

# DECODING KOREA IN EAST ASIA: PAST AND PRESENT

*A Workshop on Content and Classroom Tools for Educators*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011**

**9:30 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Room 203, Henry R. Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven, CT**

The Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University (CEAS) is pleased to present a day-long workshop for educators which will examine both the historical and cultural context of Korea's international experience in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as the important role the Korean Peninsula plays in contemporary global affairs. Participants will engage in both content sessions and pedagogy discussions on the use of maps, films and other resources in the classroom. The goal of this workshop is to provide a foundation for educators to present balanced and comparative perspectives on the complex issues that have defined the region, both past and present. CEUs are available for this workshop.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011**

Please contact **Abbey Newman** (CEAS Executive Director) at [abbey.newman@yale.edu](mailto:abbey.newman@yale.edu) for more information.

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## **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

9:30 AM      *REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST*

10:00 AM      **MAPPING KOREA IN HISTORY AND IMAGES: BACKGROUND AND IDEAS FOR TEACHING**

*ALYSSA PARK (Postdoctoral Associate, Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University)*

When we think of Korea, we may conjure up images of a homogeneous people and an isolated, peninsular territory that has remained the same for centuries. In reality, the notion of Koreans and Korea has changed over time. Today, two very different Koreas, North and South, occupy the Korean Peninsula and almost 10 percent of Koreans live abroad. How can we assess such changes? In this session, we go back in time to investigate historical maps and images to help us understand Korea's transition from a state within the Sinocentric order, to a colony under Japanese rule, to a state within the international system. We will discuss how maps and images reveal changing notions of Korea within East Asia prior to and during the 20th Century.

**Alyssa Park** is Postdoctoral Associate at the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale. A historian of modern Korea, she received her training at Princeton and Columbia universities. Her research and teaching interests include transnational migration, border regions, and national belonging. Her dissertation, "Borderland Beyond: Korean Migrants and the Creation of a Modern Boundary between Korea and Russia, 1860-1937," incorporates archival materials from Russia and Korea. It explores the building of a state border between the two countries through geopolitical contests, technologies of state surveillance, and the circulation of global ideas about mobility and citizenship. She is presently revising her dissertation to include Manchuria. In the fall of 2011, she will assume the position of assistant-professor of History at the University of Iowa.

12:00 PM LUNCH

1:00 PM **CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA: DOMESTIC POLITICS IN THE TWO KOREAS AND THEIR ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

SEOK-JU CHO (*Assistant Professor of Political Science, Yale University*)

When South Korea and North Korea were first separated in 1948, they shared many important characteristics such as race, language, the level of economic development, etc. After more than sixty years of distinct political practices, the two countries are now widely different. South Korea is the world's twelfth biggest economy, one of the G20 countries, and a liberal democratic regime. By contrast, in North Korea, people starve under the harsh militaristic authoritarian regime. An average North Korean man is two inches shorter than an average South Korean man, although they share the same genetics. In this session, we will discuss how different paths of development in the two Koreas have led to such wide disparities between them and what political problems are present in the two countries as the legacies of these developments. Also, the Korean Peninsula is one of the hot spots in the world where the interests of the world's strongest powers intersect and conflict. We will discuss how internal politics of South and North Korea are related to the issue of peace and security in East Asia.

**Seok-ju Cho** is Assistant Professor in Political Science at Yale University. His areas of study include positive political theory, political economy, and comparative politics. His current research concerns legislative bargaining, electoral competition, party formation under alternative institutional arrangements, and politics in the Korean peninsula in the broader context of international relations. Professor Cho teaches a course at Yale on "Politics in South and North Korea."

3:00 PM **SNAPSHOTS OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA ON FILM: DIVERGENT PATHS OF TWO STATES**

ALYSSA PARK (*Postdoctoral Associate, Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University*)

SEOK-JU CHO (*Assistant Professor of Political Science, Yale University*)

In this session, we will watch and analyze clips from two films on North and South Korea with an eye toward using such visual materials as tools for teaching about the respective histories of the countries.

**A STATE OF MIND** (*Documentary, 2004, North Korea/United Kingdom, Directed by Daniel Gordon*)

<http://www.astateofmind.co.uk/default.aspx>

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/episodes/a-state-of-mind/introduction/920/>

An observational film following two young gymnasts and their families for over eight months in the lead up to the Mass Games- involving a cast of thousands in a choreographed socialist realism spectacular- the biggest and most elaborate human performance on earth. Entitled 'A State of Mind', the film provides a rare glimpse into what is one of the world's least known societies. North Korea is sealed off from outside influences. It borders China and Russia to the north, and to the south there is a 4 km wide impenetrable border with South Korea. The country follows its own communist ideals, a strict philosophy known as the *Juche Idea* wrapped around the worship of the Kim dynasty – Kim IL Sung, their Eternal President who died in 1994 but remains Head of State, and his son and successor, Kim Jong IL, known as the General. The film won two awards at the North Korean Pyongyang International Film Festival in 2004 and was shown at 11 other film festivals worldwide before being released in a theatrical run in 2005.

**PEPPERMINT CANDY (*Bakha Satang*)** (Feature Film, 1999, South Korea, Directed by LEE Chang-Dong)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peppermint\\_Candy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peppermint_Candy)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0247613/>

On a railroad bridge overlooking an idyllic riverbank, Yong-Ho (Sul Kyung-Ku) faces an oncoming train. Distraught and beyond reason, Yong-Ho shouts, "I'm going back!" right before the train takes his life... *Peppermint Candy* takes viewers back before Yong-Ho's death, and back through 20 years of the doomed man's life. Director Lee Chang-Dong weaves an emotionally wrenching tale about the futility of dreams against the unstoppable march of time. Like *Memento*, *Peppermint Candy* unfolds in reverse, with each stop in time giving new insight into Yong-Ho, as he becomes the man who will one day submit to his own death on a railroad bridge - the very same bridge beneath which he would declare his love for Sun-Im (Moon So-Ri) 20 years earlier. But *Peppermint Candy* is more than a portrait of one man's self-destructive regret. Lee Chang-Dong takes Yong-Ho and the audience through 20 years of turbulent Korean history, including a stop at the tragic Gwang-ju Massacre, where Yong-Ho performs an act that will forever change his life. Full of harrowing moments and bittersweet emotions, *Peppermint Candy* earns every bit of its reputation as a masterpiece of the Korean New Wave.

4:30 PM            *WRAP-UP DISCUSSION*

5:00 PM            *WORKSHOP ENDS*