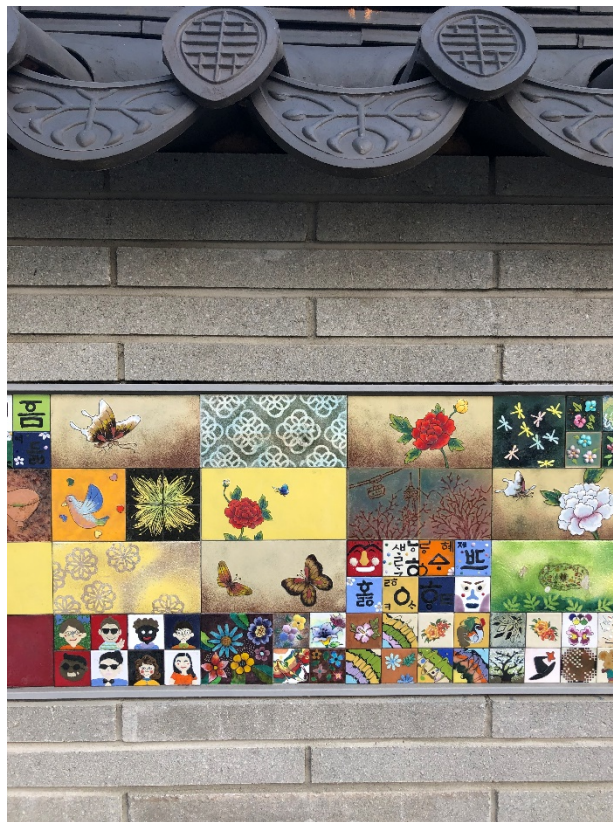


NEWSLETTER

Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg



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Volume 1 (Summer 2021)

The newsletter “Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg” aims to share information on Korea-related teaching and research activities – such as lecture series, workshops, and publications – at the Heidelberg University. In addition, we will look into how the university is connected to Korea by introducing individuals in various sectors, such as research, politics, economy, and culture, through the section of “Person in Focus”. The newsletter will be published twice per year. The first issue offers a general introduction on the researchers who are involved in Korea-related teaching and who conduct research on Korea in Heidelberg.

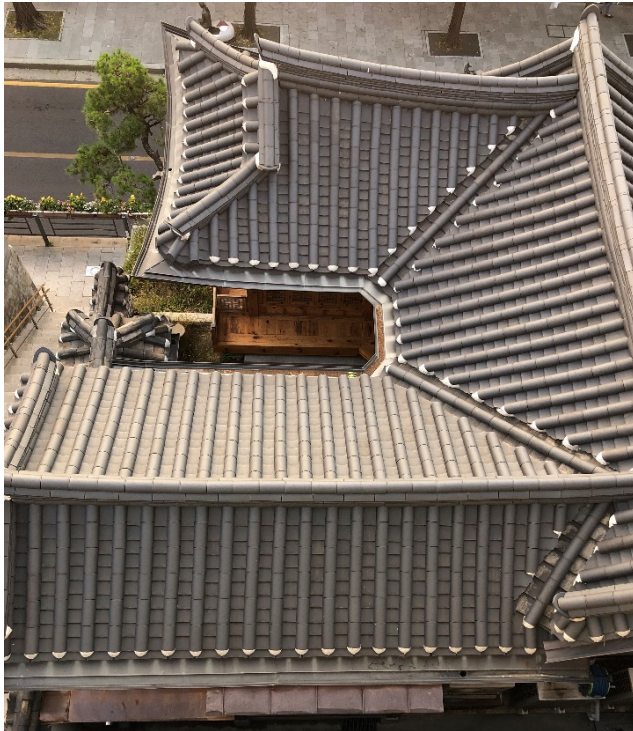
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1. Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg



Heidelberg University has long been the hub of East Asian Studies in Europe, particularly in the fields of Chinese and Japanese Studies, as well as in East Asian Art History. Even though there is not yet a formal institution for Korean Studies, Korea has constantly been the centre of interest from researchers in the social sciences, politics, and art history in Heidelberg. The Korean Studies Working Group in Heidelberg was founded in an informal guise in 2011, in order to share ideas on Korea-related teaching and research activities in Heidelberg. In addition, the aspirations for research on Korea have been strengthened since the establishment of the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies in 2019 and an interdisciplinary and transcultural perspective has been integrated into the East Asian Studies in Heidelberg.

