

YALE UNIVERSITY  
KOREAN LANGUAGE  
AND STUDIES

STUDENT  
RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUM

예일대학교  
한국학 학생  
연구 심포지엄

FRIDAY  
MAY 3 2024  
3PM  
LUCE HALL  
203



2024 YALE UNIVERSITY  
KOREAN LANGUAGE AND STUDIES  
STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM  
FIVE-MINUTE THESIS (5MT) PRESENTATIONS

# PROGRAM

**Moderator & MC | Angela McClean**  
*Postdoctoral Associate in East Asian Studies;  
Lecturer in Sociology*

*Symposium Program Organizer | Angela Lee-Smith*

- 3:00** Opening Remarks  
*Lucas Bender, DUS & Associate  
Professor of EALL*
- 3:05** Korean Language and Studies Update  
*Kyunghee Eo, Assistant Professor of  
EALL*
- 3:10** Five-Minute Thesis Presentations  
(Block 1)
- 3:35** Q/A and Discussion  
Break
- 4:00** Five-Minute Thesis Presentations  
(Block 2)
- 4:25** Special Screening:  
*Spring Vigil (2024)*
- 4:40** Q/A and Discussion
- 5:00** Closing Remarks  
*Hwansoo Kim, Associate Professor  
of Religious Studies and EALL*
- 5:05** Dinner and  
Conversation

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

*Korean Language Program*

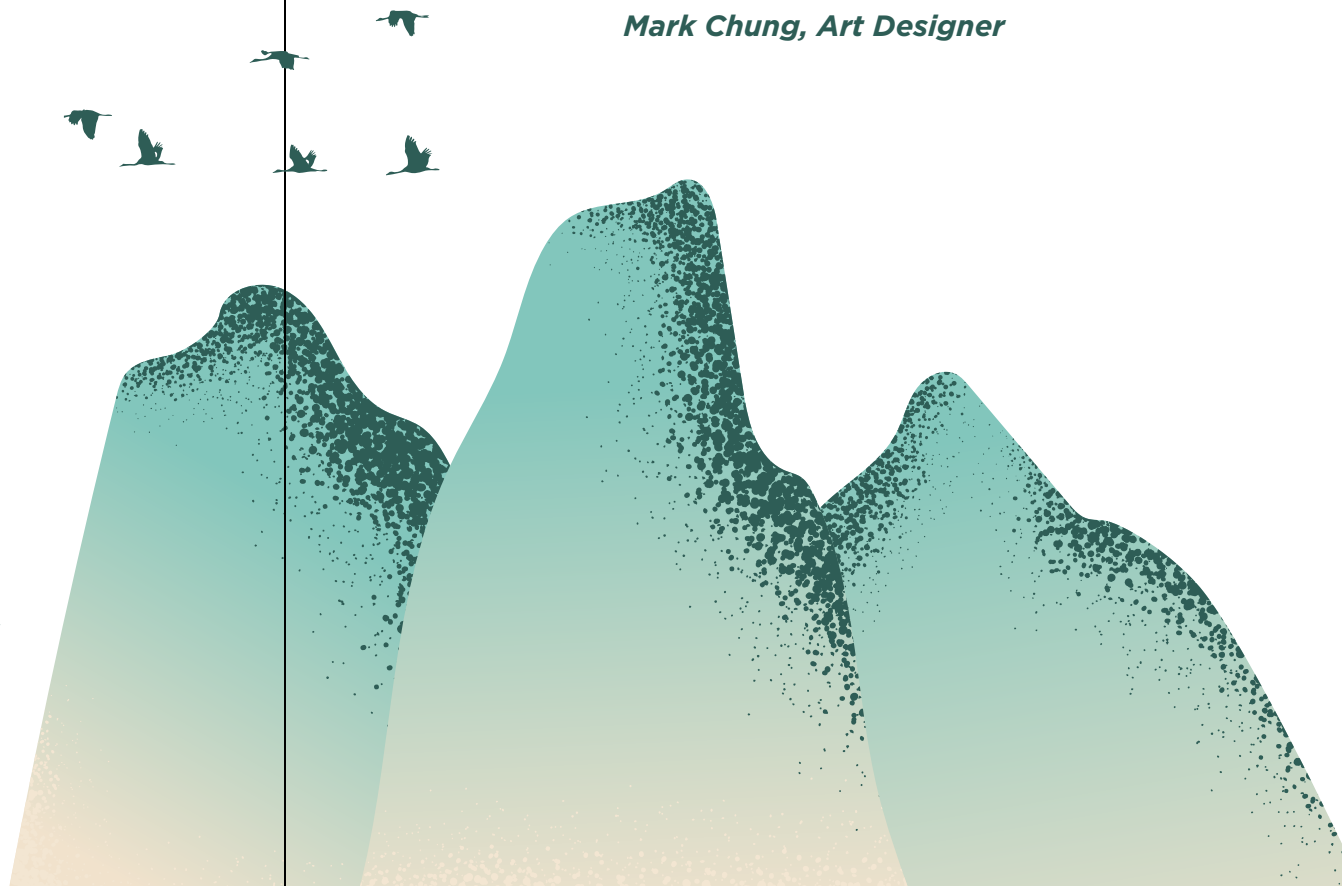
*Department of East Asian Languages and  
Literatures (EALL)*

