

SNUAC Brown Bag Seminar Series, Spring 2018

Parsing Foreign Aid from Japan and South Korea to South Asia

Sojin Shin

What motivates the substantial increase in foreign aid from Japan and South Korea to South Asia? The seminar explores the evolution of development cooperation policy-making in Japan and South Korea to the region with a comparative perspective. Japan began sending official development assistance (ODA) to South Asia as early as 1958 and has become one of the biggest donors to the region. Meanwhile, South Korea has increased the volume of ODA to the region since 1988 as a rising aid giver. However, the goals of aid policy in two donor states differ considerably. Japan has expanded economic diplomacy by capitalizing on the policy of development cooperation in the region and recently stretched it out to the security-building cooperation with aid recipients in South Asia, especially with India. On the contrary, South Korea has sent the higher ratio of aid to human development sectors in South Asia's aid recipients. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka are beneficiaries in this regard. By examining the foreign aid policy-making process in Japan and South Korea, the speaker attempts to argue that the idea of policymakers has shaped and shifted the aid policy differently, influenced by both endogenous and exogenous factors, in the two states over time.

Dr. Sojin Shin is a full-time research faculty in the Institute of South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She is visiting Seoul National University Asia Center (SNUAC) as a visiting scholar from the mid-April for three months in 2018. She works on the political economy of development in South Asia and East Asia. She authored *The State, Society, and Foreign Capital in India* (Cambridge University Press, 2018, forthcoming). Her articles and policy commentaries have appeared in *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Political Studies Review*, and *Oxford Bibliographies* among others. Dr. Shin obtained her doctoral degree from South Asian Studies at NUS, MPhil degree from Political Science at the University of Delhi, MA and BA degrees from Political Science and International Relations at Ewha Womans University.

Date & Time: May 17 (Thur.) 2018, 12:00-13:00

Place: Concourse (3F), SNUAC (Bldg#101)