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With regard to teaching activities, the Korea Foundation has kindly supported a lecturer position for language courses since 2012. Four different levels are provided each year: Korean I and Korean III, which usually take place in the winter semesters, and Korean II and Korean IV, which are usually in summer semesters. Since 2016, Korea-related courses and seminars have been provided from a range of sociological, political, historical perspectives by our researchers and professors. In addition, funding from the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) since 2019 has enabled us to broaden our research interests and strengthen our academic and educational activities.

Currently, we are providing a minimum of two seminars every semester. In the previous summer semester of 2021, there were three main seminars on the following disciplinary perspectives: the East Asian International Order, from a historical Perspective: Korea and its Neighbours, which was taught by Dr. In Young Min; Korea and the global Cold War, which was taught by the post-doctoral research fellow Dr. Thomas Stock; and Globalization, Labour and Gender in Korea and Japan, which was jointly taught by Dr. Jaok Kwon and Xiaoying Jin.

Through organizing regular intra-university and joint workshops, the employment of Master's and Ph.D. students, and publications on the research topic, we attempt to strengthen Korea-related research activities in Heidelberg. We also established exchange programs with several Korean universities, such as University of Seoul, Seoul National University, Sungkyunkwan University, Sogang University, and Yonsei University.

2. Introduction of Researchers

- **Prof. Dr. Anja Senz**

Anja Senz is a Professor of Contemporary China and East Asia at the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University since 2014. Her research focuses on state-society relations, environmental governance, trade and connectivity in Asia, and mobility between Asia and Europe with a specific interest in Korean-Chinese and Korean-European relations. She is the project director of the AKS Seed Project. Together with Dr. Kwon she is editor of the East Asia Today Working Paper Series.

- **Prof. Dr. Markus Pohlmann**

Markus Pohlmann is a Professor of Sociology at the Max Weber Institute at the Heidelberg University. His research interests include the analysis of management and work organisation in industrial companies as well as macro-analysis of economic development in East Asia, Germany and the USA. His Korea-related publications include “East German Power Elites before and after German Reunification: Lessons for Korea” (2011, together with Seung Hyeob Lee, Jong Hee Lee, Tae Guk Jeon and others) and “Globalization and Corporate Elites in South Korea: Education and Career Mobility” in *Korea Observer* in 2018 (together with Jaok Kwon).

- **Prof. Dr. Harald Fuess**

Harald Fuess is a Professor of History at Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University since 2009. Professor Fuess examines the broad impact of Western industrial and mercantile capitalism on East Asian economies and cultures during the long nineteenth century. His Korea-related works include “E. Meyer & Co. at the Eastern Frontiers of Capitalism: The Leading Western Merchant House in Korea, 1884-1914” in *Journal of Business History* in 2016 and „Selbstregulierung einer Fremdenkolonie: Deutsche Konsulargerichtsbarkeit in Japan und Korea” in *ZJapanR/ J.Japan.L* in 2013.

- **Dr. Jaok Kwon**

Jaok Kwon is a research fellow at the Centre for East Asian Studies, Heidelberg University. Her research interests include the sociology of development, labour and gender in East Asia, economic elites in East Asia, and transnational labour migration of youth migration. Her most recent publications are “Mobility, Refugees, and Gender from the Third World and Implication for Asia: An Analysis of Refugee Politics in Germany”, *Approach to Development Studies: Reading Global South from the World View*, Tokyo: Minerva Shobo Librairie (2021) and “A critical Assessment of democratic Labor Unionism in South Korea from a feminist Standpoint”, edited by Angela B. Cornell and Mark Barenberg, *The Cambridge Handbook of Labor and Democracy*, from the Cambridge University Press (2022).