*The Council on East Asian Studies at Yale  
University*

*Korean Education Center of New York*

*All Presenters, Speakers, and Participants of the  
2024 Symposium*

*Mark Chung, Art Designer*



# KOREAN LANGUAGE AND STUDIES STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

## ABSTRACTS

### Reading Middle Korean

**Spencer Lee-  
Lenfield**

*PhD Candidate*

**3:10–3:15**

Middle Korean is the form of the language that existed from the second half of the fifteenth century, which we know about in great detail because the invention of 한글 under King Sejong made it possible to record the pronunciation of the language accurately. But Middle and Modern Korean were very different: six hundred years ago, Korean was a tonal language; its spelling reflected sound, not morphology; and the grammar, including word endings, was completely different. This talk will briefly offer an overview of ways in which Middle Korean lies under the structure of Modern Korean, and walk through a short passage of Middle Korean together with the audience.

### Beyond a Language School: Korean Heritage Language Schools in the Tri-State Area

**Annette Kim**

*Yale College,  
Class of 2024*

**3:15–3:20**

This thesis, conducted through ethnographic interviews and multi-sited participant observation, explores the role of Korean heritage language schools in fostering cultural identity and community formation among Korean immigrant communities in the Tri-State Area (Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York). I argue that, despite its name, Korean schools are more than institutions for Korean linguistic transmission. This paper traces the growing emphasis on cultivating Korean American identity among the New Korean American generation and also observes Korean schools within a broader context of globalization and the transnational flow of capital and culture. Ultimately, the paper explores the meaning of connecting with Korean heritage and culture through language.

