

Korean Studies Workshop in Southern Europe 3

Mapping Korean Studies in Southern Europe: A Way to Build a Sustainable Network

January 14 2026 | 9 am - 6 pm

Egger B101

Aix-Marseille University
Aix-en-Provence, France



Korean Studies Workshop in Southern Europe 3

**Mapping Korean Studies in Southern Europe:
A Way to Build a Sustainable Network**

January 14 2026 | 9:00am-5:30pm

Egger B101 2nd Floor
Aix-Marseille University (Aix-en-Provence Campus)
France

Organizing Committee

Jong-Cheol Kim (SNUAC)
Olivier Bailblé (Aix-Marseille U)
Giuseppina De Nicola (U of Turin)
Luis Botella (U of Malaga)
Hatice Çelik (Social Sciences U of Ankara)

Hosted by:

Seoul National University Asia Center &
Dept. of Asian Studies (Korean Section), Aix-Marseille University

Sponsored by:

Korea Foundation

PROGRAM

Korean Studies Workshop in Southern Europe 3

Mapping Korean Studies in Southern Europe: A Way to Build a Sustainable Network

09:00-09:20	Registration
09:20-09:30	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening: Jong-Cheol Kim (Seoul National University)• Group Photo
09:30-11:00	[Session 1] New Trends and Emerging Research Themes in Korean Studies across Southern Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderator: Jong-Cheol Kim (Seoul National University)• Speaker 1: Ester Torres-Simón (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Taking the Temperature of Korean Studies in Spain: Scholars, Institutions and Research Areas• Speaker 2: Stéphane Couralet (Bordeaux Montaigne University), Emerging Trends in Korean Linguistics in Southern Europe: Descriptive, Contrastive, and Typological Perspectives• Speaker 3: Hatice Çelik (Social Sciences University of Ankara), The Growing Interest in Korean Studies: Reflections from Türkiye• Speaker 4: Andrea De Benedittis (University of Naples “L’Orientale”), Korean Studies in Italy: Trends, Strengths, and Future Directions in a Changing Academic Landscape• Speaker 5: Raina Beneva (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”), Emerging Trends in Korean Studies in Bulgaria: Perspectives from Sofia University
11:00-11:20	Coffee Break

11:20-13:00	<p>[Session 2] Strengthening Korean Studies through Funding and Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Hatice Çelik (Social Sciences University of Ankara) • Speaker 1: Marco Milani (University of Bologna), Building Networks and Accessing Funding: Experiences and Opportunities for Korean Studies across Southern Europe • Speaker 2: Cristina Bahón Arnaiz (Autonomous University of Madrid), Horizon Europe and Korean Studies: Reflections from European Collaborative Research • Speaker 3: Min Sook WANG-LE (Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University), Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University and Its Partnerships with South Korea • Speaker 4: Antonio J. Doménech (University of Malaga), Korean Studies at the University of Malaga: A Strategy for Expansion, Networking and Development • Speaker 5: Miongsei Kang (Seoul National University), Strengthening Korean Studies through National Funding and Global Collaboration: A Case Study of the “Evaluation of Korean Democracy” Project • Speaker 6: YoonSeong Jo (Korea Foundation), An Overview of the Korea Foundation’s Support Programs
13:00-14:30	<p>Lunch</p>
14:30-15:30	<p>[Session 3] Mapping Korean Studies in Southern Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Olivier Bailblé & Laurie Galli-Ragueneau (Aix-Marseille University) • Speaker 1: Olivier Bailblé (Aix-Marseille University), Representation of Korean Studies in Southern Europe through Maps
15:30-15:50	<p>Coffee Break</p>
15:50-17:20	<p>[Session 4] Moving Forward: Building a Sustainable Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Antonio J. Doménech (University of Malaga) • Speaker 1: Álvaro Trigo (University of Salamanca), Building a Sustainable Long-term Network through a Virtual Campus
17:30	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olivier Bailblé (Aix-Marseille University)

