

30 YEARS KOREAN STUDIES AT SOFIA UNIVERSITY

Korea: One Peninsula, Multiple Dimensions (Connectivity, Challenges, Perspectives)

Sofia University (Sofia, Bulgaria), 12-14 October 2025



Sunday, October 12th, Hall Aula

16:30-17:00	Registration Welcoming Remarks Georgi VALCHEV , Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Gergana PETKOVA , Dean of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology
17:00-17:30	Dong-Bae KIM , Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bulgaria Hak Mu RI , Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) (to be confirmed) Veselin DYANKOV , Acting Director of Foreign Policy Planning, Information and Coordination, MFA
17:30-18:00	Svetla KARTEVA-DANCHEVA , Head of Department of the Korean Studies Department (2010-2019) 30 years of Korean Studies at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski – a fulfilled journey to the Land of the Morning Calm
18:00-18:30	Vladimir TIKHONOV , University of Oslo Keynote Speech: Radical feminism and struggle for gender equality in Korean history
18:30-20:00	Welcome Reception (Main Lobby)

Monday, October 13th

	Hall 1	Hall 2	Conference Room	Hall The Egg (Only In-person Presentations)
MOD	Sirma KOSTADINOVA	Evelina HEIN	Yanitsa IVANOVA	Irina SHOLEVA
	Narratives of Korea and intercultural dialogue	Culture and Places: Transformation and Representation	Exploring Korean Grammar, Translation, and Orthography	Korea Across Time: Society in Motion
[Session 1] 09:00-10:30 09:00-09:15	[O] Hye Ran KIM <i>Russian State University for the Humanities / HSE University</i> Historical and Identity Characteristics of Korean Diaspora Literature in Russia as Unification and Multicultural Literature: Focusing on the Sakhalin Literature Work “When I Become the Sea”	Evelina HEIN <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> A Chinese emperor connection to the sacred mountain of Paektusan	Yanitsa IVANOVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Early North Korean Linguists	Seulkee NAM <i>SOAS, University of London</i> Establishing Modern Medical Care in the Treaty Port of Inchön: The Anglican Medical Mission's Social Role and Healthcare Dynamics (1883–1916)

	9:15-09:30	Velina MINKOFF <i>Colibri Publishers</i> Korea and its Language as Literary Characters in a Bulgarian Novel	[O] Elizabeth CAMPBELL <i>Korea University</i> Hechi and Soul Friends: Urban Personification and Global Marketing through the Seoul City Mascots	[O] Stanislaw SKUT <i>University of Warsaw</i> 'Incomplete noun', 'defective noun' or 'auxiliary noun'? Challenges in translating Korean grammatical categories amidst the reorientation between North and South Korean language norms: a case study from Poland (1977–2021)	Bahar ALIYEVA <i>Azerbaijan University of Languages</i> Control of Overseas Travel in Korea through the Passport System after Liberation
	09:30-09:45	Patrick Jacques MAURUS <i>INALCO</i> Problems of translating North Korean literature	Shreya <i>Jawaharlal Nehru University</i> Closeted Resistance: Queer Narratives and Cultural Activism in South Korean Literature	[O] Sun Mean JU <i>Kazan Federal University</i> Translating Korean Catenative Verb Constructions into Russian: A Study in Syntactic Transformations	Ramóna FAJKUSZNÉ KOVÁCS <i>Eötvös Loránd University</i> Wave, peak and backlash: K-culture in Europe and Asia
	09:45-10:00	Sirma KOSTADINOVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Flower-growing Gods and Cosmic Battles: Exploring Parallels in Korean and Persian Creation Myths	[O] Magdalena GRELA-CHEN <i>Jagiellonian University</i> Hanbok craze: The rise of rental business and the decline of traditional aesthetics	Sewon KIM <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Proposals for the Transcription of Bulgarian Proper Nouns into Hangeul: With a Focus on Personal Names and Toponyms	Lucille SCHAEFER <i>University of Bonn</i> Riding the Korean Wave at home. Korean nationalism(s) in response to Hallyu's success in the West
	10:00-10:15	Mona KAUSHIK <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Korea: Nation, Society, Culture- Hindi Translation of Korean Poems with Special Reference to 'Mountain Flowers': Hindi Translation of 124 Modern Korean Poems – A Reality and a Debate	Boyko PAVLOV <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Spas RANGELOV <i>Hankuk University of Foreign Studies</i> Spring fragrance from Namwon to Stanimaka	Olivier BAILBLÉ <i>Aix-Marseille University</i> General introduction to Kugyöl writing system	Alexandra URBÁN <i>Seoul National University</i> Time Synchronization in a Modern Korean Family - What Time Use Data Tells Us about Couple Time
10:15-10:30 Q&A					

