



*Next Steps for Korean Studies
as Asia Research and Asia
Research as Korean Studies*

Based on regional and thematic research, SNUAC aims to become a global, integrated research center that combines academic research, international exchange, and human resource development. SNUAC plans to focus on research themes such as Asian capitalism, the Asian family, the Cold War in Asia, and other current issues related to Asia.

Since its establishment in 2009, SNUAC has been working towards setting a cornerstone for Asian Studies at Seoul National University.

Since knowledge production must meet the different societal demands and needs of the time, SNUAC is heading towards a new horizon of Asia research. Especially in comparison with the US, the UK, and Japan, SNUAC's goal is to propose new contents and perspectives on Asia research. Korea has long been a hot topic in US centric Post Cold War studies and European Asia research started with Imperialism. However, Korea's own knowledge production in the field of Asian Studies has been limited.

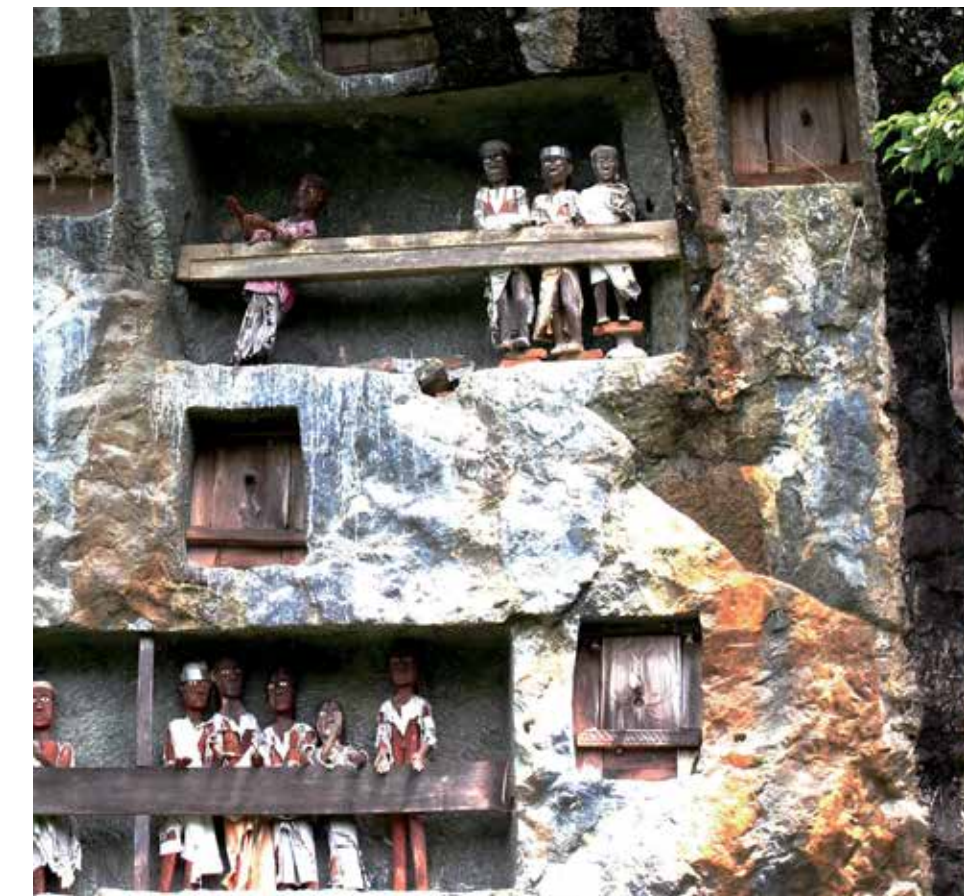
For this reason, I have been searching for an answer to the dilemma of how to incorporate Korean Studies into Asia research and Asia research into Korean studies. At SNUAC, we propose an epistemological framework to answer this question. By extending Korean Studies to Asia research and overlapping Asia research with Korean Studies, we attempt to find a new direction for knowledge production. In an effort to extend Korean Studies, individual researchers in the humanities and social sciences need to branch out their study of the Korean people and Korean society to create new research areas in Asian Studies.

Additionally, in terms of overlapping Asia research, researchers who specialize in Asian regional studies must consider the changing dynamics of the world order so that their horizon of research would eventually expand.

SNUAC put considerable effort into applying this framework of an overlapping and extended approach to its research and network. Through reinforcing international exchanges with leading research institutions and researchers, our network has expanded to a global scale. Major highlights of the achievements include an increase in research projects, sources of funding, and academic events and special programs. Through this outcome, we are providing more opportunities to share knowledge while moving forward toward the welcoming of the Asia era. We now look forward to planning for the next changes and developments that would guide us to becoming a leading research center specializing in Asia research.

SNUAC

Seoul National University Asia Center



Vision

Seoul National University Asia Center (SNUAC) aims to serve as a global hub for Asian Studies by integrating regional and thematic research across Asia. By creating and sharing forward-thinking ideas, SNUAC contributes to the mutual harmonious development of Asia.