ABSTRACTS

Session 1

New Trends and Emerging Research Themes in Korean Studies across Southern Europe

Moderator

Jong-Cheol Kim
Seoul National University

Taking the Temperature of Korean Studies in Spain: Scholars, Institutions and Research Areas

Ester Torres-Simón
Autonomous University of Barcelona

Spanish universities have slowly incorporated Korean language and Korean Studies in the last two decades. Currently, Universidad de Málaga, Universidad de Salamanca, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and Universidad Complutense de Madrid offer subjects on Korean language or culture. Therefore, we can just start to see the consolidation of researchers within Korean Studies or Asian Studies research groups in these institutions, but also there are still many scholars that develop research on Korea within their own fields in these and other research centres. This talk would like to introduce key research institution working on Korea (UAB, UAM, UCM, UMA, USAL), by naming their scholars and areas of research, to then introduce some independent scholars in other institutions that could be putting stepstones for further expansion. The talk aims to present not just the current state of Korean Studies research in Spain, but also the potential areas of expansion in the near future.

Emerging Trends in Korean Linguistics in Southern Europe: Descriptive, Contrastive, and Typological Perspectives

Stéphane Couralet
Bordeaux Montaigne University

After outlining the main research themes currently shaping Korean Studies in France, this presentation focuses on the field of language sciences applied to Korean as a particularly promising area for future development in Europe. It highlights approaches that combine descriptive linguistics with foreign language didactics, a domain that has attracted renewed scholarly interest in recent years. Within this framework, contrastive approaches involving Korean and other languages play a central role, as they make it possible to identify the specific properties of linguistic systems by raising targeted and relevant linguistic issues that are of interest not only to general linguistics but also to linguistic typology. Korean thus emerges as a productive testing ground for broader theoretical and methodological questions, while also fostering inter-institutional collaboration. The presentation aims to provide an overview of the current state of the field and hopes to contribute to outlining several directions for the future development of language sciences applied to Korean, while encouraging the structuring of collaborative research networks across Europe.

The Growing Interest in Korean Studies: Reflections from Türkiye

Hatice Çelik
Social Sciences University of Ankara

The Korean-related research themes are obviously on the rise within the Turkish academic community. The Korean wave, as reaching distant geographies, has also found itself a fertile ground within Türkiye. Based on this perspective, this paper tries to reflect on the production of Korean Studies knowledge from Türkiye by assessing critically with ongoing efforts to map Korean Studies in Southern Europe. Rather than offering a descriptive account of institutional development, my focus will be on the questions of positionality, visibility, and knowledge production. From a critical area studies perspective, the paper positions Türkiye as an in-between context, neither fully embedded within dominant Euro-American and Korea-centered academic hubs, nor entirely outside them, yet another form of being at the intersections of these hubs. This intersectionality comes with both constraints and opportunities. While institutionalization is still getting developed, this can also encourage richer methodological reflexivity and sensitivity to cross-regional comparison. By navigating the Turkish case within broader discussions on mapping, networking, and sustainability in Korean Studies, I aim to question the implicit center-periphery assumptions that are shaping the field. The paper argues that incorporating perspectives from in-between contexts is not only a matter of inclusivity but also vital for developing more critical, plural, and reflexive approaches to understand the new trends and emerging research themes in Korean Studies across Southern Europe.

Korean Studies in Italy: Trends, Strengths, and Future Directions in a Changing Academic Landscape

Andrea De Benedittis
University of Naples "L'Orientale"

This presentation focuses on the development of Korean Studies in Italy within the broader context of Southern Europe. It outlines the main research trends currently shaping the field, highlighting key institutions, leading scholars, and dominant areas of inquiry, from history and literature to linguistics and contemporary cultural studies. Particular attention is given to the strengths of the Italian case, such as the consolidation of long-term academic expertise and international collaborations, as well as to structural weaknesses, including limited institutional resources and uneven geographical distribution. The paper also reflects on future potential, discussing opportunities for growth through regional cooperation, interdisciplinary approaches, and new generations of scholars. By situating the Italian experience within a comparative Southern European framework, the presentation aims to contribute to a shared reflection on the present and future of Korean Studies in the region.

