



## CALL FOR PAPER

# “DIVINE VIOLENCE” AND NOBLE RAGE: GENDER AND JUSTICE IN KOREAN CRIME FICTION

**The 3rd International Conference of Popular Narratives and Media Studies**  
**April 10-11, Institute for Korean Studies, Pennsylvania State University (hybrid)**

### Keynote Speakers

Caroline Reitz, CUNY Graduate Center

Ted Hughes, Columbia University

### A Special Lecture on Korean Literature

Young-jun Lee, Director of the Research Institute for Korean Studies

### Conference Description

In recent years, Korean crime narratives—crime fiction and crime-themed TV dramas, films, and webtoons—have attracted significant attention from readers, audiences, and scholars both within Korea and internationally. In response to this growing popularity and the increasing scholarly interest in the historical, social, and aesthetic dimensions of Korean crime narratives, the PSU-SKKU Consortium on Korean Popular Narratives and Media is hosting its third international conference, aiming to explore cultural representations of state, institutional, political, and everyday violence against socially vulnerable and marginalized groups in both premodern and modern Korean crime fiction. Drawing on Walter Benjamin’s concept of law-annihilating “divine violence,” which confronts the injustice embedded in legal systems, as well as feminist scholarship on gender and justice in modern crime narratives, this conference invites papers that examine the aesthetic and political potential of crime narratives in expressing the precarity of the marginalized and the meaning of justice.



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THE ACADEMY OF KOREAN STUDIES (AKS), RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR KOREAN STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF KOREAN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE, DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE CULTURE & THE CENTER FOR CROSS CULTURAL STUDIES (CCCS) AT SUNGKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY (SKKU)





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We are particularly interested in explorations of how such narratives engage with gender issues at the intersections of sexuality, age, class, and race. Under the broad umbrella of “crime fiction,” we welcome submissions that engage with diverse media and subgenres—including film, TV dramas, webtoons, premodern court novels, science fiction, gothic novels, detective stories, medical horror, spy fiction, etc.—to address key questions about justice, violence, and rage. We encourage scholars to develop papers based on their presentations for publication in a special journal issue.

We welcome submissions on a broad range of topics related to gender and justice, including but not limited to:

- The state, institutional, and everyday gender violence
- Imaginations of femme fatale in historical and modern crime narrative
- Representations of LGBTQI+
- The problem of law and law enforcement
- The relationship between crime and justice
- Changing notion of motherhood
- Transnational dimension of literary and media crime genres
- Crime and masculinity
- Militarism, insurgence, and espionage in Cold War Korea(s)
- Historical memory of colonialism, the Korean War, and the democratic movement
- Korean diaspora
- Refugees in South Korea
- Medicine and healthcare
- North Korean crime fiction
- (East) Asian crime fiction about Korea(s) or Korean diaspora

Two nights of accommodation and meals throughout the conference will be provided. Limited funding is available through the Penn State Institute for Korean Studies for presenters who travel to and participate in the conference (priority will be given to graduate students and international participants). **Please submit an abstract (250-words) [here](#) by November 15, 2025.** When submitting your abstract, please also indicate whether you would like to participate online or in person. The selection committee will communicate with scholars in mid-December 2025. **Any inquiries may be addressed to Jooyeon Rhee ([jxr5820@psu.edu](mailto:jxr5820@psu.edu)).**

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