KIM KOO FORUM ON KOREA CURRENT AFFAIRS

at the Korea Institute, Harvard University

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2012 - 2013

The Kim Koo Forum on Korea Current Affairs at the Korea Institute, Harvard University, is made possible with the generous support of the Kim Koo Foundation, Seoul, Korea.

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The Kim Koo Forum on Korea Current Affairs seminar series took place on Thursdays at the Thomas Chan-Soo Kang Room(S050) in CGIS South Building, 1730 Cambridge Street except where noted.



FALL 2012

OCTOBER 18, 2012

David C. Cole, Independent Scholar Korea's Transformation over Six Decades Faculty host: Carter J. Eckert

Bio

David Cole's first engagement with the Far East involved working on a tractor project in North China in 1946-47 for the United Nations. He next was sent to Korea with the US Army, 1951-52, where he was assigned to the United Nations Civil Assistance Command, Korea, and traveled widely throughout the country analyzing industrial conditions. He returned to Korea, 1964-66, as Senior Economist with the US Aid Mission, and worked closely with Korean economic officials on formulation of economic policy and preparation of the



Second Five Year Plan. In the 1970s he assisted Dr. Kim Mahn-Je with the establishment of the Korean Development Institute.

He received an A.B. degree in Far Eastern Studies at Cornell University, 1950, and a Ph.D in Economics at University of Michigan in 1959. He taught at Vanderbilt University, 1958-62, and was affiliated with the Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) and the Economics Department at Harvard from 1966 to 1994. He was an advisor to the Indonesian Government on economic and financial policies throughout his time with HIID and was a consultant to many Asian and African countries. He taught courses on Modernization of Korea and Financial Policy for Developing Countries at Harvard. His publications include three books on Korean development, one on Indonesia's financial system, and one on a rural development project in Sudan. His most notable book on Korea, "Korean Development: The Interplay of Politics and Economics" written with Princeton Lyman was published by the Harvard University





Press in 1971. Since his retirement from Harvard in 1994, he has been engaged in various environmental and historical preservation activities in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Abstract

I will describe and illustrate how dramatically South Korea has been transformed between 1952 and 2012. This transformation has occurred in all aspects of the society, the economy and the natural and physically-built-up environment. I suggest and try to illustrate that the country has moved from an impoverished mid-19th Century condition to an affluent mid-21st Century condition in roughly half a century. I will then talk briefly about the Conference that Dwight Perkins and I attended in Seoul and how it illustrates Korea's transition from an aid-receiving to an aid-giving country that is now providing technical assistance to some 34 less advanced countries around the world. Finally, I will point out some problems that I see currently confronting the Korean policy makers and some possible solutions to those problems.

NOVEMBER 8, 2012

John S. Park, Stanton Foundation Junior Faculty Fellow, Security Studies Program, MIT; Associate, Belfer Center, Harvard University

Reading the Commercial Tea Leaves: New Insights into Regime Dynamics in Pyongyang

Faculty host: Carter J. Eckert



Bio

Dr. John S. Park is the Stanton Foundation Junior Faculty Fellow at MIT and an associate at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University. He previously directed Northeast Asia Track 1.5 projects at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). These included the Korea Working Group, the U.S.-China Project on Crisis Avoidance & Cooperation, the U.S.-ROK-Japan Trilateral Dialogue in Northeast Asia, and the U.S.-PRC-Japan Dialogue on Risk Reduction & Crisis Prevention. He advises Northeast Asia policy-focused officials at the Departments

of Defense, State and the Treasury, as well as on the National Security Council and Congressional committees.



Dr. Park previously worked at Goldman Sachs, where he specialized in U.S. military privatization financing projects. Prior to that, he was the project leader of the North Korea Analysis Group at the Harvard Kennedy School. He previously worked in Goldman Sachs' M&A Advisory Group in Hong Kong and The Boston Consulting Group's Financial Services Practice in Seoul.

Dr. Park's writings have appeared in Wall Street Journal Asia, Financial Times, Jane's Intelligence Review, International Herald Tribune (international edition of The New York Times), and Washington Quarterly. His publications include: "Assessing the Role of Security Assurances in Dealing with North Korea" in Security Assurances and Nuclear Nonproliferation (Stanford University Press, 2012); "North Korea, Inc.: Gaining Insights into North Korean Regime Stability from Recent Commercial Activities" (USIP Working Paper, May 2009); "North Korea's Nuclear Policy Behavior: Deterrence and Leverage," in The Long Shadow: Nuclear Weapons and Security in 21st Century Asia (Stanford University Press, 2008).

