

Call for Papers

5th International Conference – DPRK Cities Research Group

Civic Space in Comparative Perspectives: Everyday Life and Agency in Cities under Authoritarian Regimes

Dear colleagues and friends,

We warmly invite scholars to submit papers for the DPRK Cities Research Group's 5th International Conference at the Soongsil Institute for Peace and Unification, Soongsil University, supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

This conference explores how marketization, technological change, and governance reshape civic space and everyday life in cities under authoritarian and transitional regimes. Moving beyond state-level analysis, it focuses on cities as key sites where control, adaptation, and agency are negotiated in practice.

While contributions on North Korean cities are particularly welcome, we strongly encourage comparative perspectives involving other authoritarian or transitional contexts.

The conference is designed as a small-scale, discussion-oriented workshop with limited presentation slots and dedicated discussants. We particularly welcome contributions from scholars with an active research agenda and aim to bring together established and emerging experts for focused, high-level exchange. Submissions will be competitively selected.

Date: November 26, 2026 (Thursday)

Location: Seoul, South Korea

Language: English (with simultaneous interpretation between English and Korean)

Deadlines: Abstract + short bio (max. 500 words): May 22, 2026

Full paper (max. 8,000 words): October 30, 2026

Support: Round-trip airfare and accommodation (2 nights: 25–27 November) will be provided for all presenters

We look forward to your submissions. Please submit your abstract to ssucrg@ssu.ac.kr. Notification of acceptance will be sent by June 13.

Frank Moehring

(On behalf of the DPRK Cities Research Group)