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

	Hall 1	Hall 2	Conference Room	Hall The Egg (Only In-person Presentations)
MOD	Adrien CARBONNET	Soyoung KIM	Kukjin KIM	Miroslava ZABURTOVA
	Korea between Regional and Global Foreign Policy	From Premodern to Contemporary Fiction: Narrative functions and Translation	Korea's Socio-Economic Trajectories	Korean Culture in Global and Local Contexts
[Session 2] 11:00-12:30	Adrien CARBONNET <i>KU Leuven</i> The North Korean-Bulgarian Diplomatic Crisis of 1962: Focusing on the account of the Belgian representative in Sofia	Kyungmin BAE <i>University of the Philippines</i> Korean Translation Practice of Filipino Learners: In search of Translation Methods and Techniques	Kukjin KIM <i>University for Foreigners of Siena</i> The Journey of Roman Glassware in Ancient Times: from the Mediterranean to the Korean Peninsula	Jong-suk WON <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Comparing Bulgarian Surva and Korean Jisinbalgi: Transformations in Tradition and Globalization Era after COVID-19

	11:15-11:30	Ivan LIDAREV <i>National University of Singapore</i> India between the two Koreas: Balancing history, ideology, and economics	[O] Lyudmila ATANASOVA <i>Hankuk University of Foreign Studies</i> Narrative Functions of Liminality in Yi Kwang-su's Novels	Nako STEFANOV <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Social-economic development of Late Choseon	Yana MANCHEVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> In Search of Korean Art Exhibitions in Bulgaria
	11:30-11:45	[O] Baljeet Kumar SINGH <i>Jawaharlal Nehru University</i> Emergence of New India under Modi Era: Changing Foreign Policy Dynamics through Act East Policy towards South Korea	Soyoung KIM <i>Seojeong University</i> Reframing Cultural Meaning in Korean-Bulgarian Literary Translation: A Case Study of Visiting Mother K	Nikolina KIRILOVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Korea: "The Little Tiger" or "The Great Dragon"?	Miroslava ZABURTOVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> From Fridge to Stage: Performing Taste in the Korean TV Cooking Show Please Take Care of My Refrigerator
	11:45-12:00	Kamen VELICHKOV <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Korea's foreign policy in Central Asia: objectives and achievements	Byoung Yoong KANG <i>Univerza v Ljubljani</i> The <Perfect Society> and Contemporary Society: Koreanness via Cryonic Narrative	[O] Akansha KHARI <i>University of Delhi</i> US-South Korea relations: How the bilateral relationship shaped South Korea's image economically and internationally	Imsuk JUNG <i>University for Foreigners of Siena</i> Food in K-contents: semiotic meaning in Korean culture and society
	12:00-12:15	Zornitsa GREKOVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> The Search for Maritime Grandeur: Republic of Korea and Its Cooperation with ASEAN in Underwater Cultural Heritage	[O] Spas RANGELOV <i>Hankuk University of Foreign Studies</i> Korean and Bulgarian in Contrast from the Perspective of Language Typology	Tsvetelina ANDREEVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Shattering the glass ceiling: Women in Business in 21 st Century South Korea	Irina SOTIROVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Asya ANTOVA <i>18th Secondary School William Gladstone</i> Academicism and mass culture – incompatible extremes or complementary opposites. Korean culture presented through the Board Game HanPanDo
12:15-12:30 Q&A					

12:45-14:15 LUNCH (Restaurant Alma Mater)

