ANU signs MOU with Yonsei University

ANU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with South Korea’s prestigious Yonsei University on 2 May, 2011. The goal is to create new opportunities for collaboration between the two institutions and promote active cooperation through the development of academic exchanges of both students and faculty members. Yonsei is renowned for its distinguished faculty and high calibre students, and it offers courses in English in a diverse range of disciplines. We hope that ANU students will take advantage of this great opportunity to study on exchange at Yonsei.

The Institute wins a Grant from the Academy of Korean Studies

We started September with an exciting announcement from Korea: the ANU Korea Institute was one of only six institutions world-wide to be awarded a prestigious Overseas Leading University Program for Korean Studies (OLUKS) grant from the Academy of Korean Studies. The OLUKS grant is given to leading universities in the education and research of Korean Studies in their respective regions throughout the world. The five-year grant will provide funding that will allow the Institute to support several research projects, develop new courses, offer scholarships to new graduate students and organise outreach activities for the academic community and general public, among other activities.
Korea Foundation celebrates its 20th anniversary

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Korea Foundation, and to celebrate this milestone a conference was held in Seoul between 7 and 9 July 2011 with the theme "New Approach to Korean Studies: Understanding Korea in a Global Context". Over 250 scholars from 20 countries attended the Assembly, including Korea Foundation professors, Directors of Korean Studies Centres, Korea Foundation fellows as well as scholars and specialists from relevant institutions in Korea. The ANU Korea Institute was proudly represented by Prof Hyaeweol Choi and Dr Roald Maliangkay. Prof Choi presented a paper on the Current Status of Korean Studies in the Humanities, and was on the plenary session on Institutional Architecture for the Promotion of Korean Studies. Dr Maliangkay spoke on the topic of collecting in popular culture as part of the Korea Foundation’s “KF Summer Lecture Series”, focusing on popular music and designer toys and analysing the extent to which conformism and individualism affect these realms of art.

ANU Korea Institute has a new Director

Prof Hyaeweol Choi joined us in 2010 as the Director of the ANU Korea Institute. Formerly on the faculty of Arizona State University (and accordingly, not afraid of the bone dry summer of Canberra), Prof Choi is the ANU-Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies. Her research interests include gender, culture, religion and diaspora. She is the author of *Gender and Mission Encounters in Korea: New Women, Old Ways* (University of California Press, 2009) and *An International Scientific Community: Asian Scholars in the United States* (Praeger, 1995) and numerous articles. Her forthcoming book, entitled *New Women in Colonial Korea: A Sourcebook*, will be published by Routledge in 2012. She is currently working on a new book which "examines the ways in which Korea’s interactions with the West and Japan transformed gender images and bodily practices from the time Korea opened its doors in 1876 until Korea was liberated from Japanese colonisation in 1945." When she is not conducting her research, preparing courses or looking after the Korea Institute, she loves to go hiking or do pottery.
A brief note on our benefactor, Madame Sochon Park Young Hi

As many of you may remember, in 2009 the ANU established the Sochon Foundation Scholarship designed to support graduate studies in Korean Studies. The scholarship was only possible thanks to generous donation from the Sochon Foundation, whose founder, Madame Sochon Park Young Hi, many of us had the great pleasure to meet a couple of years ago here in Canberra.

Madame Sochon Park Young-Hi was born in Seoul in 1935 and majored in mathematics in the College of Education at Seoul National University. She has long been committed to teaching and education, and in 1986 she made headline news by donating KRW 100,000,000 to her Alma Mater at a time when individual contributions were still unusual in Korean society. In 2001 she expanded her assistance to overseas universities, providing support to universities that had Korean Studies programmes. She explained her Foundation’s mission to support Korean Studies as reflecting her belief that “funds should be allocated where they can do the most good, and there is no area that does more to help develop humankind than education. As vast as our world may be, it is becoming ever more interconnected, so that each of us really needs one another”.

A consummate poet with a passion for sharing with others, she is also the leader of Happiness Sharing Group of Yongsan Senior Citizen Welfare Center in Seoul. During her recent research stay in Korea, Prof Choi was able to meet with Madame Park and visit the offices of the Sochon Foundation at Seoul National University. Prof Choi states that Madame Sochon Park has done remarkable work, and the ANU Korea Institute is honoured to have been the recipient of the Foundation’s largesse.

