

Korean Studies Workshop in Southern Europe 2

# Upgrading Korean Studies in Southern Europe:

Innovation in Education, Research, and Global Collaboration

Feb 13 2025 | 9 am - 5:30 pm

**Green Ray Building**

3rd Floor, University of Malaga,  
Malaga, Spain

UNIVERSIDAD DE MÁLAGA



KOREA **KF**  
FOUNDATION

**Korean Studies Workshop in Southern Europe 2**

**Upgrading Korean Studies in Southern Europe:  
Innovation in Education, Research, and  
Global Collaboration**

**February 13 2025 | 9:00am-5:30pm**

Green Ray Building (Link by UMA) 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
University of Malaga  
Malaga, Spain

**Organizing Committee**

Jong-Cheol Kim (SNUAC)  
Antonio Doménech (UMA)  
Patricia Chica (UMA)  
María del Mar Blanco (UMA)

**Hosted by:**

Seoul National University Asia Center &  
University of Malaga, East Asia Studies  
Korea Studies Area, Department of Historical Science

**Sponsored by:**

Korea Foundation



---

## PROGRAM

### Korean Studies Workshop in Southern Europe 2

# Upgrading Korean Studies in Southern Europe: Innovation in Education, Research, and Global Collaboration

---

09:00-09:15	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening: Jong-Cheol Kim (Seoul National University)</li><li>• Welcoming: Jae-jin Choi (Korea Foundation)</li><li>• Group Photo</li></ul>
09:20-11:20	<b>[Session 1] Shaping the Future of Education: Expanding Curricula and Global Opportunities in Korean Studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Luis Botella (University of Malaga)</li><li>• <b>Speaker 1:</b> Olivier Bailblé (Aix-Marseille University), Strengthen the Teaching of Classical Chinese in Korean Studies in Europe</li><li>• <b>Speaker 2:</b> Hatice Çelik (Social Sciences University of Ankara), The Growth and Development of Korean Studies in Turkish Universities: Curricula, Trends, and Opportunities</li><li>• <b>Speaker 3:</b> Ester Torres-Simón (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Establishing Korean Studies in Formal Education: Steps for Consolidation</li><li>• <b>Speaker 4:</b> Andrea De Benedittis (University of Naples "L'Orientale"), The Future of Korean Studies: Navigating Challenges and Embracing New Realities in Southern Europe</li></ul>
11:20-11:50	<b>Coffee Break</b>

---

11:50-13:50	<p><b>[Session 2] Broadening Research Horizons: Interdisciplinary Approaches in Korean Studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Jong-Cheol Kim (Seoul National University)</li> <li>• <b>Speaker 1:</b> Cristina Bahón (Autonomous University of Madrid), Korean Studies in Spain and Korean Language Education at the Autonomous University of Madrid</li> <li>• <b>Speaker 2:</b> Giuseppina De Nicola (University of Turin), Korean Studies as a Global Discipline: Opportunities and Challenges of Transnational Approach</li> <li>• <b>Speaker 3:</b> Jong-Chol An (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), Korean Understanding of the Law of War in the Early 20th Century: Adoption of the Hague Convention (1899)</li> <li>• <b>Speaker 4:</b> Okyang Chae-Duporge (Bordeaux Montaigne University), A Comparative Study of the Representation of the Tiger in East Asian Art</li> <li>• <b>Speaker 5:</b> Aurelia Martín (University of Malaga), Marginality and Exclusion: Research on Nobi and Gisaengs at UMA</li> </ul>
14:00-15:30	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
15:30-17:30	<p><b>[Session 3] Global Collaboration for the Advancement of Korean Studies in Southern Europe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Antonio Doménech (University of Malaga)</li> <li>• <b>Speaker 1:</b> Imsuk Jung (University for Foreigners of Siena), Enhancing Korean Studies through Joint Research and Development between Universities in Southern Europe</li> <li>• <b>Speaker 2:</b> Aurea C. Javier (Ateneo de Manila University), Korean Studies at the Ateneo de Manila University: A Case Study on International Collaboration and Academic Sustainability</li> <li>• <b>Speaker 3:</b> Álvaro Trigo (University of Salamanca), Fostering a Sense of Community in Southern Europe Korean Studies through Academic Exchanges and New Technologies</li> <li>• <b>Speaker 4:</b> You Jae Lee &amp; Thomas Eichert (University of Tübingen), Global Opportunities in Teaching: Experiences from Tübingen</li> </ul>
17:30	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antonio Doménech (University of Malaga)</li> </ul>

