

AKS/CARL1 & DAS/CARL1

## Korean Studies Carousel Lecture Olomouc

### Korean Civilisation

Summer Semester 2021  
Friday 15:00 – 16:30 (online\*)  
Convenor: Andreas Schirmer



#### Program:

February 19 – Codruța Sîntionean

#### **Gender, family and social change in Chosŏn Korea**

The spread of Confucianism in Chosŏn Korea (1392–1910) and its effects on family structure and social norms. Social transformations are explained in their premodern context, and then framed as long-lasting effects on modern-day legislation related to family, morality, and women's rights.

February 26 – Codruța Sîntionean

#### **Women's lives in Chosŏn Korea**

Education of women, their everyday lifestyle, and their social standing within family and society during the Chosŏn dynasty. Students will acquire a basic understanding of the historical background and origin of some contemporary issues: laws affecting women's lives (divorce, inheritance, family register), gender inequality in Korea, the social construction of gender in Korea.

March 5 – Codruța Sîntionean

#### **Everyday life in Chosŏn Korea**

A brief history of private life in premodern Korea, emphasizing how different social classes approached work, social duties, family relations, and marriage.

March 12 – Ramóna Fajkuszné Kovács

#### **Family forms and lifestyle: Attitudes towards marriage, childrearing and divorce**

Today's Korea is well-known for its surprisingly low birth rate, but actually gives the current situation of Korean people regarding marriage trends, lifestyle choices, living expenses and expectations, the factors of this outcome are quite visible. This lecture explains family planning trends in the last five-six decades, also the attitude of young people in Korea towards marriage, family and divorce.

March 19 – Ramóna Fajkuszné Kovács

#### **Womens' rights and feminism in novels, movies, and TV-dramas**

Confucianism is still an often-used term when talking about the mechanism of Korean society, which means its influence is still easily detectable. Although according to the law, women and men are equal and are given the same opportunities, the reality refutes the written regulations. The examples here will be not specifically focusing on feminism, but rather chosen randomly, still containing some part representing the fate of women.

March 26 – Ramóna Fajkuszné Kovács

#### **Old traditions versus new trends**

Modern South Korea is a rapidly living society, rapidly moving, developing. Is it leaving all of its old traditions as well? Is there any way to preserve the valuable old customs and heritage in this fastly changing country? Even though many traditions faded away due to the modernization process, also many could stay alive and fit into the new frame of 21st century Korea.

April 9 – Kang Byoung Yoong

#### **Koreanness: Weird Koreans?**

We discuss whether Koreans are really different from Europeans, and whether they are (or are considered as or consider themselves as) "weird." We will talk about this issue on the basis of seven cultural keywords. The talk about 'Koreanness' is a first step towards understanding Korean civilisation.

April 16 – Kang Byoung Yoong

**Korean tradition and modernity: Han, jeong and heung**

The lecture centers on the supposedly three major “Korean” emotions, han, jeong, and heung, emphasizing how these concepts were developing in modern Korean society and how or whether we can indeed discover those purportedly very Korean emotions in Korean civilisation.

April 23 – Kang Byoung Yoong

**Korean literature and culture**

Literature is one of the best keys to understand culture and history. This lecture shows how literature, culture, and civilisation are related. Learn about the universality and specificity of Korean literature.

30 April – Agnieszka Smiatacz

**Colonial modernity for the new urban dwellers of Joseon: The laws of attraction**

The changing urban spaces in colonized Korea influenced the new generation of Koreans who grew in a drastically different environment to the one their parents and grandparents were accustomed to. Like the famous Honmachi shopping district in Seoul, the new material universe conditioned the perceptions and attitudes of the Korean young, juxtaposing the backwardness of Korean countryside with the affluence brought about by modernization through the hands of Japanese oppressors.

7 May – Agnieszka Smiatacz

**The New Village Movement: From the countryside to the city and back again**

This lecture continues the topic of material backwardness in the popular movement introduced by South Korean government to change the rural environment through the hands of its population. In an ironic twist, the ideals of the movement were built on the foundation of communal traditions in the countryside and, at the same time, were intended to eradicate traditional practices that allegedly stood in the way of progress, echoing the colonial discourse on modernity.

14 May – Agnieszka Smiatacz

**The Minjung and the oppression of concrete: Discourse on material progress among the anti-government leftist movement**

This lecture focuses on the discourse on material progress vs. indigenous culture in anti-government protests in 1970s and 1980s. Particularly popular among university students, traditional cultural practices were turned into a beacon of protest against “blood-thirsty capitalism” that induced Koreans to exploit each other.

Teachers:

**Codruța Sîntionean** is Assistant Professor at the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures at Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, where she received, after studies in Japan and South Korea, her PhD in 2008. Ever since, she has been in charge of the BA program Korean Language and Literature. She has published about heritage management practices in postcolonial South Korea and is writing a cultural history of premodern Korea. She is also the co-editor of a forthcoming book on invented traditions in Korea.

**Ramóna F. Kovács** teaches at Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest (ELTE), Hungary, where she is pursuing PhD studies. She graduated in Japanese and Korean Studies at ELTE and has received language training at Sogang University, Seoul. In her classes as well as her published academic articles, her focus lies on the discussion of traditions and trends of old and modern Korea, women’s status in Korean history, as well as latest cultural phenomena.

**Kang Byoung Yoong** (Gang Byeong-yung) is Assistant Professor and Head of Korean Studies at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. A graduate from Myongji University, Seoul, with an MA in creative writing, he has also completing the coursework for a PhD in the same subject and holds a PhD in Russian literature from Moscow State University. Besides his academic work, he is an acknowledged writer of fiction who has, since his debut in 2002 published short stories, novels, and essays. Several of these are translated into Western languages.

**Agnieszka Smiatacz** teaches Korean history and language at the University of Wrocław, Poland, and is a PhD candidate at Leiden University. Living in the Republic of Korea for eleven years, she pursued a joint MA/PhD program in Korean Studies at the Academy of Korean Studies and was an exchange student at the Department of History at Seoul National University. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on Korean anticommunism and social mobilization programs under the Park Chung Hee government.