- **Dr. In Young Min**

In Young Min is a political scientist who specialises in international relations in East Asia, with a focus on Korea at Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University. His research interests include international relations theory, international order in early modern Asia, international hierarchy and politics of asymmetry, and security issues surrounding the two Koreas. Dr. Min is currently working on a book manuscript based on his dissertation on the security strategies of China's smaller neighbours in early modern Asia. He presented a paper entitled "The quest for identity: Korea and Vietnam under Chinese hegemony in early modern Asia" at the International Studies Association Annual Convention in 2020 held at Honolulu, Hawaii. Other ongoing research includes how history shapes South Korea's present strategic thinking and domestic discourses on nuclear weapons in South Korea.

- **Dr. Franziska Koch**

Franziska Koch is a post-doctoral researcher and an Assistant Professor to the HCTS Professorship of Global Art History at Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University. She is currently working on her *Habilitation* (post-doctoral project) "The artist works (trans-)culturally: Nam June Paik and other Fluxus artists negotiating collaborative authorship" supported by a post-doctoral scholarship of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung. Her teaching and research interests include art history/-ies and historiographies from a transcultural perspective, modern and contemporary artistic entanglements, transfer and translational processes between East Asia (mainly China and South-Korea) and Europe, exhibition studies, and questions of authorship and collaboration in the field of art.

- **Xiaoying Jin, M.Sc.**

Xiaoying Jin is a Ph.D. candidate in the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) at Heidelberg University. She completed her undergraduate studies in Public Administration and Japanese Studies in China and subsequently finished her M.Sc. program in East Asian Relations at the University of Edinburgh. Her research interests include international migration of East Asian immigrants, diasporas, and nation-building in East Asia. In the framework of the AKS Seed Project "Global Korea: Transnational Mobility of People, Goods, and Ideas", her doctoral thesis examines a new paradigm concerning the mobility of Korean-Chinese (*Joseonjok*) migrants from the perspective of home-leaving and home-making, with a focus on their self-construction as well as identity transformation in the process of global mobility by using ethnological methods such as semi-structured life narrations and observation.

3. Academy of Korean Studies Seed Research Project (2019-2022)

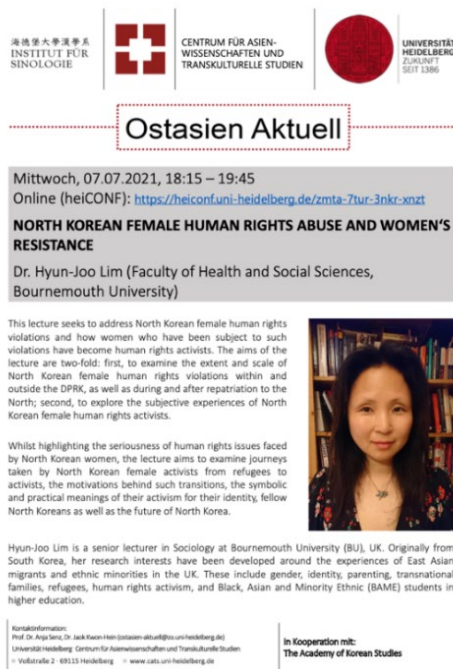
With financial support from the Korean Studies Seed program of the AKS (2019-2022), the Centre for East Asian Studies of the Heidelberg University launched a program “Strengthening Korean Studies in Education and Research at Heidelberg University.” It has two objectives. First, it tries to strengthen education on contemporary Korea at the Centre for East Asian Studies in Heidelberg, focusing on social-scientific perspectives through the development of an education program with lecture series on Korea-related socio-economic and political topics, the invitation of visiting professors, and regular Korea-related seminars. Second, it aims to facilitate research on Korea in Heidelberg by establishing a research project under the title “Global Korea: a transnational mobility of people, goods, and ideas”.

Within the framework of the AKS Seed Program, Prof. Dr. Anja Senz is investigating the movement of goods between Korea and Europe. Dr. Jaok Kwon attempts to call into question the socioeconomic meaning of ongoing transnational labour mobility in the youth sector in Korea. Dr. Hyojin Lee is examining the gendered nature of transnational mobility of Korean new Woman Choi Yeongsuk, who studied in Sweden, and the new discoveries from her experience and its historical meanings. Xiaoying Jin’s thesis examines a new paradigm in the mobility of Korean-Chinese (*Joseonjok*) citizens and their identity shifts through home-leaving and home-remaking. Jérémy Biehler works as a student assistant for the AKS Seed Project, supporting the researchers in their academic and administrative tasks.