### Korean Newspapers and the "Irish Problem," 1920-1930: The Evolution of Japanese Censorship in Colonial Korea

**Jaehyun Kim**

*Yale College,  
Class of 2024*

**3:20–3:25**

### Joseon Military Reforms After the 1636 Qing Invasion

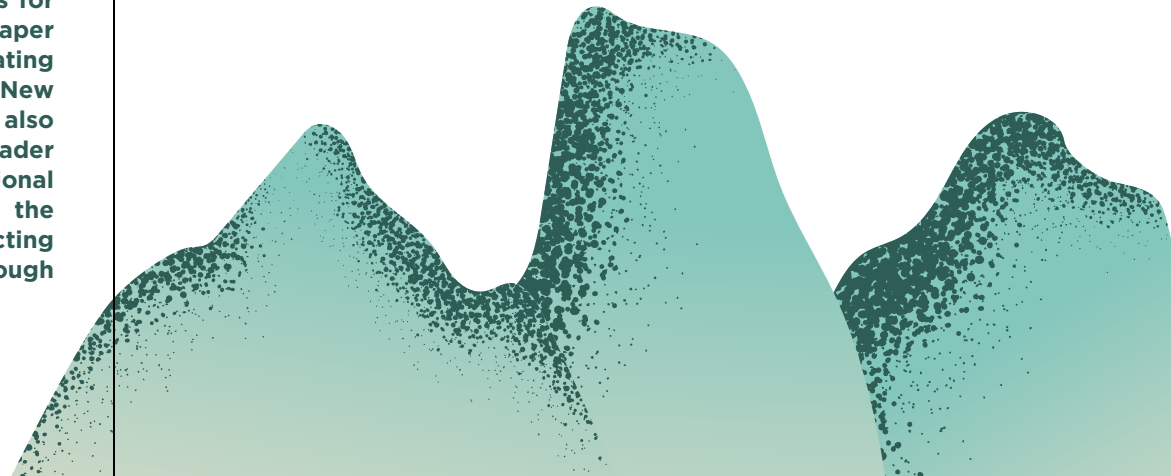
**Yuhan Kim**

*Yale College,  
Class of 2024*

**3:25–3:30**

The colonial Korean press (1920-1940) has been both praised for acting as a voice of the oppressed and criticized for its association and acquiescence to Japanese authorities. Building upon recent scholarship on Japanese colonial press censorship and the founding of the Korean press, this thesis examines an important source from which Korean newspapers, during an era of strict censorship, took political inspiration: the Irish War of Independence. From the 1920s to 1930s, Korean newspapers published detailed reports on the Irish Independence War, suggesting that there were greater opportunities to express nationalist thought in colonial Korea than previously thought.

Following the defeat of Joseon Korea by the Qing Dynasty in the 1636 Byeongjahoran War, the Korean military embarked on a series of reforms. I analyze these reforms which occurred at a leadership, tactical, and strategic level, with a particular focus on what these reforms reflect about what the Joseon state saw as the primary causes of defeat. Interestingly, Joseon Korea doubled down on its existing military strategy and tactics, indicating that they did not view the defeat as an institutional one.



## **Mt. Kūmgang**

**Fia Sheeran**  
*MA Candidate*

**3:30–3:35**

This presentation investigates the state of Buddhism on Mt. Kūmgang, referred to in English as the Diamond Mountains, during the transition between the Chosŏn dynasty and the beginning of the Japanese colonial period. In this period, the relative prosperity of temples on Mt. Kūmgang such as Yujŏmsa occurred alongside the development of discourses of the decline and stagnation of Chosŏn Buddhism and the birth of modern colonial tourism in the Korean peninsula. Mt. Kūmgang serves as a microcosm of these larger trends that took shape during the twilight of Korean independence.

## **"I learned myself": Using structuration theory to uncover Korean immigrants' health literacy development in the U.S. as an agentic behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic**

By using structuration theory, this study explores the development of health literacy among Korean immigrants during COVID-19 as an agentic behavior. 20 semi-structured interviews revealed structural forces such as conflicting but co-existing public health systems, information overload, and uncertainty surrounding the pandemic. Participants employed strategies like comparing guidelines from the U.S. and Korea, critical appraisal of information, and media regulation. These strategies enabled them to develop health literacy by leveraging their immigrant status as an advantage. The study suggests the reframing of immigrant experiences and resources as an asset for health literacy development.

