

5th Congress of Asian and the Pacific Studies 2015

PROPOSAL: (RE)DRAWING THE BOUNDARIES OF “KOREAN-NESS”, III

BOOK PRESENTATION SESSION

Book reference:

Title: *De-bordering Korea. Tangible and Intangible legacies of the Sunshine Policy* (Routledge 2013)

Authors: Valérie Gelézeau (EHESS), Koen De Ceuster (Leiden University), Alain Delissen (EHESS)

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Book presentation purpose :

This book presentation is the third movement of a 3-part panel gathering the members of the research group "Boundaries of Korean-ness" of the Centre for Korean Studies of the UMR 8173 China, Korea, Japan (CNRS-EHESS, Paris-Diderot University). The two other parts are the following workshops organized by Kyung-mi KIM (INaICO) and Eunsil Yim (Paris-Diderot University):

- Atelier 1 (Re)drawing the boundaries of «Korean-ness» I : objects and representations ;
- Atelier 2 (Re)drawing the boundaries of «Korean-ness» II : norms and institutions ;
- The book presentation (part 3) will be organized as a round table review of the book, with the comments and questions of the following discussants:

Laurent Jeanpierre (Nanterre University)

Karoline Postel-Vinay (Sciences Po, CERI)

Jung-hwan Yoo (Asia Centre)

Book abstract

As tensions remain on the Korean peninsula, this book looks back on the decade of improved inter-Korean relations and engagement between 1998 and 2008, now known as the ‘Sunshine Policy’ era. Moving beyond traditional economic and political perspectives, it explores how this decade of intensified cooperation both affected and reshaped existing physical, social and mental boundaries between the two Koreas, and how this ‘de-bordering’ time since followed by strong ‘re-bordering’ has changed the respective attitudes towards the other.

Based around three key themes, ‘Space’, ‘People’, and ‘Representations’, the book looks at the tangible and intangible areas of contact created by North-South engagement during the years of the Sunshine Policy. ‘Space’ focuses on the border regions and discusses how the border reflects the dynamics of multiple types of exchanges and connections between the two Koreas, as well as the new territorial structures the Sunshine era has created. ‘People’ addresses issues in human interactions and social organizations, looking at North Korean defectors in the South, shifting patterns of North-South competition in the ‘Korean’ diaspora of post-Soviet Central Asia, and the actual and physical presence of the Other in various social settings. Finally, ‘Representations’ analyses the image of the other Korea as it is produced, circulated, altered/falsified and received (or not) on either side of the Korean border.

The book draws on a broad spectrum of disciplines ranging from geography, anthropology and archaeology, to media studies, history and sociology, in order to show how the division between North and South Korea functions as an essential matrix for geographical, social and psychological structures on both sides of the border.

Book outline and list of contributors:

Introduction

Part I: Places

1. Life on the Lines: People and Places on the Korean Border, *Valérie Gelézeau*
2. Crossing the Border: South Korean Tourism to Mount Kūmgang, *Christian J. Park*
3. Heritage Management in the Kaesŏng Special Economic Zone, *Élisabeth Chabanol*
4. Swinging Borders: the Sino-Korean Border During the Sunshine Policy, *Sébastien Colin*

Part II: People

5. North Korean Defector Activism and South Korean Politics, *Danielle Chubb*
6. The Hard Life of North Korean Migrants in South Korean Society, *Éric Bidet*
7. Confronting Korean Identities in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan, *Eunsil Yim*

Part III: Representations

8. Facts or Acts? Korean News Agencies Reporting on Inter-Korean Relations, *Perrine Fruchart-Ramond*
9. South Korea's Encounter with North Korean Art: Between Barbershop Painting and True Art, *Koen De Ceuster*
10. Sleeping with the (Northern) Enemy: South Korean Cinema and the Autistic Interface, *Benjamin Joinau*
11. The End of Romanticism? Teaching the 'Other' Korea in the Sunshine Era, *Alain Delissen*

Postscript: Debordering, Rebordering, Unbordering, *Charles K. Armstrong*

Book editors (and presenters at the Congress)

Valérie Gelézeau is Associate Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS, Paris).

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