Announcement of upcoming events (WS 2021/2022 & SS 2022)

Under the research project “Global Korea: a transnational mobility of people, goods, and ideas”, we are planning to organize multiple international workshops and publish an edited volume on the topic of “mobility between Korea and Europe”. This edited volume will be divided into three main parts, focussing on the mobility of people, goods, and ideas and with the collaboration of researchers all over the world who are working on these topics. In the upcoming winter semester of 2021/2022 and the summer semester of 2022, we will be holding international workshops under this topic. The detailed information will be updated on our website soon (https://www.zo.uni-heidelberg.de/overview/korea/index_en.html). We are looking forward to your active participation in the future.

4. Ostasien Aktuell (East Asia Today)




Ostasien Aktuell

Mittwoch, 07.07.2021, 18:15 – 19:45
Online (heICONF): <https://heiconf.uni-heidelberg.de/zmta-7ur-3nr-xnzt>

NORTH KOREAN FEMALE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE AND WOMEN'S RESISTANCE

Dr. Hyun-Joo Lim (Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Bournemouth University)

This lecture seeks to address North Korean female human rights violations and how women who have been subject to such violations have become human rights activists. The aims of the lecture are two-fold: first, to examine the extent and scale of North Korean female human rights violations within and outside the DPRK, as well as during and after repatriation to the North; second, to explore the subjective experiences of North Korean female human rights activists.



Whilst highlighting the seriousness of human rights issues faced by North Korean women, the lecture aims to examine journeys taken by North Korean female activists from refugees to activists, the motivations behind such transitions, the symbolic and practical meanings of their activism for their identity, fellow North Koreans as well as the future of North Korea.

Hyun-Joo Lim is a senior lecturer in Sociology at Bournemouth University (BU), UK. Originally from South Korea, her research interests have been developed around the experiences of East Asian migrants and ethnic minorities in the UK. These include gender, identity, parenting, transnational families, refugees, human rights activism, and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students in higher education.

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In Kooperation mit:
The Academy of Korean Studies

“East Asia Today” (*Ostasien Aktuell*) is a regular series of lectures and discussions organised by Prof. Dr. Anja Senz and her team in the Institute of East Asian Studies at Heidelberg University on political, economic and social developments in the Chinese-speaking world as well as in Japan and Korea. The “East Asia Today Working Papers” will include selected contributions from this lecture series that are available to everyone interested in discussion and presents an opportunity for further exchange.

Summer Semester Lecture Series (SS 2021)

On 7th July, the Institute of East Asian Studies was honoured to welcome Dr. Hyunjoo Lim (Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Bournemouth University), who gave a talk on “North Korean Female Human Rights Abuse and Women’s Resistance” at our *Ostasien Aktuell* Lecture Series.

Her presentation included brief background information on her current research, female human rights violations in and outside of the DPRK, human rights violations during and after repatriation, as well as North Korean female human rights activism. She began by discussing broad issues in the legislation of gender equality and proceeded to consider the reality of North Korean women’s lives in terms of family, sexual harassment, women’s health and hygiene issues, maternal health, explaining gender relations in North Korea through the narratives of North Koreans.

Since research on North Korea remains little explored, students and researchers actively participated in the discussion session. There were also discussions on topics besides the specific topic that Dr. Lim presented. In addition to methodological issues concerning the conduct of interviews with North Korean defectors, there were other broader questions such as COVID-19 policies and current social changes in North Korea and the possibility of women’s leadership in North Korea asked by participants. In responding to these questions, Dr. Lim provided wider background knowledge of the North Korean political environment, defectors’ stories on their mobility trajectories, and life in and outside of North Korea, such as in South Korea and London.

***Ostasien Aktuell* Working Paper Series:**

Please feel free to contact us (e-mail: ostasien-aktuell@zo.uni-heidelberg.de) if you are interested in either delivering a lecture based on your research or publishing a working paper on a topic of East Asian related research. The Working Papers are available in PDF format and can be downloaded free of charge from this website (<https://ostasien-aktuell.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/en/ostasien-aktuell-english/>).