**Seulgi Park**  
*PhD Candidate*

**4:00–4:05**

## **Autumn Woman, Spring Translator: Thoughts from my first time Translating From Korean**

**Maggie Grether**  
*Yale College,  
Class of 2026*

**4:05–4:10**

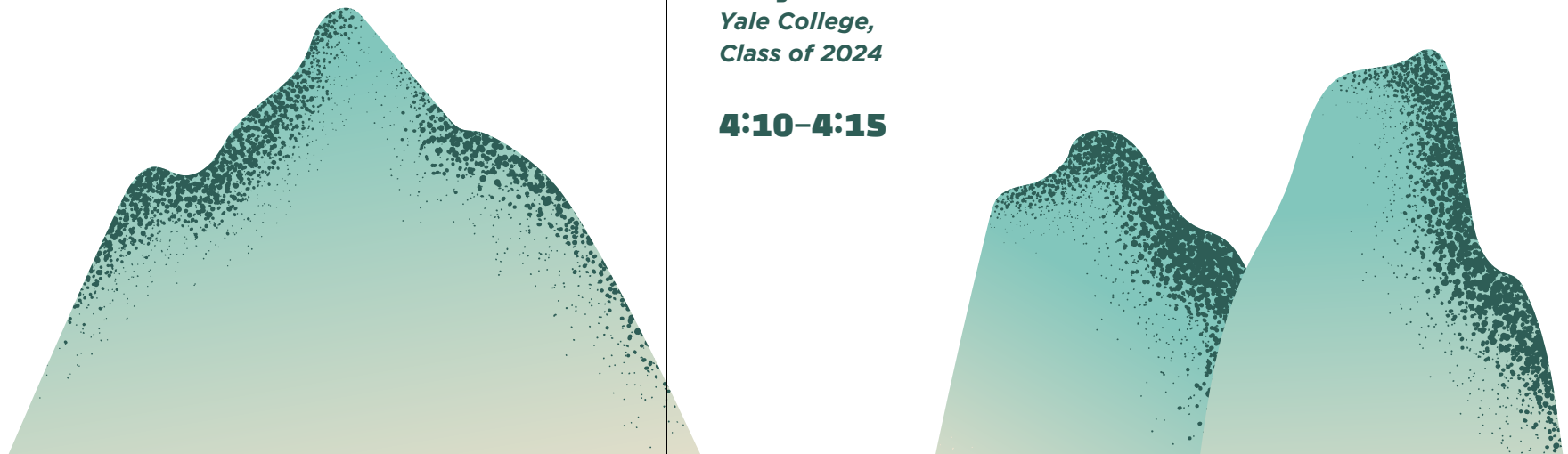
## **Perverse Poetics: Qualifying Tangsajasŏng through a Reparative Reading of Kim Hyun's "Glory Hole"**

**Corey Dunn**  
*Yale College,  
Class of 2024*

**4:10–4:15**

This semester I worked with Professor Angela Lee-Smith to translate a section of Autumn Woman, a short story collection by O Chung-hui. The translation project was coursework for the class The Practice of Literary Translation with Professor Peter Cole. The project was my first experience translating. In my presentation, I want to discuss specific challenges I encountered translating the short story, my experience trying to close the distance between language learner and translator, and how translation has illuminated to me features of both English and Korean I previously overlooked.

Is there a difference between "gay writing" and "writing about gay life"? This presentation seeks to revisit the concept of tangsajasŏng, or the significance of authorial agency, in queer Korean poetry through a close reading of Kim Hyŏn's recently published-in-english poetry collection Glory Hole utilizing an approach from queer theory called "reparative reading". It will look at the queerness of language, both intratextually and extraliterally, and pit Hyun and his work against our current discourses of queer literature and poetry. Finally, this presentation seeks to place Hyun in context with other queer poets throughout history.



