



SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2007

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

3rd Floor Auditorium, Peabody Museum of Natural History, 170 Whitney Avenue

Over the past decade perhaps 100,000 North Koreans have fled economic deprivation and political repression in their home country. The vast majority transit through China, leading precarious lives there, accumulating the resources for the journey onward to a third country and eventual permanent resettlement, principally in South Korea.

This interdisciplinary workshop, featuring specialists in history, economics, political science, public health, and psychiatry, will examine the political and economic developments driving migration; the patterns and magnitudes of the refugee flows; the challenges of resettling a traumatized population, and ultimately the contribution that US policy might make to alleviate the suffering of this highly vulnerable population.

This workshop is made possible by support from the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University and the United States Department of Education.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR WORKSHOP IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2007.

Please contact eastasian.studies@yale.edu and provide your name, institutional affiliation, mailing address and telephone number.

PRESENTATIONS – 9:00 AM

STEPHAN HAGGARD

*Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies
University of California—San Diego*

Famine in North Korea: Markets, Aid and Reform

The origins of the North Korean refugee problem can be traced to the great famine of the mid-1990s. We consider the causes of the famine, and how problems of food availability and incentives to migrate evolved since that time, including contemporary food shortages and the recent efforts by North Korean authorities to restrict border crossing.

COURTLAND ROBINSON

*Deputy Director of the Center for Refugee and Disaster Response
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

Measuring Forced Migration from North Korea

What do we know about the size, shape and dynamics of North Korean forced migration into China and beyond during the past decade? Courtland Robinson examines the evidence, anecdotal and empirical, about North Korean refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers moving into and through Northeastern China from 1998 (estimated to be the peak of the migration) to 2007 and offers some analysis of trends and projections for the future.

MARCUS NOLAND

*Peterson Institute for International Economics
and Department of Economics and Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University*

The North Korean Refugee Crisis: Evidence from a Survey

Refugee interviews are an important source of information on both conditions in China and in North Korea. Drawing on a survey of 1,300 North Korean refugees in China, we present a picture of current conditions facing this vulnerable population including new information on their psychological state. The survey also provides insights into the views of North Koreans in China about the effects of economic reforms and foreign aid.

JEON WOOTAEK

*Department of Medical Education, Psychiatry
College of Medicine
Yonsei University, Seoul, Republic of Korea*

A Drama of Human and System: An Adaptation of the North Korean Defectors in South Korea

This presentation analyzes changes in the level of awareness and satisfaction of the North Korean defectors adapting to South Korean society. The analysis encountered demographic factors such as gender, age, education, military service, and Communist Party membership for the measure of changes. It further analyzes various changes newly discovered among defectors since 2005. It intends to scrutinize the significance of defectors for the Korean unification process and suggest future prospects and measures according to the resulting analyses.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION – 11:00 AM**LUNCH AND FILM SCREENING – 12:00 PM****NORTH KOREA: A DAY IN THE LIFE (2004, 48 minutes)**

A special screening of the documentary film by Pieter Fleury

FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION SESSION WITH**ANDREI LANKOV**

*Department of Social Studies
Kookmin University
Seoul, Republic of Korea*

Few places on Earth are as mysterious to outsiders as North Korea. Because its borders are closed to the outside world, Westerners have almost no sense of what everyday life is like there. Dutch filmmaker Pieter Fleury tracks a day in the life of an average family. This film is sure to make Kim Jong Il glow with pride. The rest of the world, however, may be shocked by this beautifully haunting documentary.

The day begins with a nutritious breakfast at the home of Hong Sun Hui, a female worker in a textile factory. Cameras follow as Mrs. Hong goes off to the factory, her brother goes to school to learn about an abstraction called "the internet," and her daughter goes to kindergarten, where she learns that "flowers need the sun and she needs the love of the Great Leader to grow." At the end of the day, the three reconvene and share their stories as any normal family would, unaware of the massive amount of propaganda they've encountered in one short day. Representatives from the North Korean film bureau were able to dictate much of what Fleury was allowed to record. But in a film with no narration, Fleury has presented as close to a subjective view as possible without being allowed to say a word. The result is a film that encourages viewers to interpret what they see for themselves.