		Hall 1	Hall 2	Conference Room	Hall The Egg (Only In-person Presentations)	
MOD		Svetoslava PEYCHEVA	Sergei KURBANOV	Jungmin HEO	Yana MANCHEVA	
		Religion, Literature, Identities	Korea in History	ROUND TABLE Dynamics of immigration inside and outside of Korea	Korean Cultural Production via cultural identities	
[Session 3]	14:15-15:45	14:15-14:30	Svetoslava PEYCHEVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Korean Masquerade Games: Sacred Layers and Social Function	Daria GRISHINA <i>HSE University GAUGN</i> On the front line: establishment and activities of the Chosŏn legation in Tokyo, 1887-1905	[14:15-14:35] Jungmin HEO <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Navigating Student Mobilities in Turbulent Times: Migration Processes and Life Experiences of Korean International Students in Bulgaria	Lyuboslava HRISTOVA-PETROVA <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Divine Images with Korean ‘Flavour’. Negotiating Cultural Identities in Contemporary Korean Art
		14:30-14:45	[O] Arti PATHAK <i>University of Delhi</i> The Bridge Between India and Korea: Buddhism	[O] Nana GELASHVILI <i>Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University</i> Historical Korea as a Cross-cultural Bridge between China and Japan	[14:35-14:55] [O] Seongjin KIM <i>Duksung Women's University</i> Migration Networks of Koryoin and Korean Chinese	Ivanka VLAIEVA <i>South-West University Neofit Rilski</i> <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Music in a new rituality: Opening Ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Korea

	14:45-15:00	[O] Mohd BILAL <i>The Academy of Korean Studies</i> Sacred Landscapes, Silenced Memories: The Disappearance of Buddhism from India and its Survival in Korea	Sergei KURBANOV <i>Saint Petersburg State University</i> Rare primary sources and new approach to the perception of North Korean history in 1945 – 1950	[14:55-15:15] [O] Yeonkwang KIM <i>Korea University</i> Exploring Food Habit Changes of a Koryo-saram in Uzbekistan Before and After Migration	Vladislava MAZANA <i>Charles University</i> Constructing Manhood in K-pop Lyrics: A Corpus-Based Analysis of Masculine Identity
	15:00-15:15	Yannick BRUNETON <i>Paris Cite</i> Aspects of the relationship between poetry and Sŏn Buddhism in Korea	[O] Avram AGOV <i>Langara College</i> North Korea in the socialist system, 1953-1962: integration and the rise of nationalism	[15:15-15:30] Discussion	Martin LUKANOV <i>Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski</i> Drawing the Line: The Korea Manhwa Museum as a Site of Cultural (Re)Creation
	15:15-15:30	[O] Inero ANCHO <i>University of the Philippines</i> Meaning and Value of Learning Korean Language in the Graduate School			
15:30-15:45 Q&A					

15:45-16:15 COFFEE BREAK

		Hall 1	Hall 2	Conference Room	Hall The Egg (Only In-person Presentations)
MOD		Irina SOTIROVA	Irina SHOLEVA	Raina BENEVA	Gwon Jin CHOI
		Social Dynamics in South Korea	Korea: Diplomacy and Memory	Korean cinema across borders	Korean Language Education in Focus
[Session 4]	16:15-16:30	[O] Natalya YEM <i>al-Farabi Kazakh National University</i> Ethnic Identification of Children in International Families: A Case Study of Russian-Speaking Children in South Korea	Karol STAROWICZ <i>Adam Mickiewicz University</i> '함께하면 강하다, 함께하면 안전하다!' – The Enduring Strength and Future of the U.S.–Republic of Korea Alliance	Andronika MÀRTONOVA <i>Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences</i> An unexpected sharp turn: The DPRK in the focus of film critic and writer Panteley Karasimeonov after 1944	Sun Hee PARK <i>Ewha Womans University</i> Compressed Words, Expanded Meanings: Korean Short-Form Culture
	16:30-16:45	[O] Ankit KUMAR <i>Jawaharlal Nehru University</i> Rahul RAJ <i>Jawaharlal Nehru University</i> The New Normal: Rise of Non-Religious Identity in South Korea	Sophio GUGUNAVA <i>Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University</i> Soft and Smart Power: The Development of South Korean Diplomacy	Zakir Hossain RAJU <i>Independent University Bangladesh</i> Role of K-Cinema as Leader in Inter-Asia: Connections of Korean Film Festivals in Developing Bangladesh Cinema	Monika HÁLOVÁ <i>Palacky University Olomouc</i> Second-Language Acquisition of Korean Case and Word Order: Natural Discourse and Teaching Materials Input Comparison
	16:45-17:00	[O] Liliia ZAMIATINA <i>University of Turku</i> “Korean elderlies are so rude!” Myth-busting as Reflecting on Rapport-building In the Field. Tapgol Park, Spring – Summer 2025	[O] Fedor CHERNETSKII <i>Lomonosov Moscow State University</i> “Friends and Neighbors Effect” on Elections in the Republic of Korea	[O] Aman TRIPATHI <i>Jawaharlal Nehru University</i> Korean Cinema and the Politics of Memory: Trauma, Healing, and the Vision of Reunification	Gwon Jin CHOI <i>Inha University</i> Applying project-based learning (PBL) to teaching Korean in Bulgarian situation
	17:00-17:15	[O] Angelina TOMOVA <i>Sogang University</i> Unseen and On the Move: Examining South Korea’s Runaway Children	[O] Ankitha K R <i>University of Delhi</i> One Voice, One Nation? State-Curated Memory and the Performance of National Identity in North Korea	[O] Ji-Yeon JO <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i> Bordering Affects: Hospitality and Hostility in Zhang Lu's Borderland Trilogy	Tsvetelina BORISOVA <i>18th Secondary School William Gladstone</i> Korean Language Education in Primary and Junior High Schools at the 18 th Secondary School William Gladstone in Sofia, Bulgaria