Emerging Trends in Korean Studies in Bulgaria: Perspectives from Sofia University

Raina Beneva,
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

This presentation examines recent developments and emerging research trends in Korean studies in Bulgaria, with a focus on Sofia University where the Korean studies program was first established in 1995 to become a central hub in the field. Although Bulgaria has maintained diplomatic relations with the DPRK since 1948, Korean studies emerged only after the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea, in contrast to other socialist bloc countries. One of the aims of the presentation is to show how scholarly interests have shifted over the past decades, encompassing philology approach, cultural studies, and interdisciplinary research. Over time and somewhat unexpectedly, research perspectives are now expanding beyond South Korea to include North Korea, while comparative approaches are moving beyond the traditional China–Korea–Japan framework to explore also connections with Central Asia, and Vietnam. The integration of Hanja in Korean language acquisition is highlighted, as well as the introduction of new courses in the curriculum spanning the humanities, political and social sciences. By examining institutional developments, academic initiatives, and research interests of Bulgarian scholars, the presentation offers insights into the evolving landscape of Korean studies in Bulgaria. Finally, it considers its limitations, as well as future directions and avenues for international collaboration, in an effort to demonstrate how Sofia University is trying to shape and diversify Korean studies in Bulgaria.

Session 2

Strengthening Korean Studies through Funding and Collaboration

Moderator

Hatice elik

Social Sciences University of Ankara

Building Networks and Accessing Funding: Experiences and Opportunities for Korean Studies across Southern Europe

Marco Milani
University of Bologna

This presentation offers a practical overview of funding opportunities and collaborative frameworks relevant to Korean Studies, drawing on the experience of working within the Italian higher education system, with specific reference to the University of Bologna, and in the Southern European context. The contribution focuses on transversal tools and mechanisms that can effectively support and strengthen Korean Studies. The presentation will briefly focus on European programs such as Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe, alongside selected national and international funding schemes, including Korea-specific programs such as those channeled through the Association for Korean Studies in Europe, highlighting how these instruments can be leveraged to develop research projects, academic mobility and institutional partnerships. Particular attention will be paid to project design and implementation, partnership building and interdisciplinary collaboration, as well as to the administrative and strategic challenges often involved in project development. The aim is to share practical insights on identifying opportunities, building sustainable partnerships, and enhancing the visibility and long-term sustainability of Korean Studies within broader academic ecosystems, encouraging new joint initiatives across Southern Europe.

Horizon Europe and Korean Studies: Reflections from European Collaborative Research

Cristina Bahón Arnaiz
Autonomous University of Madrid

In this workshop, I would like to share insights drawn from my participation in the Horizon Europe research project titled “Dealing with a Resurgent China” (DWARC), and reflect on how the experience of engaging in large-scale international collaborative initiatives can support the future development of research in Korean Studies. My contribution will focus on the practical dimensions of involvement in Horizon projects, including the dynamics of transnational collaboration, the challenges and benefits of interdisciplinary teamwork, the structural requirements of project design and coordination, as well as responsibilities related to open science practices and data management. Rather than presenting a specific proposal, this intervention aims to offer a reflective perspective on how experiences gained within related area studies can be meaningfully adapted to the context of Korean Studies. In doing so, it aims to contribute to a broader discussion on how joint projects and institutional partnerships can foster sustainable collaboration and enhance the growth and visibility of Korean Studies across Southern Europe.

Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University and Its Partnerships with South Korea

Min Sook WANG-LE
Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University

The Department of Korean Studies at Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University is one of fifteen departments constituting the Faculty of Languages. In 2014, the « English-Korean » major within the Applied Foreign Languages was established. Currently, over 500 students are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs studying Korean language. Our university engages in student exchanges with fourteen Korean universities and seeks to establish a strategic partnership with Jeonbuk National University through a dual degree program. With support from the Academy of Korean Studies, LTI, and the Daesan Foundation, we have been able to host visiting Korean authors, organize academic conferences, and translate and publish Korean literature in French. Our department will actively participate in establishing exchange networks for Korean Studies in Southern Europe and in joint research projects, aiming to further consolidate the position of Korean Studies within the University of Lyon 3, akin to the Chinese and Japanese Studies departments.

***Korean Studies at the University of Malaga:
A Strategy for Expansion, Networking and Development***

Antonio J. Doménech
University of Malaga

The presentation will focus on the timeline of the development of Korean Studies at the University of Malaga through collaboration with institutions in Spain, Europe, Korea, and Latin America. It will present our experience in formulating international and national projects to secure funding and in collaborating with institutions to strengthen the Korean Studies program. It will also stress the importance of clear objectives to consolidate ongoing research and to form a new generation of Korean Studies scholars. Another aspect to look into will be the interdisciplinary nature of the projects and the practical aspects of how to run them.

Strengthening Korean Studies through National Funding and Global Collaboration: A Case Study of the “Evaluation of Korean Democracy” Project

Miongsei Kang
Seoul National University

This presentation explores practical strategies for advancing Korean Studies by leveraging Korean national funding and fostering international research collaborations. Central to this discussion is the ongoing research project, “Evaluation of Korean Democracy,” supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF). The project aims to develop a sophisticated framework for assessing the quality and maturity of democracy in South Korea. However, its significance extends beyond domestic borders. By aligning local political contexts with global academic standards, the project serves as a model for how national grants can be utilized to initiate international dialogue. The session will highlight two key aspects of the project’s collaborative design:

1. Methodological Globalization: How the project integrates international comparative indices to ensure that Korean data is accessible and relevant to global scholars.
2. Network Building: The process of establishing a “Shared Expertise” model, where researchers from Korea and Europe, particularly those in Southern Europe with shared democratic transition experiences, exchange knowledge and co-author findings.

Ultimately, this case study demonstrates that Korean national funding acts as a vital catalyst for the sustainability of Korean Studies. By sharing the experiences, challenges, and successes of this project, this presentation offers actionable insights for participants looking to navigate funding landscapes and build robust institutional partnerships across borders.

An Overview of the Korea Foundation's Support Programs

YoonSeong Jo
Korea Foundation

This presentation provides an overview of the support programs offered by the Korea Foundation (KF). It introduces the KF's support in the field of Korean Studies for overseas universities including support for professorships and teaching staff, as well as scholarship and fellowship programs for graduate studies, postdoctoral research, and field research in Korea. The presentation aims to enhance participants' understanding of the KF's programs and overall direction, help identify areas for potential cooperation aligned to the needs of universities, and share the public diplomacy values pursued by the KF.

Session 3

Mapping Korean Studies in Southern Europe

Moderator

Olivier Bailblé & Laurie Galli-Ragueneau
Aix-Marseille University

Representation of Korean Studies in Southern Europe through Maps

Olivier Bailblé
Aix-Marseille University

This session offers an interactive exploration of Korean Studies in Southern Europe, focusing on visualizing key trends, research themes, and institutional connections within the region. Building upon initial insights from Session 1, I will provide an overview of the regional academic landscape, highlighting prominent scholars, institutions, and emerging developments. Participants will engage in a collaborative mapping exercise to organize scholars, institutions, and research initiatives around main trends and rising themes, fostering a comprehensive visualization of the field. The session aims to facilitate the identification of collaborative opportunities, strengthen cross-border and interdisciplinary links, and produce a regional map that reflects the dynamic landscape of Korean Studies across Southern Europe.