March 2015
 Director, SNUAC *Kang Dae-ho*



Thematic Clusters

Regional Centers

The **Northeast Asia Center (NEAC)** introduces “Asia as Method” for contextualized and historicized understanding of Korea and her surrounding neighbors in the globalizing and globalized world. The research focuses on analyzing multilateral relations among big powers surrounding the Korean peninsula, including South Korea, North Korea, the US, China, Japan, and Russia. Through such multifaceted analysis, CNEAS explores viable ways to maintain peace and security in the region.

The **Southeast Asian Center (SEAC)** started in the second half of 2012 and has two research teams: Research Team for Emerging Economies (EERT) and Mekong Team that focuses on the continental Southeast Asian region supported by Basic Asian Studies Initiative. The EERT, supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea, has successfully finished two-year research and started the second term of three-year research. The Mekong Team also acquired research funds from the NRF Korea and will continue to lay the foundation for in-depth understanding of the Mekong region.

The **Center for Eurasian and Central Asian Studies (CECAS)** has expanded its research network and built up its reach capacity for the study of the politics, economy, and society of the former Soviet Eurasian nations. Taking a multifaceted approach, CECAS seriously considers the historical background and geographic characteristics of the region. In addition, CECAS regularly hosts colloquiums and seminars by inviting expert speakers and conducts various research activities and publication projects to promote collaboration among domestic and international researchers.

*SNUAC is working on to launch **Center for West Asian Studies** and **Center for South Asian Studies** in the near future.

Thematic Programs

The **Popular Culture Program (PCP)** focuses on the life, desire, value, and worldview of contemporary Asians, with a perspective that views the culture as the summation of life. For the initial three years, PCP selected “Dream and Undream of Korean and Japanese Youth” as the major research theme. In 2014, PCP has received a three-year research fund from NRF Korea for the project of “A Comparative Research on East Asian Creative Generation: Focusing on Korea and China.”

The **Program on US-China Relations (PUCR)** focuses on scholarly and policy-relevant research on the most important bilateral relationship in the world, namely America’s relations with China. PUCR seeks to establish extensive academic and policy-related networks, both domestically and overseas. For this goal, PUCR holds monthly seminars, roundtables, domestic and international workshops, and policy dialogues, as well as conducts research on wide-ranged topics related to Sino-American relations.

The **Democracy and Economic Development Program (DEDP)** conducts research on democracy and development in Asia, recognizing diversity within Asia and focusing on implications to Korea. DEDP conducts theoretical and practical research on sustainable democracy and economic development in Asia.

The **Civil Society and NGOs Program (CSP)** conducts researches on how each civil society in Asia adapts to and evolves with globalization. Currently, PCSN is undertaking research on the following: mapping the database of Korean civil; comparing social movements in Korea, China, and Japan; research on the activities of Asian civil society for international cooperation and alternative globalization.

The **Asia-Global Economic Order (AGEO)** program focuses on the risks related to the rise of developing and middle-income countries in Asia and the following changes in the world trading system. The AGEO program pursues interdisciplinary academic research on the world trading system by carrying out theoretical and empirical research on the Asian and global economic order.

The **Asia Census Program (ACP)** aims to build a basic data archive as well as to develop a comparative index and social survey on Asian countries. The basic data archive is to accumulate metadata on various quantitative and qualitative data materials across Asian countries and to provide open access to interested researchers through a data sharing network, which is going to be built in cooperation with other data archives in Asia.

The **Transnational Asia Program (TAP)** conducts research on the Far East Russia, China’s three Northeastern provinces, the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago from a perspective of “movements and flows”. TAP’s comparative research focuses on the transnational flows, movements, and networks between various units in East Asia, analyzing complex situations and major problems of various socio-demographic groups residing in the region.

The **Environment Collaboration Program (ECP)** conducts research on decision-making system for sustainable land management, exploring a new Asian perspective on the environment to overcome the spatial heterogeneity. ECP works together with the international research group for Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) to examine the effects of changes in the land use across five Asian countries.

NRF Supported Research Projects

The **Key Research Institute Program of Economic Cooperation and Integration in East Asia** has undertaken various academic research activities to discover the possibilities for socioeconomic integration and cooperation in East Asia.

SSK Research Project on East Asian Cities tries to discover the challenges that East Asian cities are facing and explore solutions by approaching them from a perspective of “Cold War Developmental Urbanization”.



SNUAC is trying to combine thematic research having strategic significance with regional studies on Asia. With the increasing demand for region specific data from the economy, society, and academia, SNUAC has initiated the Asia Basic Research Program, which promotes research on critical issues facing Korea and nurtures Asia specialists.

