

Call for Papers for a Special Issue

Special issue title

Decolonizing Agriculture: Land, Seeds, and Transformative Futures in and beyond Korea

Guest editors

Ga Young Chung, University of California Davis | gachung@ucdavis.edu

Hyojeong Kim, Myungji University | sheenkimm@gmail.com

Deadline

Abstracts (maximum 500 words) due by April 15, 2026

Land and seeds are not merely resources for production and harvest; they are living repositories of knowledge, community life, and intergenerational relations. By centering land and seeds in our research, we aim to expose the violent, understudied aspects of life, labor, and gendered relations throughout modern Korean history. Narratives of “developmentalism” in the two Koreas and much of Asia have frequently depicted the exploitative utilization of land and seeds as indisputable advancement, effectively obscuring the destruction of sustainable, communitarian connections between humans and the land. Indeed, issues involving land and seeds lie at the core of broader contemporary struggles over food security, sovereignty, environmental sustainability, and gender justice.

This special issue represents a timely effort to revitalize research and practices aimed at decolonizing the oppressive systems surrounding land and seeds. To that end, we seek to rethink the violent and exploitative forces ushered in by colonization, imperialist interventions, militarization, patriarchal developmentalism, and, more recently, neoliberal restructuring in Korea and other parts of Asia. By engaging interdisciplinary work that scrutinizes domination, subordination, and inequality in and beyond Korea, we intend to highlight efforts to envision and build alternative, radical approaches. These approaches should allow communities to live in symbiosis with the land, with the ultimate goal of collectively building a liberatory future accessible to all.

We welcome submissions that utilize innovative approaches to understanding and interrogating the politics of land and seeds across varied historical and political settings in Korea and wider Asia. Submissions addressing transnational solidarity or comparative colonial agrarian policy are highly encouraged. We invite contributors from diverse disciplinary backgrounds who seek to interrogate and dismantle colonial and capitalist agricultural praxes. In addition to academic papers, we accept creative dialogues between scholars and activists, seed savers and farmers, and researchers of indigenous knowledge. These contributions may take the form of interviews, artwork, or other creative outputs.

Topics might include, but are not limited to:

- Colonialism, Commodification of Land, and State/Capitalist Agrarian Regulation
- War, Imperial Transition, and Transformation of Agriculture and Rurality
- Developmentalism, Urbanization, and Agrarian Transformation

- Biopolitics, State Control, and Agrarian Social Relations
- Uneven Globalization, Transnational and Comparative Agrarian Configurations
- Militarization, (Gendered) Agrarian Resistance, and Health Equity
- Indigenous Knowledge and Practices Involving Land and Seeds
- Transnational and Global Solidarity in Agrarian Struggles

Submission Guidelines

- **Abstract submission deadline:** April 15, 2026
 - Your proposal should include: Title, Abstract (500 words), and CV. Send your proposal to the editors at: sheenkimm@gmail.com and gachung@ucdavis.edu
- **Notification of acceptance:** May 15, 2026
- **Working paper submission deadline:** October 15, 2026
 - Authors whose proposals are selected will submit their working drafts (3,000 words) to the editors by October 15, 2026, and present their work at the workshop organized by the editors on November 13, 2026. The workshop will be facilitated in a hybrid format (conducted both online and in-person).
- **Revised paper submission deadline:** June 15, 2027
 - Authors will submit full drafts (8,000-9,000 words) by June 15, 2027, and present their work at the second workshop on July 15, 2027. The workshop will be facilitated in a hybrid format.
- **Submission of final manuscripts:** August 31, 2027
 - The manuscript will be submitted to the Korea Journal to undergo peer review.
- The special issue has an anticipated 2028 publication date.