# **ABSTRACTS**



## Session 1

# **Shaping the Future of Education: Expanding Curricula and Global Opportunities in Korean Studies**

Moderator

Luis Botella  
University of Malaga



---

## ***Strengthen the Teaching of Classical Chinese in Korean Studies in Europe***

Olivier Bailblé  
Aix-Marseille University

Classical Chinese played a fundamental role in the intellectual and cultural history of Korea. Introduced through China, it became the dominant written language for centuries, profoundly influencing Korean literature, philosophy, and administration. The elites used Classical Chinese to compose poems, essays, and official documents, contributing to the emergence of a rich literary tradition. However, in the 20th century, with the adoption of Hang'ul, Classical Chinese lost its significance. Nevertheless, it influenced the Korean Peninsula for nearly two thousand years. Furthermore, there are several forms of Classical Chinese in Korea, such as Idu and Kugyŏl. There are many major texts in Korean studies that are still unknown to the general public in Europe, and this warrants a focus on strengthening classical studies in emerging Korean Studies departments across Europe. This presentation aims to explore avenues with my colleagues to promote the possibility of such online teaching, which seems to be the most suitable solution for the moment.

---

# ***The Growth and Development of Korean Studies in Turkish Universities: Curricula, Trends, and Opportunities***

Hatice elik  
Social Sciences University of Ankara

Korean Studies has gained increasing popularity at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in Turkish universities over the past few years. Several factors contribute to this growth. One of the primary drivers is the global rise of Korean soft power, a phenomenon that has also reached Trkiye. Another significant factor is the strong positive perception of Korea within Turkish society, shaped largely by the involvement of Turkish soldiers in the Korean War. Although academic interest has predominantly focused on Korean language and literature departments, students from disciplines such as International Relations, Political Science, Sociology, and History have also begun to show interest in the broader field of Asian Studies, with a particular emphasis on Korea. This study aims to explore the history, development, and current status of Korean Studies in Trkiye. To achieve this, the curricula of Korean Studies departments and the Korea-related courses in other social sciences departments will be analyzed to identify emerging trends. Additionally, theses on Korea will be reviewed and categorized by topic. The study will then assess whether there is alignment between the curricula and the research topics explored in these theses. Finally, the study aims to propose concrete suggestions for enhancing the curriculum, identifying global opportunities, and fostering academic collaborations.

---

## ***Establishing Korean Studies in Formal Education: Steps for Consolidation***

Ester Torres-Simón  
Autonomous University of Barcelona

The Faculty of Translation and Interpreting at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona was a pioneer in East Asian Studies in Spain, with first classes of Chinese Language and culture dating back to the 1990s and a first official degree in East Asian Studies in early 2000s. This degree allowed for a specialization in Korean, Japanese and Chinese. However, with the redefinition of BA and MA programs due to the Bologna process in the 2010s, only Japanese and Chinese studies remained as a specialization at BA and MA levels. Korean language was kept as an optional course. Later attempts to include a Korean Studies course were halted by the university, despite students' constant demand for it. Finally, permission to request the BA in East Asian Studies with the Korean language specialization was granted by UAB in early 2024. In this talk, I would like to explain the reasons the university had to stop the initial proposals and how the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting worked towards sorting the problems behind the rationale while establishing a working space for Korean studies specialists. Thus, I hope to shed some light on what barriers new degrees in Spanish public universities may face and how to address them.

---

## ***The Future of Korean Studies: Navigating Challenges and Embracing New Realities in Southern Europe***

Andrea De Benedittis  
University of Naples "L'Orientale"

The field of Korean Studies in Southern Europe faces numerous challenges and opportunities as it navigates the shifting landscapes of higher education. This presentation will explore the current state of Korean Studies, focusing on its characteristics, developments, and the significant challenges it faces in Italy. Factors such as the rise of artificial intelligence, the demographic decline, reduced funding for universities, and the increasing success of online education are poised to affect the future trajectory of Korean Studies. I will analyze how these variables might influence the curriculum, the accessibility of Korean language and culture, and the long-term sustainability of academic programs. Additionally, we will discuss strategies to ensure that the field remains dynamic and relevant, focusing on innovative methodologies, global collaborations, and interdisciplinary approaches that can enhance the education and research experience for students and faculty in Southern Europe.