Regional Centers

Northeast Asia Center
East Asian Modernity: Post-Cold War and Subaltern Studies

Southeast Asia Center
Consumer Culture of Maritime Southeast Asia / Development and Environmental Cooperation in the Mekong River Basin

Research Project for Emerging Economies
Towards ‘Culturally-Sensitive’ Management and Marketing Strategy and Sustainable Economic Cooperation: Focusing on Indonesia and Malaysia as a Malay-Islam World

General Joint Research
The Dilemma and Governance of Development and Environmental Cooperation in the Mekong River Basin

Center for Eurasian and Central Asian Studies
Rise of China / Data Archiving on Traditional Living Culture of Central Asian Korean Diaspora (*Koryo-saram*)

Foundational Research
Database Establishment and Book Series Publishing on the Traditional Life and Culture of Koreans in Central Asia (*Koryo-saram*) by Local Resources

NRF Supported Research Projects

Key Research Institute Program
Cooperation and Integration of Economic and Social Community in East Asia

SSK Research Project on East Asian Cities
Crisis and Transformation of East Asian Cities in the Age of Globalization

Thematic Programs

Popular Culture Program
Life of Young East Asian Creative Generation / Dream & Undream of Korean and Japanese Youth

Global Research Network, Collaboration with China
A Comparative Research on East Asian Creative Generation – Focusing on Korea and China

Democracy and Economic Development Program
Hybridity of Cooperatives / Social Economy in East Asia

General Joint Research
Political Economy of Co-operatives: Interdisciplinary Studies on the Hybridity of Co-operatives

Program of Asia-Global Economic Order
New Global Economic Order and International Crisis

SSK Programs
International Trade, Trade Order and Standardization

Program on US-China Relations
Analyzing Perceptions and Strategies between the US and China

Program on Civil Society and NGOs
Navigating the Dynamics of Korean Civil Society through Mapping Korean Civil Society

Asia Census Program
Comparative Index and Social Survey on Asian Countries

Transnational Asia Program
Transnational Flows, Movements, and Networks in East Asia

Environment Collaboration Program
Asia’s Sustainable Regional Land Management

SNUAC Research Grant for Asian Studies

Through various support initiatives, SNUAC continues to sponsor outstanding Asia-related basic studies. By supporting scholars who conduct Asia related research, the initiative aims to build a solid foundation for the production of Asia-related basic studies. Its expected results are the basic steps for knowledge production that is independent from the previously Western-oriented methodology and system.

Support for Next-Generation Scholars

SNUAC has various programs to support the next-generation scholars and experts in Asian Studies: graduate students forum, outstanding dissertation award, dissertation writing fellowship, internship program, and student group supports.

KF Global e-School Program

Korea has seen rapid changes within its society, politics, economy, culture, technology, and international relations. In accordance with these changes, SNUAC has sought to provide foreigners with courses on modern Korea. Since 2011, SNUAC has received funding from the Korea Foundation to establish global Korean Studies courses that approach Korean society from a comparative perspective.

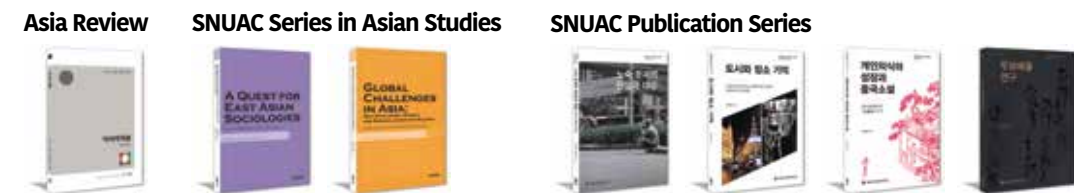
In the search for a new educational model for live video lectures, SNUAC has conducted various experiments such as joint lectures in three countries and moving classes. As a result, over the past four years, we have opened thirty-seven courses at thirteen universities in eight countries throughout Asia and Europe.

At the core of SNUAC’s education, the e-School Program continues to select the most prestigious universities in each country and region for collaboration, grafting and combining education, research, and various international exchanges in hopes to create a new model for sustainable education.



Publications

With the aim of creating an academic community for the Asian region beyond Korea, SNUAC is publishing books and a journal. SNUAC publishes Asia Review, a biannual academic journal, in an effort to share various studies on Asia. The SNUAC Series in Asian Studies, one of the main publications of SNUAC, is published by Seoul National University Press and is printed in both Korean and English. Another main publication series is the Series of Asian Studies in the World, which is published by off-campus publishing houses.



Media



SNUAC Facebook Page
SNUAC is running a Facebook page as a channel to share the information and events

held by the center with people who are interested in Asia and Asian Studies.

<http://www.facebook.com/snuac/>



SNUAC Online Newsletter
SNUAC issued the bimonthly online newsletter, <SNUAC Newsletter> since

November 2014. Along with a schedule of academic events, it also offers reviews of academic events and interviews, fieldwork reports, and various news and articles. The newsletter is accessible through mobile devices, allowing the public to obtain the information regardless of their location.

<http://snuacnews.snu.ac.kr>