## **Bouncing to a Different Beat: Exploring Blackness and Authenticity in Seoul's Underground Scene**

**Tobi Makinde**  
*Yale College,  
Class of 2024*

**4:15-4:20**

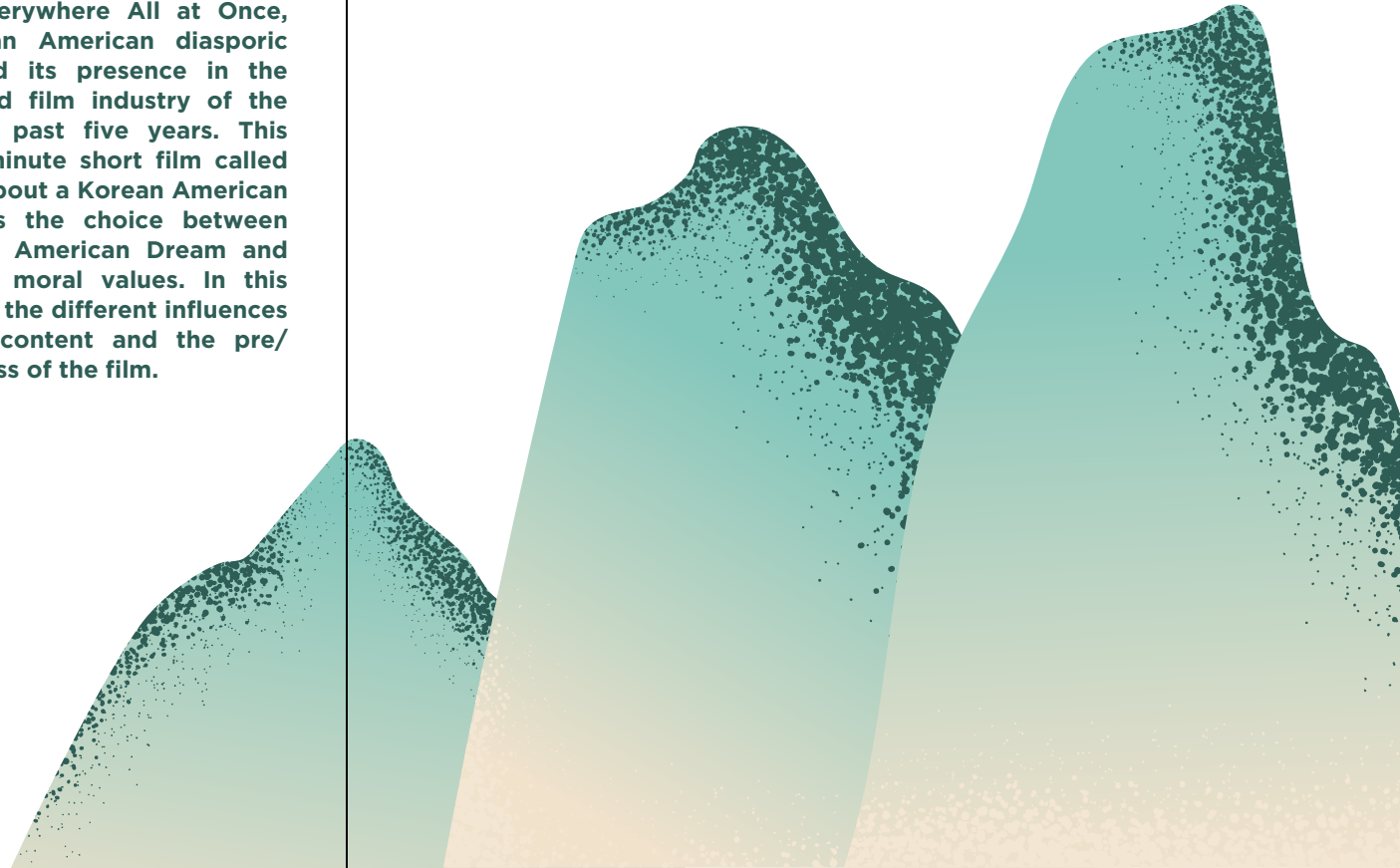
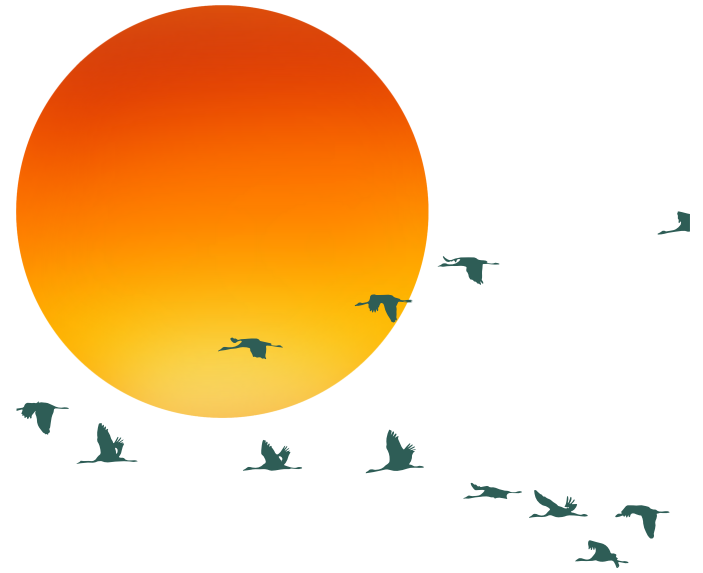
## **The Korean Diaspora in Cinema**

**Haze Yi**  
*Yale College,  
Class of 2024*

**4:20-4:25**

Nightlife in Seoul boasts a vibrant scene of bars, clubs, and neon-lit streets. *Bouncing to a Different Beat: Exploring Blackness and Authenticity in Seoul's Underground Scene* delves into the multicultural underground club culture, focusing on the relationship between Black DJs and their predominantly homogeneous surroundings. Employing autophotography, photo-elicitation, and sound-elicitation methods, this ethnography examines authenticity, Black identity, and community dynamics. Offering profound insights into Seoul's nightlife landscape, it sheds light on the globalized nature of underground scenes and the intricate cultural exchanges within.