## **Session 2**

# **Broadening Research Horizons: Interdisciplinary Approaches in Korean Studies**

Moderator

Jong-Cheol Kim  
Seoul National University

---

***Broadening Research Horizons in Pioneer Korean Studies Programs: Interdisciplinary and Interregional Approaches at the Autonomous University of Madrid***

Cristina Bahón  
Autonomous University of Madrid

The Korean Studies program at the Autonomous University of Madrid is still in a pioneering stage within the East Asian Studies degree, which currently focuses on Chinese and Japanese itineraries. This limitation drives interdisciplinary and interregional collaboration with these two areas, presenting both challenges and opportunities. On the one hand, Korean Studies occupies a secondary role, not only lacking specialized courses and experts in the field, but also research projects exclusively focused on Korea. On the other hand, this interdisciplinary and interregional framework fosters innovative research synergies and comparative approaches within the broader East Asian context. The Center for East Asian Studies at the Autonomous University of Madrid is currently engaged in two research projects: one funded by the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, titled “Dealing with a Resurgent China”, and the other is a national R+D+I Program supported by the Spanish government, titled “Memory and Forgetting across the Borders in East Asia”. Both projects transcend national boundaries and incorporate Korea alongside China and Japan, highlighting a collaborative, cross-cultural approach to research. This presentation will explore how Korean Studies research is conducted within the broader East Asian Studies framework and how interdisciplinary and interregional collaboration contributes to the development of the field.

---

## ***Korean Studies as a Global Discipline: Opportunities and Challenges of Transnational Approach***

Giuseppina De Nicola  
University of Turin

In recent decades, Korean Studies has expanded its scope, emerging as an increasingly global discipline. This evolution offers unique opportunities to analyze South Korea as a crossroads of cultures, economies, and diverse perspectives. However, the internationalization process also presents significant challenges, such as the risk of cultural essentialism or superficial analysis. This presentation explores how Korean Studies can maintain a critical perspective by integrating interdisciplinary and transnational approaches. It will examine South Korea's role in the global landscape, addressing topics such as cultural soft power, the Korean diaspora, and cultural hybridization. At the same time, it will highlight the necessity of avoiding homogenizing narratives by focusing on Korea's specific historical, social, and political dynamics. The analysis also aims to redefine Korean Studies as a means to understand Korea and as a lens for addressing broader global issues, fostering critical and inclusive dialogue across disciplines and cultures.

---

## ***Korean Understanding of the Law of War in the Early 20th Century: Adoption of the Hague Convention (1899)***

Jong-Chol An  
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

This paper illuminates the importance of the First Hague Convention (1899) and its relevance to the Korean alternative to Korean-Japanese tension, which became more fierce, at least from 1898. The Empire of Korea had tried to drive a single goal fiercely amid Russo-Japanese competition regarding Korea and Manchuria: Korean independence and the step-up of Korean material power. Thus, neutrality in peacetime and wartime was seemingly the most important means to achieve this goal. Notably, the Empire of Korea ratified the convention because it aimed to bring the Korean-Japanese conflict to the international community if it occurred. In addition, the Empire of Korea endeavored to join the global community by ratifying other international conventions at the time. However, it was not well understood on Korean understanding of the law of war. Be it a positive or negative interpretation of this topic, it shows the importance of interdisciplinary approaches: legal and historical ones.



---

## ***An Example of the Transnational Approach: A Comparative Study of the Representation of the Tiger in East Asian Art***

Okyang Chae-Duporge  
Bordeaux Montaigne University

The AFPEC (French Association for Korean Studies) is a French scientific association that aims to foster academic Korean studies in France and promote scientific research on Korea in French, in the same way as AFEC (French Association for Chinese Studies) for Chinese studies and EFEJ (French Society for Japanese Studies) for Japanese studies. In 2023, the first colloquium bringing together these three academic associations was held in Paris, entitled “China, Korea, Japan: Comparison(s).” This presentation seeks to share this first transnational approach among these French associations. The author participated in this colloquium with a study on the tiger, one of the richest themes in the collective imagination of East Asia. In China and Korea, the presence of this feline dates back to the Paleolithic era, although the tiger has never been native to Japan. Nonetheless, these three countries have shared an artistic tradition of depicting this animal. Originating from a common Chinese cultural foundation, Korea and Japan each developed distinct characteristics. This subject is a rich theme to expand not only in space (the tiger also plays an important symbolic role in India and Southeast Asia) but also in time (the representation of the tiger continues to this day).