5. Young Scholars of Korean Studies in Heidelberg

Korean Studies Heidelberg Research Group Workshop, which is led by Dr. Jaok Kwon, started in 2019 and takes place monthly in every semester. There are Master, Ph.D., Post-doc level researchers in our Korean Studies Heidelberg Research Group. It aims to provide a comfortable place for those who are conducting research on Korea-related topics to share ideas and new research topics and obtain feedback with each other on a regular basis. Here are introductions and presentations of our members for the recent semester.

- **Jeonghyun Lee** is studying for a master's degree in "Diakonia Christian welfare and social work" at Heidelberg University. Her main research is about Christian social responsibility. She is particularly interested in education for volunteers, senior care, social welfare centre management, education for immigrant women and their employment.
- **Jihye Bae** is a doctorate student in the Institute of Educational Science at Heidelberg University. She worked as an elementary school teacher in South Korea (2002-2017) and received her master's degree in education at Seoul National University of Education (2014). She has written monthly reports on education in Germany for the Education Policy Network of the Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI) since 2019. In her dissertation, she compares history curricula, textbooks, and tests in Germany and South Korea, focusing on nationalism and democracy. Her research interests include global citizenship education (GCED), pluralism, historical thinking, and competency-based curriculum. Her most recent publications are as follows: "A Qualitative Analysis on Korean History Test of College Scholastic Ability Test in South Korea" in *Journal of Education and Teaching Methodology* (2020); "Analysis of history tests in the German Abitur exams - focusing on questions for the analysis and comparison of historical sources" in *Korean History Education Review* (2021); and "A qualitative analysis on a competency-based curriculum of Sachunterricht and its history contents of German primary education" in *Studies on History Education* (2021).
- **Kyonghee Lee** is a Ph.D. candidate in Transcultural Studies (intellectual history) at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, focussing on conceptions of self-government understood by East Asian intellectuals at the beginning of the 20th century and earlier. With a background in philosophy and sinology, her research focuses on intellectual and social history, especially transcultural concepts. For her M.A. at the same institute, she carried out research on the history of the "kingly way" concept, as was used in Manchukuo. Currently, she is a member of the ERC project "Entangled Parliamentarisms: Constitutional Practices in Russia, Ukraine, China and Mongolia, 1905–2005." In April of 2021, she participated in the book workshop "The Vanguard of Class and Nation" and contributed a chapter on the foundation of the Democratic Republican Party in South Korea in the early 1960s.

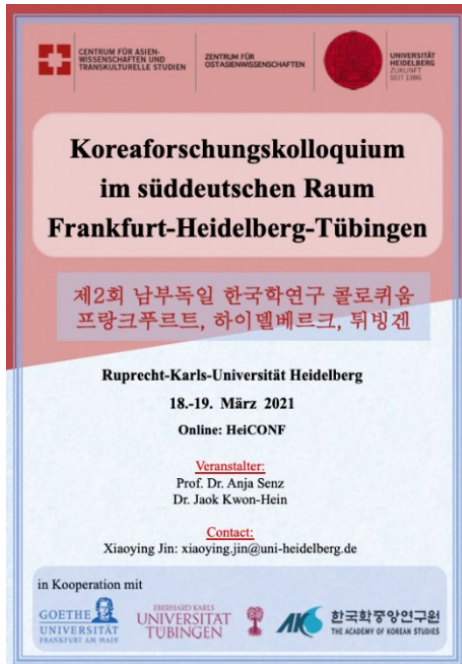
- **Juhee Jeong** is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Heidelberg University. After she received her Master's degree in International Relations at Bremen University, she moved to Heidelberg in 2020. She is conducting her doctoral research on the role-making and foreign policy analysis of South Korea and Japan and her project is funded by the DAAD foundation. Her research interests include international relations and political theory, role theoretical approaches to foreign policy analysis, the comparative analysis of political systems, and ongoing economic and security issues in East and South East Asia. She is also currently working on China's cyber security policies, its changing role and the question of what role China should take on in the cyber realm.
- **Jieun Kim** is currently a doctoral candidate at the Department of Musicology, Centre for European History and Cultural Studies (ZEGK) at Heidelberg University. The title of her doctoral thesis is "Koreanische Musik und Transkulturalität: Untersuchung zum Spannungsfeld zwischen Verwestlichung und Koreanisierung exemplifiziert am Beispiel früher Liederbücher (1894-1923) und dem Schaffen von Young Jo Lee (*1943)". Her most recent publication is a book chapter: „Mehrsprachige Vokalwerke von Young Jo Lee (*1943) und Texu Kim (*1980). Bearbeitung der traditionellen koreanischen Vokalmusik für das internationale Publikum", in: Musik in Konfrontation und Vermittlung. Beiträge zur Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Musikforschung 2018 in Osnabrück, ed. Dietrich Helms, epOS-Verlag, Osnabrück, S. 489-501. She presented "Koreanische Hofmusik der Joseon-Dynastie zur Zeit von König Sejong (1418-1450)", at International Conference: "Sound of Power Sonic Court Rituals In- and Outside Europe in the 15th-17th Centuries", at University of Bern, on 17-19 June 2021.