ANU Korea Institute meets a delegation from South Korea

On 25 August 2011, members of the Korea Institute had a luncheon meeting with a delegation of young politicians from Korea who were visiting Australia under the sponsorship of the Australian Political Exchange Council. At the end of their Australian tour, the delegation leader, Mr Park Min Shik, commented that the delegation were appreciative of not only meeting with highly influential people and organisations - like the ANU Korea Institute - and discussing local issues, but also of the openness and honesty of the discussions and the opinions expressed. The Australian Political Exchange Council sponsors political exchanges with the United States, Japan, China, Vietnam, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, India and the Philippines. The aim of the exchange is to provide an opportunity for our international counterparts to learn about Australia’s political system, examine economic and social issues and have access to a broad range of political figures and opinions.
Experiencing Korea

Athalia Irwansjah is an undergrad student studying Korean at ANU. She shares her experience of living and working for one year in South Korea.

Last year I participated in the Teach and Learn in Korea (TaLK) Program, a government initiative to bridge the gap in English proficiency among primary school students in urban and rural areas of Korea. I had been hoping to work in Korea to get some in-country experience and was in my second year of Korean at ANU when I first saw an advertisement for TaLK. I thought it would be a challenging but rewarding experience. The TaLK program provides the opportunity to teach in a rural area while allowing plenty of free time to experience all Korea has to offer.

I was placed in the city of Sangju, Gyeongsangbuk-do, which is almost exactly in the middle of Korea and about a two and a half hour bus ride from Seoul. At first it was a little difficult adjusting to living there, especially since the dialect in this region is quite different to the standard Seoul dialect I had been learning in Korean class. There were also times when I was homesick and questioning why I had embarked on this experience.

I would definitely recommend the program to anyone who is keen to experience something a little different. The ability to speak Korean is not a pre-requisite, but it certainly does help to know a little. For those who do go on the program, my advice is that when teaching, don’t expect everything to go according to plan. Learn to be flexible with the time and resources you have been set, but most important enjoy yourself and let yourself experience everything Korea has to offer!

A year on the other side

Hyae-Na Ko Glassick tells of her experience as an exchange student at Seoul National University.

I studied Korean at ANU for two years before going on exchange to Seoul. As I had lived in Korea as a child up until I was nine years old, it was a strange feeling to return after over ten years of being out of the country. Not much had changed, people were still very busy, the subway system still confused me, and the ajuma (middle-aged Korean women) in supermarkets still scared me, but I still felt a sense of homecoming when I arrived.

I studied at the Seoul National University for a full year and my first semester was spent in the Korean Language Education Centre. It was daunting at first, but my teachers at the Language Education Institute were quirky, helpful and very eager to teach their mother tongue to classes of around 15 students, all from various backgrounds ranging from Mongolians to Paraguayans. When you think of meeting international students at ANU, you would usually converse with them in English, but here the situation was reversed and there I sat, watching Makiko chatting away with Limyao and Peter in...
Graduate student achievements

PhD candidate Minseon Lee received a research grant from the Kyujanggak at Seoul National University in 2010 to conduct research on transcultural interactions between Koreans and Western missionaries in late nineteenth century Korea.

The Korean Studies Department at ANU welcomes incoming PhD student Lina Koleilat, who joins us on a Korean Foundation Postgraduate Fellowship.


PhD candidate Lauren Richardson presented at the Korean Studies Association of Australasia Postgraduate Workshop in November 2010. Lauren was also awarded a scholarship by the Australia-Korea Foundation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for her fieldwork in Korea.

Korean. The second semester was more difficult as I had to take regular SNU courses taught in Korean. It was manageable though, and by the end of the year I could definitely say that my Korean skills had improved in leaps and bounds.

While at SNU, I joined one of the student clubs, Grimter – a comic drawing club. This was probably my favourite part of the Year in Korea experience because I met some amazing people in that club. Not only were they overjoyed at having an international student join, they were eager to teach me as much slang and day-to-day Korean as possible. I can’t help but respect them as they were very good students – hearing of full-marks on exams from them became a norm – and they were fun to be around in general. I would highly recommend the experience to others, especially students seeking to improve their Korean language skills as this was an almost Spartan method of doing it. It was a wonderful experience in culture and broadening my horizons in general – it just can’t be put down in words. I also recommend bringing thick protective footwear for defence against the stiletto-armed ladies on the buses and subway.