---

## ***Marginality and Exclusion: Research on Nobi and Gisaengs at UMA***

Aurelia Martín  
University of Malaga

We are currently witnessing a growing impact of the East Asian world in the international context, especially regarding the Republic of Korea, in all fields. TV shows and series like “The Squid Game” or “Parasites” denounce class and gender inequalities which are related to the history of debt slavery and the subjugation of women in Korea. Precisely, international research efforts have targeted the African, Mediterranean, Atlantic slave trade or European Slavery and their consequences, neglecting Asian slavery and the role of women. Furthermore, Korean slavery presents a particular form of debt slavery and female slavery that does not exist in the Western context. Thus, the study of the Nobis and Gisaengs will make it possible to question some classical assumptions. In fact, Gisaengs of Korea are at the core of our research interests since they were women of slave origin, trained for the entertainment of noble men. They have certain similarities with Japanese geishas but maintain Korean specificities. Therefore, we have developed a research project at the University of Malaga focusing on slavery in the history of Korea, working on various sources related to the past and present of Nobis and Gisaengs, financed by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities of Spain and the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS).



## **Session 3**

# **Global Collaboration for the Advancement of Korean Studies in Southern Europe**

Moderator

Antonio Doménech  
University of Malaga

---

## ***Enhancing Korean Studies through Joint Research and Development between Universities in Southern Europe***

Imsuk Jung  
University for Foreigners of Siena, Italy

The increasing global interest in Korean culture and language has created significant opportunities for academic collaboration, particularly in Southern Europe. This paper examines initiatives aimed at advancing Korean Studies in the region through international partnerships, emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen joint research efforts among Southern European universities. The University for Foreigners of Siena, Italy, is currently implementing the project Establishment of Korean Studies Research Center at the University for Foreigners of Siena: Enhancing Korean Studies through Joint Research and Development between Humanities and Technology, funded by the Academy of Korean Studies. This initiative supports interdisciplinary research and recently hosted the 10th European Association of Korean Language Education Workshop, attended by 140 scholars of Korean Studies from across the globe. Such efforts contribute to building robust academic networks and positioning Southern Europe as a critical hub for Korean Studies. A noteworthy example of regional collaboration is the Postgraduate Students Colloquium, organized in partnership with Málaga University and Goethe University. The inaugural workshop took place at Málaga University in 2024, with the second edition scheduled at the University for Foreigners of Siena on February 28, 2025, and the third planned at Goethe University in 2026. Strengthening joint research among Southern European universities is essential for addressing shared challenges, such as limited institutional resources and the need for cohesive curricula. Enhanced cooperation would foster a unified approach to Korean Studies, leveraging regional expertise to build sustainable academic frameworks and promote deeper cultural and linguistic understanding.

---

***Korean Studies at the Ateneo de Manila University:  
A Case Study on International Collaboration and Academic  
Sustainability***

Aurea C. Javier  
Ateneo de Manila University

This paper explores the establishment of the Korean Studies Program (KSP) at the Ateneo de Manila University, following the framework we developed as we sought support from our first major funder. It highlights the foundational support provided by the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) and the Korea Foundation (KF) in laying the groundwork for our program. These organizations were instrumental in developing academic courses, training faculty, and pursuing Korea-related research initiatives. The paper also examines the roles of the King Sejong Institute Foundation (KSIF) and the National Institute for International Education (NIIED) as key partners in advancing Korean language and cultural promotion within the context of higher education. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of our collaborations with Korean universities, industry partners, and cultural organizations, which have contributed to enhancing academic offerings and fostering cross-cultural engagement. Through this case study, the paper provides insights into building robust and sustainable academic programs through strategic international and local partnerships, addressing both institutional needs and global education trends.