Presentation of Korean Studies workshop for winter semester (2020/2021) and summer semester (2021)

- January 15, 2021: Lee, Kyunghee (Transcultural Studies), "Whither with Party Politics: The Founding of the South Korean Democratic Republican Party during the Supreme Council for National Reconstruction Era (1961-1963)".
- February 5, 2021: Jin, Xiaoying (Centre for East Asian Studies), "Korean Migrants and the Engagement of Institutional Actors for Integration in Germany".
- May 7, 2021: Bae, Jihye (Institute of Education Science), "A Comparative Analysis on History Textbooks in Germany and South Korea".
- June 4, 2021: Jeong, Juhee (Institute for Political Science), "Role-making and Foreign Policy Analysis of U.S. Allies in East Asia: A Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis of South Korea and Japan regarding ASEAN".
- July 2, 2021: Kwon, Jaok (Centre for East Asian Studies), "The Birth of Global Nomads: Transnational Mobility of Young Korean Workers".

6. News

(1) Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen Graduate Workshop



In March 2021, the Korean Studies Heidelberg Group hosted the second Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen Graduate Workshop together with Goethe University Frankfurt and University of Tübingen. Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen Graduate Workshop takes place yearly to provide a platform specifically for Post-docs and Ph.D. candidates to share their research and receive feedback from experts. On 18th and 19th of March 2021, the workshop began with some words of welcome by Prof. Dr. Anja Senz, who is the vice rector of Heidelberg University as well as the leader of the AKS Seed Program. Seven research fellows from three universities presented their dissertations as well as current research projects, with topics in the fields of social science, political sciences, economics, culture, and history. The next (third) Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Tübingen Graduate Workshop will be hosted by University of Tübingen in 18-19, February 2022.

(2) DGA (German Association for Asian Studies)

The biennial DGA conference was most recently held on 10-12 March in Duisburg and Bochum in Germany under the theme of “Transnational Asian Studies: Multi-level Dynamics of Identity Formation and Institution Building”. In this conference, Jaok Kwon organized a panel “Transnational Mobility in East Asia and beyond and its institutional Actors”, together with Momoyo Hüstebeck and Anja Senz as discussant. The panel aimed to discuss the diverse involvement of institutional actors in transnational mobility and the subsequent (un)expected consequences that influence migratory flows as well as the processes by which migrants integrate. In this panel, Kwon presented a paper entitled “Birth of global Nomads among Korean Youth in the IT Sector: Interactions of institutional Actors at the local and national Levels” and Xiaoying Jin a paper on “Korean Migrants and the Engagement of institutional Actors for Integration in Germany”.

(3) Korea Foundation Global eSchool SNU Program Global Partners Workshop

Korea Foundation Global eSchool SNU Program Global Partners Workshop was held on 16-19th July 2021 and hosted by Seoul National University Asia Center (SNUAC). 10 universities over the world which have integrated eSchool SNU Program into their teaching activities participated in the workshop, and Heidelberg University joined the workshop as an observer. In this workshop, Jaok Kwon presented the progress of Korean Studies in Heidelberg and discussed the possibilities of enhancing Korea-related teaching and research activities and further collaboration with partner universities.

