a Conservative Leader had been elected as ROK President in 1997 or 2002? A Counterfactual Analysis of Sunshine Policy and Inter-Korean Reconciliation"

Roundtable: Dealing with Nuclear North Korea

Chair: Yangmo Ku (Norwich University)

Participant: Sung-Yoon Lee (The Fletcher School, Tufts University), Terence Roehrig (US Naval War College), Jae-Jung Suh (ICU), Fei-Ling Wang (Georgia Institute of Technology), and Stephan Haggard (University of California at San Diego)

Panel: Korean Democracy and Economic Diplomacy

Chair: Mikiyoung Kim (Hiroshima City University)

Discussant: Joongho Kim (The Export-Import Bank of Korea)

Papers: Taehyun Nam (Salisbury University) and Erik Herron (West Virginia University), "Fraud or Not Fraud: Potential Electoral Irregularities in South Korea's 2012 Presidential Election"

Elena V. McLean (SUNY Buffalo) and Taehee Whang (Yonsei University), "Competition versus Emulation: Korea's Aid Agencies and Allocation of Foreign Aid"

Jongseok Woo (University of South Florida), "The Origins and Political Consequences of Authoritarian Nostalgia in South Korea and Taiwan"

Byungwon Woo (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), "New Kids on the Block: New Foreign Aid Donors and How They Learn to Allocate Aid"

Call for Paper Proposals for ISA 2018 Annual Convention

The Association of Korean Political Studies (AKPS) is seeking panel and paper proposals, as well as volunteers to serve as panel chairs or discussants for the International Studies Association 2018 Convention to be held on April 4-7 in San Francisco, California. The AKPS will host THREE panels at the 2018 ISA conference.

We welcome a range of topics pertaining to the Korean Peninsula and the wider region, but especially encourage members to organize panels or submit papers that address next year's convention theme, "Power of Rules and Rule of Power."

<http://www.isanet.org/Conferences/San-Francisco-2018/Call>. Topics of particular interest include, but are not limited to: South Korean democracy, South Korean foreign policy, North Korea's nuclear/missile adventurism, Korean reunification, political economy of the two Koreas, North Korean politics and human rights, U.S.-South Korea-Japan triangular relations, and South Korea-China/Japan bilateral relations.

All proposals should be submitted to **the AKPS-ISA program chair, Dr. Yangmo Ku at yku@norwich.edu by the deadline of May 24th, 2017**. Each proposal should have no more than 200 words. All proposal submitters will be notified of their proposals acceptance or rejection by May 31st.

Publications and other scholarly activities

Ha, Eunyong (Claremont Graduate University) and Melissa Rogers. "What's Left to Tax? Partisan Reallocation of Trade Taxation in Less Developed Countries." Forthcoming, *Political Research Quarterly*.

----- and Nicholas Cain. "Who Governs or How They Govern: Testing the Impact of Democracy, Ideology and Globalization on the Well Being of the Poor?" Forthcoming, *Social Science Journal* (available online 9 March 2017)

Ji, Yeon-jung (Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow at the Belfer Center, Harvard University) gave a talk the Belfer Center, Harvard University, about India and the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Please find the link below for more details:
<http://www.belfercenter.org/node/75546/event>

Joo, Seung-Ho (University of Minnesota, Morris) and Tae-Hwan Kwak (Eastern Kentucky University), eds. 2017. *One Korea: Vision of Korean Unification*. NY: Routledge.

Kim, Mikyoung Kim (IPSA Human Rights Research Committee Chair) and Jae-Jung Suh, eds. 2017. *Compressed Modernization, Deepening Risks: The Sinking of the Sewol and South Korea*. London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

----- . 2017. "Sino-China Relations: Blood Allies Without Mutual Trust," *China Policy Analysis*, February 2. <https://cpianalysis.org/2017/01/31/sino-north-korean-relations-blood-allies-without-mutual-trust/>

----- . 2017. "Abe Sinzo's Foreign Policy," *The Korea Times*, February 28, 2017
http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2017/04/162_224788.html

----- . 2016. "Donald, Melania Go to White House," *The Korea Times*, November 16, 2016 http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2016/11/137_218342.html

----- . 2016. "North Korean Human Rights in Japan," *The Korea Times*, October 10, 2016 http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2016/10/137_215759.html

Mikyoung Kim's book, *Routledge Handbook of Memory and Reconciliation in East Asia* (New York and London: Routledge, October 2015) has won the Best Book of the Year Award by the Korean Ministry of Education on December 28, 2016.

Ku, Yangmo Ku (Norwich University). 2017. "Spear versus Shield? North Korea's Nuclear Path and Challenges to the NPT System" in *North Korea and Nuclear Weapons: Entering the New Era of Deterrence*, edited by Sung Chull Kim and Michael D. Cohen. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 179-194.

Lee, Chong-Sik (University of Pennsylvania) and Robert A. Scalapino (deceased, University of California, Berkeley). 2017. Revised edition of *North Korea: Building of the Monolithic State*. Seoul: KHU Press.

Lee, Yoonkyung (University of Toronto). 2017. “Roads Untraveled: Redefining “democracy” through the 2016 protest movement in Korea” *Analyses and Alternatives* 1-1: 17-30

----- . 2017. “The Sewol disaster: Predictable consequences of neoliberal deregulation” (in Korean) in *Chimmolhaneun sewolho, nanpahaneun hankook sahoi* edited by Jae-Jung Suh and Mikyoung Kim (Seoul: Hanul Publishing), 57-83

Yoonkyung Lee gave a talk on “Privatized violence and dispossessive litigation in the unmaking of labor politics in Korea” at York University, Toronto (February 2, 2017)

Yoonkyung Lee gave a talk on “Korean labor movements against the neoliberal market and repressive political institutions,” at Conference on “Asia(s): Challenges, tensions, and mobility,” University of Montreal, Quebec (March 9, 2017)

You, Jong-sung (Australian National University). 2016. “Corruption and Inequality in Asia,” *Routledge Handbook on Corruption in Asia* edited by Ting Gong and Ian Scott. NY: Routledge, 97-112.

----- . 2017. “촛불 시민혁명과 조기 대선 (Candlelight Civil Revolution and an Early Presidential Election.” *동향과 전망 (Trends and Prospects)* 99, 235-247.

Co-authored with Youn Min Park. 2017. “The Legacies of State Corporatism in Korea: Regulatory Capture in the Sewol Ferry Tragedy.” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 17-1: 95-118.

유종성 지음, 김재중 옮김 (You, Jong-sung. Translated into Korean by Kim Jae-jung). 2016. *동아시아 부패의 기원: 문제는 불평등이다. 한국 타이완 필리핀 비교연구 (Democracy, Inequality and Corruption: Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines Compared)*. 서울: 동아시아(East Asia Publishing).