---

## ***Fostering a Sense of Community in Southern Europe Korean Studies through Academic Exchanges and New Technologies***

Álvaro Trigo  
University of Salamanca

For obvious reasons Korean Studies experts prioritize enhancing cooperation with Korean institutions because the study areas are intrinsically related to the Korean peninsula. However, cooperation at a regional level can mutually benefit both our staff and students and the development of Korean studies if systematically conducted. In that sense, even though we are enjoying a certain degree of short-term staff mobility thanks to the Erasmus+ program, in Spain we are missing more Erasmus agreements that allow students to pursue part of their studies at another European Institution. Even though their goal may be to study in Korea I do believe that Erasmus exchanges can mutually benefit our institutions since the expertise areas within Korean studies can vary from one institution to another. However, one of the obstacles that hinder the students exchange are the differences between Korean Studies programs from all around Europe. This happens in part because students expect to be able to recognize their ECTS after they spend a semester or an academic year abroad. Another missing element is arguably the sense of community. In relation to new technologies, I would like to propose the creation of a shared virtual space for Korean Studies using one of the available metaverse technologies among interested institutions. Such space could become a place to share information, resources and even conduct language exchanges among students going beyond the role of other more traditional information channels such as SNS.

---

## ***Global Opportunities in Teaching: Experiences from Tübingen***

You Jae Lee & Thomas Eichert  
University of Tübingen

The Korean Studies program at the University of Tübingen is characterized by a strong international orientation toward Korea. In the Bachelor's program, a mandatory exchange year in Korea is integrated, managed through the Tübingen Center for Korean Studies at Korea University (TUCKU). At the Master's level, a dual degree program has been established between the University of Tübingen and Seoul National University. Doctoral students regularly participate in workshops with peers from Korea University, Yonsei University, Seoul National University, and Sungkyunkwan University as part of the BK21+ initiative. In recent years, international cooperation has expanded to include European and American universities. The Civis KF e-School consortium, launched in 2021, involves today seven European universities and offers teaching units for both undergraduate and graduate students. Furthermore, in 2024, a PhD network was established with UCLA, further strengthening global academic collaboration.





# **BIONOTES**



---

**Álvaro Trigo Maldonado** is an Assistant Professor of Korean Studies in the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Salamanca and an Invited Professor at the Korean Studies M.A. program of the University Del Salvador (Argentina). He holds an MA in Korean History and Culture from The Academy of Korean Studies and earned his Ph.D. in Modern Korean Literature from the University of Salamanca. In 2017 he won the LTI Korea's prize for aspiring translators following two years of study in LTI's regular course and in 2024 he won the Daesan literary prize for his Spanish translation of Bora Chung's *Cursed Bunny*. He has translated novels by writers such as Kim Kyeong-uk, Chang Kang-myung, Kim Hun, O Jeonghui, and Kim Aeran, among others. His main areas of research are modern Korean literature and history.

**Andrea De Benedittis** completed the doctoral coursework in history at Korea University and defended his dissertation at Sapienza University of Rome, focusing on Koguryo wall paintings. His primary research interests include the ancient history of Korea (Nangnang, Koguryo wall paintings, tombs along the Yongsangang River, Parhaego, and Silla Hwarang). He is currently an associate professor at the University of Naples "L'Orientale". Additionally, he has worked actively as a translator of Korean literature into Italian, with over 25 years of experience.

**Antonio Doménech** is an anthropologist and historian of East Asian religions, Korea. He holds a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology and is a Full Professor in the Area of East Asian Studies-Korean Studies at the University of Malaga, where he also serves as Coordinator of the Degree in Asian Studies-Korean Studies. He has translated works on Korean thought, culture, and art and is the Director of the AKS project "Path to Equality: Korean Studies Network on Inclusiveness." His research focuses on East Asian philosophy and religions, with a particular emphasis on Korea, exploring the religious experiences and practices of Korean women, shamanism, Buddhism, Confucianism, gender in Korea, and international cooperation in East Asia. He has been recognized with the "Order of Cultural Merit 'Hwagwan' 화관문화훈장" by the President of the Republic of Korea and received the 5th LTI Korea Outstanding Service Award from the Literature Translation Institute of Korea.

---

**Aurea C. Javier** is the Director of the Korean Studies Program at the Ateneo de Manila University. Under her leadership, Ateneo became the first NIIED-accredited Test of Proficiency in Korean Internet-based Test (TOPIK IBT) center in the Philippines and was designated as an independent King Sejong Institute. Ms. Javier holds a Master of Public Policy, with a major in International Relations and Political Economy, from the Korea Development Institute (KDI) School of Public Policy and Management. She was the first Filipino admitted to the Interdisciplinary Program in Korean Studies at Seoul National University. Her work focuses on contextualizing Korean language education in the Philippines and helping bridge the cultural divide through Korean Studies.

