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.

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 new 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.
Thematic Clusters

**Regional Centers**

The Northeast Asia Center (NEAC) traces the history of Northeast Asia for scholars and the public. The Northeast Asia Center was established in 2004 to promote research on Northeast Asia and to serve as a channel to share the results of research conducted at Seoul National University. NEAC has been conducting research and activities to discover the possibilities for socioeconomic integration and cooperation in East Asia.

The Sino-Japanese Relations Research Center (SJRRRC) aims to promote research and activities to discover the challenges that East Asian cities are facing and explore solutions by monitoring the urban development in East Asia.

The Korea Studies Center (KSC) has expanded its research network and built up its reach capacity for the study of the Korean economy and society and social-legal changes in Korea. The Korea Studies Center is conducting the research on the historical background and geographic characteristics of the region in addition to Korea’s economy and social structure. It has engaged in various research activities and published research papers on international relations among East Asian countries.

The Program on US-China Relations (PUCR) focuses on scholarly and policy-relevant research on the most important bilateral relations in the world. In 2014, PUCR has received a three-year research grant from NRF Korea for the project of “A Comparative Research on East Asian Culture as the Summation of Life.” For the initial three years, PUCR selected “Dream and Undream of Korean and Japanese Youth” as the major research theme.

The Center for Eurasian and Central Asian Studies (CECAS) has expanded its research network and built up its reach capacity for the Central Asia Basic Research Program, which promotes research on critical issues facing Korea and nurtures Asia specialists. CECAS is trying to combine thematic research having strategic significance with regional studies on Asia. With the support of the Korea Research Foundation, the Center for Eurasian and Central Asian Studies is working on to launch Center for West Asian Studies and Center for South Asian Studies in the near future.

**Thematic Programs**

The Asia-Global Economic Order (AGEO) program pursues interdisciplinary academic research on the Asian and global economic order and Japan; research on the activities of Asian civil society for international cooperation and alternative globalization.

The Asia Census Program (ACP) conducts research on how each civil society in Asia adapts to and evolves with globalization. ACP is currently conducting research on the following research areas:Dimensions of Globalization, Culture of Globalization, Cultural and regional studies on globalization, Theory and method in globalization study.

The Project of Culture and Globalization (PCG) focuses on comparative research of Korea and Japan; research on the activities of Asian civil society for international cooperation and alternative globalization.

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