Hyae-Na at Seoul National University
Grants and Awards

In 2011 the Korea Institute awarded three small grants for Korea-related research projects. We wish to congratulate the following recipients:

Dr Ruth Barraclough: who will organise an international workshop on the theme of transnational consideration of proletarian film and literature across Asia and the Pacific;

PhD candidate Shinnosuke Takahashi: who proposed to organise a seminar on the current state of restitution movements for victims of colonial history in Australia, Africa, and Japan from both academic and activist perspectives.

Dr Tatiana Gabroussenko: will conduct interviews with North Korean refugees in South Korea on the political culture, ideology and worldview of their motherland;

Also, Prof Hyaeweol Choi received a Fulbright Research Award in 2010 to support her new book project, tentatively entitled A Transnational History of Women in Korea, 1876-1945

Staff publications


Choi, Hyaeweol, Gender and Mission Encounters in Korea: New Women, Old Ways (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009)


Barraclough, Ruth and Faison, Elyssa, eds, Gender and Labour in Korea and Japan: Sexing class (Taylor & Francis Group, UK: Routledge, 2009)
Upcoming event: Korea Update 2011

Korea Update
Politics, History, and Culture in Globalising Korea

Friday 7 October 2011, 9.00am - 3.30pm
Lecture Theatre 1
Hedley Bull Centre [130]
Garran Road, ANU

Program
09:30—09:45 Welcome Remarks
09:45—11:00 Keynote Address
Professor Kyung-Sup Chang (Seoul National University)
Predicaments of Neoliberalism in South Korea's Post-Developmental Liberal Context
11:00—12:00
Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki (The Australian National University)
Heroes, Collaborators & Survivors: Korean Kamikaze Pilots & the Ghosts of Colonialism in Contemporary Korea
13:00—14:00
Ms Emma Cambell (The Australian National University)
Un Nara, Our Nation: Finding a Place for North Koreans in the Emerging South Korean Globalised Cultural Nation
Dr Tatiana Gobioussenko (The Australian National University)
Do North Koreans Read Books?: Reception of literary propaganda in the DPRK
14:00—15:00
Dr Gi-Hyun Shin (The University of New South Wales)
Australia's Korean language education: issues and challenges
Dr Roald Maliangkay (The Australian National University)
Does South Korea Need Vinyl Justice?: The Fashion Sense of Korean Pop Fan

Presented by the Korea Institute
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

For further information
http://koreainstitute.anu.edu.au
# Korean Studies course offerings for 2011

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<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Modern Korean 1 (Kore1020/6120)</td>
<td>Modern Korean 2 (Kore1021/6121)</td>
<td>Roald Maliangkay, Su-Kyung Kim</td>
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<td>Modern Korean 3 (Kore2521)</td>
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<td>Modern Korean 5 (Kore3012)</td>
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<td>Hyaeweol Choi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year in Korea (Kore3550/6550)</td>
<td>Modern Korean 6 (Kore3013)</td>
<td>Ruth Barraclough</td>
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<td>East Asian Women and War (Asia2166/6166)</td>
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<td>Korean Film: History, Culture and Society (Asia2080/6080)</td>
<td>Politics and Society in Contemporary Korea</td>
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<td>Sang-Young Park</td>
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<td>Honours Core course</td>
<td>Roald Maliangkay</td>
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To be added to the Korea Institute’s mailing list or for general enquiries, email: korea@anu.edu.au

Korean Studies at the ANU has a long and vibrant history. We are devoted to innovative teaching and cutting-edge research related to Korea. We are also deeply committed to fostering the academics, professionals and informed citizens of the next generation through our scholarly and cultural activities and our graduate and undergraduate programs.

The ANU Korea Institute serves as an umbrella to draw together the many academic units within the University that are focused on teaching and research on Korea.

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This issue of Korean Studies Newsletter has been prepared by Hea-Jin Park and Lauren Richardson.