With the rise of highly acclaimed films such as *Minari*, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, and *Past Lives*, Asian American diasporic cinema has cemented its presence in the cultural landscape and film industry of the United States in the past five years. This spring I filmed a 16-minute short film called "Spring Vigil", a film about a Korean American lawyer who confronts the choice between living for his family's American Dream and following his father's moral values. In this presentation, I analyze the different influences of Korean diasporic content and the pre/post-production process of the film.



# PRESENTER BIOS

**Spencer Lee-Lenfield** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Comparative Literature. His dissertation focuses on literary translation by Korean Americans between Korean and English over the past century. In Fall 2024, he will join the Harvard Department of Comparative Literature as an assistant professor.

**Annette Kim (she/her)** is an undergraduate senior studying Ethnicity, Race, and Migration. Her thesis advisor is Professor Quan Tran.

**Jaehyun Kim** is a senior at Yale majoring in History. He has an interest in modern Korean and Japanese history. He speaks Korean, is learning Japanese, and is excited to study abroad in Japan next year to be able to conduct Japanese in addition to Korean language research. His thesis advisor is Professor Hwansoo Kim.

**Yuhan Kim** is a senior at Berkeley College double-majoring in History and Political Science. At Yale, he is involved with Yale Military History Society and THINK. His thesis, "For the want of a nail: Joseon Military Tactics and Leadership in the 1636-1637 Byeongjahoran, was written with the advisory of Professor Maura Dykstra. He is grateful for the Council on East Asian Studies, the History Department, and the Shilla Hotel Fellowship for sponsoring his research trip to South Korea. He would also like to thank Lee Jun-hyun of Korea University, Huh Moon-hang and Lee Hyo-jong of the Jinju National Museum, and Professors Thomas Quartermain of Yonsei University, Hyeok Hweon Kang of Washington University in St. Louis, and Sixiang Wang of the University of California Los Angeles for their encouragement and contributions to his research. Finally, he would like to thank his friends and family for all their support.

**Fia Sheeran** is a second year MA student in East Asian studies at Yale researching Buddhism in colonial Korea and imperial Japan.

**Seulgi Park** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication at University at Albany, State University of New York. Her research focuses on health communication and health disparities for immigrant populations, especially Korean immigrants. She is currently working on her dissertation about patient-centered communication of Korean immigrants in medical encounters under the guidance of her advisor, Dr. Rukhsana Ahmed.

**Maggie Grether** is a sophomore in Ezra Stiles College majoring in history, with an interest in Korean colonial history. She has studied Korean at Yale, and spent last summer studying at Ewha University. She would like to thank professor Angela Lee-Smith for guidance through her first translation project this semester.

**Corey Dunn** is a senior at Yale College earning his B.A. in East Asian Studies in May of 2024. He also has extensive experience in the English and Creative Writing Department at Yale, particularly in poetry. In East Asian Studies, Corey has studied under both the Japanese and Korean Studies departments, and specialized in literature and film. His thesis advisor is Professor Kyunghye Eo of Yale's East Asian Languages and Literatures department.

**Tobi Makinde**, a senior at Yale College, is pursuing a major in Sociology alongside an Advanced Language Certificate in Korean. Her academic journey took her to Seoul for a year, generously supported by the Richard U. Light Fellowship, where she delved deeply into Korean culture and the city's underground DJ scene. This transformative experience has significantly influenced her academic pursuits. Under the guidance of Philip Smith and Grace Kao, Tobi's thesis examines race relations in Asia, explores the dynamics of the Black creative economy, and investigates cultural fusion.

**Haze Yi** is a writer-director and Yale senior from South Korea who seeks to tell stories that strip the audience to their most honest selves. She is currently working on her anthology feature "Four Seasons of Youth", a film that interprets the theme of youth through the lens of the four seasons in the US, Mexico, Korea, and Japan. Haze spends spring and fall studying Comparative Literature and History at Yale. In the summers, she runs a liberal arts camp for middle and high school students. Over winter, she is traveling in search of a story.