**Aurelia Martín** is a Ph.D. in Histoire et Civilizations, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris. She is a Professor at the East Asian Studies bachelor's degree program at the University of Málaga, Spain. Her specialization includes Korean Studies, Historical Anthropology, and Gender Studies. Since 2017, she has been a member of the UNESCO International Scientific Committee (Human and Social Sciences-Slave Route). She has directed research projects funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, the Agency for International Cooperation (Spain), the Junta de Andalucía (Regional Government), and others. She is also the Director of the East Asian Women Studies Network of the University of Málaga and a research collaborator in projects funded by the Academy of Korean Studies and the European Union. In recent years, her research and publications have focused on Korean Studies and the East Asian field.

**Cristina Bahón Arnaiz** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of East Asian Studies and a Research Member at CEOA (Center of East Asian Studies) at the Autonomous University of Madrid. She is currently a team member of one Horizon EU research programme, and two national R&D projects, funded by the Spanish government. Her research interests are modern Korean literature and literary translation, Korean culture and society, as well as Korean as a foreign language (KFL). She has received three fellowships at the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI Korea). She has a Ph.D. in Korean Studies, focused on Korean linguistics and literature.

---

**Ester Torres-Simón** holds a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Study with a thesis on Post-bellum Translation of Korean Literature in the US. Currently she is associate professor of Translation and Technologies at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain). She coordinates de BA in East Asian Studies, the Minor in Korean Studies and the faculty mobility program with Korea. Her current research focuses on the dissemination of translated Korean literature from the perspective of the sociology of translation.

**Giuseppina De Nicola** is an Associate Professor of Korean Language and Literature at the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Modern Cultures. She holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Seoul National University and has been a Visiting Professor at various Korean universities. De Nicola is co-director of a PRIN project funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, titled “Making Korea a Religiously Plural Society? Historical, Legal, and Social Approaches,” in collaboration with Ca’ Foscari University. Her recent publications include studies on Korean culture, such as Ethics and Cultural Background as Key Factors for an Attractive Metaverse (case study: South Korea) (2024); Creativity in Pivot Audiovisual Translation. “Parasite” subtitled and dubbed in Italian (2023); Squid Game: Analysis of the Dramaturgical Structure of the Series (Season 1) (2022).

**Hatice Çelik** is the Head of the Department of Asian Studies and the Vice-Director of the Institute for Area Studies at the Social Sciences University of Ankara (SSUA), Türkiye. She graduated from the Department of International Relations at Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara. She got her master’s degree in Asian Studies at METU. She was a visiting researcher at the Academy of Korean Studies, South Korea for a six-month period in 2013 based on a scholarship. She earned her Ph.D. in the Area Studies Ph.D. program with her thesis on South Korea-ASEAN relations from middle power theory perspective at METU. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on the foreign policy and bilateral relations of Asian countries, security, women, environment and many other themes. Her research interests include the Asian international system, comparative and critical area studies, middle powers, politics of the Korean peninsula, ASEAN region.

---

**Imsook Jung** is Associate Professor of Korean Language and Literature and Director of the CeSK Center (Yun Dongju Center for Korean Studies) at the University for Foreigners of Siena, Italy. She holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics (2011) and multiple degrees in linguistics and Italian studies. A former visiting professor at Ca' Foscari University and Sapienza University, she leads key projects like 'Online Sejong Hakdang' and the 'Seed Program for Korean Studies (2023–2026)'. Vice President of EAKLE since 2024, her research focuses on Contrastive Linguistics, Korean Linguistics, Translation Studies, and Sociolinguistics.

