

SNUAC Asia Square Brown Bag Seminar Series, Fall 2025

China's attitude toward the Security Issues on the Korean Peninsula: Semantic Analysis on the Statement of the Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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This research investigates how China's attitude toward security issues on the Korean Peninsula has evolved over time, particularly in response to North Korea's military provocations. Although Beijing repeatedly stresses that "all parties should resolve disputes through peaceful means and dialogue," its actual reactions to Pyongyang's behavior vary across different periods. These changes suggest that China's "red line" toward North Korea is flexible and influenced by shifting international conditions and domestic priorities.

Existing studies, which mainly rely on case studies or policy descriptions, have provided useful insights but often fail to capture how and when China adjusts its tone or explicitly expresses dissatisfaction toward North Korea. As a result, we still lack a systematic understanding of how China's stance on Korean security evolves and what external or internal factors drive such changes.

To address this gap, my research adopts semantic analysis to examine China's official discourse. The data will be drawn from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokespersons' statements concerning the Korean Peninsula and Sino-U.S. relations. By analyzing language patterns, tone, and framing across time, this project seeks to identify the key moments and contexts in which China's attitude shifts.

This study aims to construct a database of China's discourse on Korean security and to provide a clearer, evidence-based understanding of Beijing's diplomatic behavior. The findings will not only deepen our knowledge of China's policy toward North Korea but also contribute to broader discussions on China's regional diplomacy and its approach to maintaining stability in Northeast Asia.

Man Fung YEUNG completed his Ph.D. at the Graduate Institute of International Affairs and Strategic Studies, Tamkang University (Taiwan) in July 2025. His research focuses on alliance politics, economic sanctions, Korean Peninsula security, and public opinion toward foreign affairs. His doctoral dissertation examines the evolution of China-North Korea relations from 1992 to 2022, analyzing how Beijing's strategic responses to Pyongyang's provocations have shaped the regional security landscape.

Date & Time: November 18th, 2025. 12:00-13:00

Place: SNUAC Room 304 (3rd Floor)