7. Person in Focus

In this section, we will introduce people who are connected to Korea in various sectors such as the academy, politics, economy, and culture. This time we introduce Tanja Krawietz, a BA student in Political Science at Heidelberg University who undertook an internship at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom in 2020.



Q: Could you please briefly introduce yourself?

A: My name is Tanja Krawietz (in the centre of the photo!). I am a third-year Political Science student with a focus on International Politics in East Asia. In spring 2020, I went to Seoul, South Korea, for four months to do an internship at the Korea Office of a German political foundation.

Q: Why did you go to Korea for an internship?

A: Choosing Seoul for my internship happened more by chance [than anything else]. I knew that I would like to go abroad for my compulsory internship. During my research, I realised that I found South Korea to be interesting socially and politically: the division of the Korean peninsula and the various rapprochement and reunification scenarios as well as the search for similarities and differences to Germany's history sounded particularly appealing. I was also curious to find out more about the role that the EU can play in the region alongside the regional superpowers, namely the USA and the People's Republic of China.

Q: How was your internship experience?

A: I did my internship at a German foundation, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, in a small team where both South Korean and German staff work together. In Korea, the foundation is primarily concerned with supporting exchange between Korea and Germany as well as the dialogue between the two Koreas. The main focus lies in the fields of individual freedom and responsibility, market economy, the rule of law and human rights. During my internship, I wrote an article on North Korea's Covid-19 strategy, conducted research, and wrote analyses on the South Korean political system, prepared newspaper and TV interviews, created content for the Social Media channels, and prepared upcoming events and publications on the demographic crisis in South Korea, the *Gwangju* Massacre, and the revised legislation on abortion.

Q: What did you learn from the experience of living and working in South Korea, specifically as a political science student?

A: The political knowledge I acquired in Korea geographically exceeds the Korean peninsula and has generally helped me to better understand the political complexity and the various conflicts and forms of cooperation in Pacific Asia. I also became particularly interested in asking what role the European Union can play within the region between the two superpowers, the USA and China. The legislative elections took place during my stay, and I found it particularly surprising how weakly institutionalized the South Korean party system is compared to Germany. After scandals or election failures, parties are often dissolved, renamed, or newly founded. What also impressed me was the South Korean response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which differed greatly from the German strategy, especially with regard to data protection. Korea never entered a state of lockdown and therefore I was able to lead an (almost) normal life, whilst my friends in Europe were instructed to stay at home as much as possible.

Q: Do you have any tips and suggestions for the students who want to do an internship in Korea?

A: I would advise all students planning to go to South Korea for an internship to learn *Hangul* (한글). The Korean writing system is extremely logical, so it is comparatively easy to learn. You can then at least read street signs to orientate yourself and build up your language skills on that. Without a good knowledge of Korean, internship opportunities are limited, as far as I know. However, there are four German political foundations in Seoul that accept interns. In addition, there is the Korean-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry that is based in Seoul. Furthermore, PSCORE (**P**eople for **S**uccessful **C**Orean **R**Eunification), an NGO advocating for a unified Korea, also accepts interns who do not speak Korean.

Q: What was your impression of South Korea?

A: I found life in Seoul to be exciting, fast, efficient, and diverse. Between countless food and creative markets, cafes, history museums and art galleries, and picnics by the Han River, there were always new places and areas to discover which makes Seoul an incredible place to be. Nevertheless, there are always dark sides behind all the beauty: almost 10 million people live in the mega-metropolis, and housing is scarce and expensive. As a result, quite a few students live in the so-called *Goshiwon* which is essentially an incredibly tiny bedroom furnished with the basic necessities. The rent seems good; however, the quality of life is disappointing.

Q: What are your future plans after graduation?

A: After my Bachelor's degree, I would like to study for a Master's degree in International Relations in the Netherlands or Belgium to build systematic knowledge for future work in a political foundation or a think tank. I am not exactly sure about my career, but what I am sure of is that I prefer to work in the public sector to the private sector.