**Jong-Cheol Kim** is a research fellow at the Seoul National University Asia Center in South Korea. Since 2011, he has been leading the KF Global eSchool SNU Program, overseeing the coordination of over 180 accredited courses to 25 universities in 15 countries across Asia and Europe. He has also served as the Secretary of the ICAS International Book Prize Korean Language Edition since 2016. He received his PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Jong-Chol An** is an associate professor in the Department of Asian and North African Studies at Ca' Foscari University of Venezia. He specializes in Modern Korean History and Law. Publication: "Making Mission Compatible with Democracy: James Earnest Fisher and His Activities as a Missionary and a US Government Official in Korea, 1945-1948," *Korea Journal* 60/4 (Winter 2020): 115-142; "Historical Development of Judicial Independence in South Korea: Focus on Colonial and Post-Colonial Period," in Sojin Lim and Niki J.P. Alford eds., *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary South Korea* (Routledge, 2021), pp. 26-41; Jong-Chol AN and Ariane Perrin eds., *Cultural Exchanges between Korea and the West: Artifacts and Intangible Heritage* (Venice, Italy: Edizioni Ca' Foscari 2023).

**Luis Botella** graduated in history from the University of Malaga in 2007 and completed a master's degree in Korean Studies at Yonsei University in 2010. Subsequently, he continued his doctoral studies at the University Malaga with a thesis entitled "The Field of Korean Archaeology in South Korea (1945-1979): Power Relations in the Institutionalization and Professionalization of Archaeology", which he defended in 2017. Since then, he has developed a line of research focused on the social structure of archaeology and knowledge production, with several publications in this area.

---

**María del Mar Blanco** graduated in East Asian Studies from the University of Málaga in 2021. In 2019 she obtained the scholarship of the International Summer School of the University of Seoul. She completed her master's studies at the University of Granada in the Master of East Asian Studies. She is currently working as a teaching and research staff in the East Asian Studies Area while pursuing her Advanced Studies in Humanities at UMA.

**Okyang Chae-Duporge** is an associate professor at Bordeaux Montaigne University in France. She earned a PhD in Art History at Paris IV-Sorbonne University and published *Lee Ufan, Untouched Space* (2017) at Éditions Cercle d'Art in Paris and *Trésors de Corée - Bulguksa et Seokguram* (2016) with Kang Woobang at the same publisher. She won the France-Korea Cultural Prize in 2017. Currently, she is working on the Korean collection at the Guimet Museum in Paris focusing on the Lee Ufan collection of paintings from the late Joseon period. In 2022-23, she was a visiting scholar at the Asia Center of Seoul National University and a Kyujanggak fellow in 2024.

**Olivier Bailblé** holds a PhD degree in philology from the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris (EHESS) and graduated also from Peking University. He lived for sixteen years in East Asia, including eleven years in South Korea, where he taught Chinese at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. He is currently the director of Korean studies at Aix-Marseille University and a member of the IrAsia research laboratory, serving as an Associate Professor in Korean studies. He also teaches Chinese at the Institute of Political Studies. His research focuses on Korean Buddhism and specifically on the sinographic systems used during the Three Kingdoms and Koryŏ periods.



---

**Patricia Chica** holds a Ph.D. from the University of Malaga, a degree in Business Administration and Management and a master's degree in international trade. She is currently a teaching researcher in the East Asian Studies Area at the UMA. In 2021 she finished her doctoral thesis "South Korea's Official Development Assistance with a focus on Gender in Development and System Dynamics". Her research focuses on gender equality in Korea, Korea-EU relations and International Cooperation for Development. She has been responsible for the UMA Equality Unit initiative "Feminist UMA: The Korean Wave", "Life Stories of Korean Gisaeng Slave Women" and teaches seminars on Women in Korea and Mongolia.

**Thomas Eichert** is a research associate and PhD candidate at the Department of Korean Studies at University of Tübingen. He submitted a thesis on West German business in South Korea during the Cold War era. He holds Master's Degrees from the University of Tübingen and Seoul National University. His research interests include the economic and business history of South Korea, German-Korean relations and history of science and technology.

**You Jae Lee** studied History, Korean Studies, Philosophy, and Political Science in Berlin (FU Berlin, HU Berlin), and Seoul (SNU). He received his Dr. phil. in the History Department at the University of Erfurt with a dissertation on Christian missionary work in the colonial era. He was appointed 2010 as junior professor for Korean Studies and 2018 for the W3-professorial chair at Eberhard Karls University Tübingen. His research focus lies in Postcolonial Studies, Cold War, diaspora, and everyday history. Since September 2021, he has been the head of the AKS Strategic Research Institute and director of the King Sejong Institute Tübingen since October 2012.