Session 4

Moving Forward: Building a Sustainable Network

Moderator

Antonio Doménech
University of Malaga

Building a Sustainable Long-term Network through a Virtual Campus

Álvaro Trigo
University of Salamanca

This proposal examines the development of a sustainable, long-term inter-university network for Korean Studies programs using a free, open access metaverse platform. The initiative aims to connect universities offering Korean Studies–related majors in Southern Europe by creating a shared virtual environment for academic exchange, collaborative teaching, joint research activities, and student interaction. By leveraging cost-free metaverse technologies, the network seeks to reduce institutional barriers, ensure equitable participation, and support continuity beyond short-term funding cycles of specific research projects. Such a platform would facilitate virtual lectures, seminars, language exchange, digital archives, and thematic research clusters, thereby strengthening transnational cooperation and curricular innovation in Korean Studies. I propose a browser-based platform such as Frame because of its accessibility, low technical barriers, and suitability for formal academic activities including virtual lectures, seminars, and digital exhibitions.

BIONOTES

Álvaro Trigo Maldonado is Associate Professor of Korean Studies in the Department of Modern Philology at the University of Salamanca (Spain) and Invited Professor of Korean Literature in the Korean Studies M.A. program at the Universidad del Salvador (Argentina). He holds an M.A. in Korean History and Culture from the Academy of Korean Studies and a PhD in Modern Korean Literature from the University of Salamanca. He won LTI Korea's Prize for Aspiring Translators in 2017 following two years of study in LTI's regular course and received the Daesan Literary Prize in 2024 for his Spanish translation of *Cursed Bunny* by Bora Chung. His translations also include works by Kim Ae-ran, Kim Hoon, O Jeong-hui, and Lee Ki-ho. His research focuses on modern Korean literature and history and their intersections with contemporary culture.

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-Korean Studies and is a Full Professor in the Area of East Asian Studies-Korean Studies at the University of Malaga, where he also serves as the Coordinator of the Area in Asian Studies-Korea Studies. He has translated works on Korean thought, culture, and art, and is the principal investigator of the AKS project: "Path to Equality: Korean Studies Network on Inclusiveness." As a researcher for overseas historical materials of the National Institute of Korean History, his research focuses on the 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.

Cristina Bahón Arnaiz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of East Asian Studies and a research member of the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAO) at the Autonomous University of Madrid. Her doctoral research focuses on iconicity and ideophones in the Korean language, and she earned her bachelor's degree from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Cristina has received with three fellowships from the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI Korea), including the two-year Regular Course, the Media Translation Course, and the Translation Atelier. Her teaching and research interests include Korean Linguistics, Modern Korean Literature, Korean-Spanish Translation, and Korean Society. She has participated as a researcher in one Horizon Europe project and two national R&D projects funded by the Spanish government.

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 the 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.

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 received her B.A. in International Relations from Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, where she also completed her M.A. in Asian Studies. In 2013, she was a visiting researcher (based on a scholarship) at the Academy of Korean Studies in South Korea for six months. She earned her Ph.D. in the Area Studies program at METU in 2017, with her dissertation focusing on South Korea-ASEAN relations from a middle power perspective. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on the foreign policy and bilateral relations of Asian countries, as well as security, women, the environment, and many other themes. Her research interests include the foreign policy of the Korean Peninsula, middle power diplomacy, ASEAN, and regionalization in Asia. Since June 2025, she has served as the Director of the ASEAN Application and Research Center at the Social Sciences University of Ankara.

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 200 accredited courses to 26 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.

Laurie Galli-Ragueneau is a PhD student enrolled in the Department of Asian Studies at Aix-Marseille University. In 2016, she obtained her bachelor's degree in biology, but as she developed an interest in Korean culture through its music and dramas, she began a curriculum in Korean studies at the University of Aix-Marseille the same year. In 2017 and 2019 respectively, she had the opportunity to do an academic exchange at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. She obtained her Master's degree in Asian Cultures and Societies in 2021, with a specialization in Korean contemporary literature. Her doctoral thesis now focuses on the representation of psychosis in Kim Sagwa's fiction. She teaches Korean language and civilization to undergrad students. She is also a teaching assistant for the CIVIS-KF Consortium of Korean Studies. Aside from her academic work, she is the chief editor of Keulmadang, an online and offline literary magazine about Korean literature and society.