17:15-17:30	[O] Pilar MIGUEL XIMÉNEZ DE EMBÚN <i>Complutense University</i> Lenses of Resistance: Visual Culture and Protest in 1980s South Korea	Elena VODINCHAR <i>Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum Bulgarian Academy of Science</i> The picture of power. The diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during socialism through the prism of a museum object	[O] Jeremiah MAGONCIA <i>Ateneo de Manila University</i> Beyond Melodrama: How Netflix is Diversifying Korean Contents through Reality TV	
	17:30-17:45 Q&A			

18:00-19:30	OFFICIAL DINNER (Restaurant Alma Mater)
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Tuesday, October 14th

	HALL 1	HALL THE EGG
	ROUND TABLE	ROUND TABLE
10:00-11:30	How to Talk about North Korea? (With, On, and Beyond the Terrain) Participants: Behrin Shopova , Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum Bulgarian academy of sciences (Bulgaria) <i>For a rare score of the North Korean Opera "The Flower Girl" from the Special Collections Department at the Ivan Vazov National Library – Plovdiv</i> Patrick Maurus , INALCO (France) <i>North Korea has a lot to say, but does it really want to talk?</i> Raina Beneva , Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria) <i>Bulgarian experience in bilateral exchange in the field of education for the period 2011-2016 and beyond</i> Vladimir Tikhonov , Oslo University <i>Engaging North Korea: How to Transcend the Divide</i>	(Im)possible Korean Distances: Strategies of Screen Representation between One's Own / Self-Strangeness/ Others Participants: Andronika Mårtonova , Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria) Aibarsha Bozheyeva , School of Media and Cinema at Almaty Management University (Kazakhstan) Boyan Tzenez , National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts (Bulgaria) Simeon Alexander , Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria) Yana Lekarska , film director (Bulgaria) Maria Simeonova , Central Library of Bulgarian Academy of Science (Bulgaria)

11:30-12:00	Closing Ceremony (HALL THE EGG)
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12:00-13:30	LUNCH (Crystal Palace Hotel)
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13:30-15:30	Visit to the Boyana Church (UNESCO Heritage)
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Accompanying Events

Saturday, October 11th

FILM SCREENING: HAVE FUN IN PYONGYANG, French Documentary film 2019 Place: Cinema Odeon, 1 P. Evtimii Str. Organizers: Korean Studies Department and the Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of sciences With the special contribution and participation of Patrick Maurus (the film screenwriter, Professor Emeritus of INALCO, Paris) and Andronika Mårtonova (Professor. Vice-Director of the Institute for Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia) Date and starting time: 11 October, 18:00

Sunday, October 12th

SIJO WORKSHOP (only for Korean Studies students) Lector: Byoung Yoong KANG (Univerza v Ljubljani) Date and starting time: 12 October, 14:30-16:30 Place: Center for Korean Studies, Hall 111

BOOKS PRESENTATION: 'Les trois Corées' & 'Il était une fois... trois Corées', Patrick Maurus

Place: Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., 1504 Sofia, floor 4 - North wing

Organizers: Korean Studies Department and Francophone Center

Date and starting time: October 15, 11:30 AM