Marco Milani is Assistant Professor at the Department of Arts, University of Bologna. Previously, he has been Lecturer at the School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Korean Studies Institute and Lecturer at the School of International Relations, University of Southern California. He also held teaching positions at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and had been visiting research fellow at the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies (South Korea) and at the Leiden Institute for Area Studies (Netherlands). He has published numerous articles and book chapters on North and South Korea's foreign policy, contemporary Korean history and inter-Korean relations. He is co-editor of the book on South Korea's foreign policy, titled *The Korean Paradox: Domestic Political Divide and Foreign Policy in South Korea* (Routledge, 2019). His research interests include: Korean History and Society, History and International Relations of East Asia, North and South Korean foreign and security policy, Inter-Korean relations, Contemporary Korean cultural production, Media and Communication in Korea and East Asia.

Min Sook WANG-LE is an associate professor at Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University, where she heads the Department of Korean Studies. Her research focuses on Korean literature, particularly the representation of religions and women's writing. She is the author of *Récit et saison chez Colette* (2001) and numerous articles on contemporary Korean writers. She co-translated a collection of short stories by Kim Dong-ri (2024). A book devoted to the same writer entitled *Kim Dong-ri (1913–1995) et la littérature coréenne contemporaine: une lecture analytique de ses nouvelles* will be published in 2026 by Hermann.

Miongsei Kang is a Visiting Faculty at the Asia Center, Seoul National University, participating in a comparative project with a focus on democratic backsliding and polarization. Since earning a Ph.D. in Political Science from UCLA in 1995, his research has examined how polarization and fandom undermine democratic institutions across advanced democracies. His influential book, *Unequal Democracy and Populism* (2019), provides critical insights into the relationship between political inequality and democratic erosion. His current work investigates the causal mechanisms connecting extreme polarization to institutional decay, contributing valuable frameworks for understanding contemporary democratic challenges in polarized societies.

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.

Raina Beneva is a Koreanist and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Korean Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. She also serves as a referent for the Korean section and for the Vietnamese section included in the curriculum of African and Indo-pacific Studies Department. She obtained her Master’s degree in Korean Society and her PhD in Anthropology, Theory and History of Culture at Sofia University in 2008. Her doctoral dissertation focused on Korean ritual folklore, based on materials from Cheju Island. In 2005, she was a visiting researcher at the Academy of Korean Studies under a Sasakawa Scholarship grant. She has undertaken advanced specialization in the Korean language at Ajou University and in the teaching of Korean as a foreign language at Seoul National University and Konkuk University. In 2011, she completed further academic training in Korean linguistics, the history of Koguryo, Korean folklore and ethnography at Kim Il Sung University in Pyongyang. In addition to her work in Korean Studies, she teaches Vietnamese language and courses on the history, culture, and traditional society of Vietnam, drawing on her training and research conducted at Hanoi University (2000) and the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City (2019). Her current research interests include the culture, religions, and society of North Korea, as well as Bulgaria – DPRK relations and exchange, Bulgarian film archives related to the DPRK, and Korea–Vietnam parallels in history and culture.

Stéphane Couralet completed his academic training in Korean at INALCO and earned a PhD in Korean linguistics at EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales). He is Associate Professor in Korean Studies at Université Bordeaux Montaigne. His research focuses on Korean linguistics, with particular attention to time and aspect, modality, evidentiality, deixis, and enunciation, from a contrastive Korean-French perspective. He served for ten years as Director of Korean Studies, during which he created the Department of Korean Studies, established national degree programs in Korean, and contributed to the creation of D2iA (Dynamiques, Interactions, Interculturalité Asiatiques, UMRU 24140), the first university research center dedicated to Asian Studies in southwestern France.

YoonSeong Jo is a Program Officer at the Korea Foundation (KF). She works in the Korean Studies Department, where she is a member of the KF Global e-School team and currently oversees KF support programs in Southwest Asia.