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Dr. Park received his M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Cambridge University and completed his predoctoral and postdoctoral training at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University.

Abstract

Assessing regime dynamics in North Korea continues to be a major challenge for analysts. By examining how North Korea, Inc. -- the web of state trading companies affiliated to the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), the Korean People's Army (KPA), and the Cabinet -- operates, we can develop a new framework for gauging regime transformations in North Korea. Growing Sino-DPRK commercial activities in mainland China offers a key source of information that has yet to be comprehensively analyzed.

DECEMBER 12, 2012

Aveam Agov, Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, Korea Institute, Harvard University North Korea in the Socialist World: Integration and Divergence, 1945-1972 Faculty host: Carter J. Eckert

Bio

Avram Agov received a B.A. in philosophy (second major, history) from Sofia University, Bulgaria in 1988. He was a visiting scholar at Columbia University on a Fullbright Fellowship in 1991-1992. He received an M.A. in Regional Studies-East Asia from Harvard University (1992-1994). He studied at the Korean Language Institute of Yonsei University in Seoul and worked in Samsung Electronics (visual media business, export marketing) for six years (1996-2002). In 2001, the Seoul municipal government awarded him the title "Honorary Citizen of Seoul" for his contributions to the ROK-Bulgarian relations. He received his Ph.D. in history



from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, in 2010; his thesis title was "North Korea and the Socialist World: Integration and Divergence, 1945-1970." He spent a year and a half in Shanghai studying Mandarin at Jiao Tong University and doing research on Sino-North Korean relations.

Abstract

This paper investigates the background behind the resilience of

North Korean system, one which has endured numerous shocks and upheavals in its history. The era from 1945 to 1972 was decisive in the formation of North Korea's domestic system; it also



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provides sufficient perspective to examine the major trends in the evolution of North Korea's political and economic structure. The paper analyzes DPRK history from the perspective of the regime's internal and external integration into the socialist system, as well as efforts to diverge from that system. The dynamics of integration and divergence relate to the commonalities and distinctiveness of North Korea's political and economic structure compared to other socialist countries, mainly the Soviet Union and China. There was an intimate relationship between integration and divergence, as developments toward integration sparked efforts at divergence, and vice versa.

This paper studies the formation and evolution of North Korea's political economy and defines its uniqueness within the socialist system. Socialist aid and trade are one focus of the study. I analyze four realms of relationships - ideology, politics, economy, and security. The northern regime's ideological positioning was closely linked to North Korea's nationalist course and to the regime's divergence from the socialist system; economic considerations and security imperatives, by contrast, tended to push the regime toward the socialist world. The study defines North Korea's place in the socialist world from the view point of the interaction between politics and economics. I argue that despite North Korea's ideological and political divergences from the socialist system based on the Chuch'e (self-reliance) paradigm, the regime remained more integrated economically than is usually perceived. This factor is one of the main reasons for the DPRK's ability to withstand the blow of the Soviet collapse, for it retained considerable economic ties to China. During the 1945-1972 era, North Korea occasionally deviated from one or another of its two major allies, but it never distanced itself from both the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China simultaneously. The DPRK also tried to compensate reductions in its interactions with one major ally or camp, including the Eastern bloc, by nurturing more active relations with capitalist states. This trend represents an important consistency in North Korea's history.





KOREA INSTITUTE HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Co-sponsored by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University Asia Center, and Weatherhead Center Program on U.S.-Japan Relations



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Panel Discussion

Kathleen Stephens, Senior Associate, Georgetown University; Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

Andrew Gordon, Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History, Harvard University

Sung-Yoon Lee, Kim Koo-Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of Korean Studies, Tufts University

William Overholt, Senior Research Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School

Moderator: Carter J. Eckert, Yoon Se Young Professor of Korean History, Harvard University

DECEMBER 20 | 4:00 P.M.

Recention to follow

Belfer Case Study Room (S020), Japan Friends of Harvard Concourse, CGIS South Building, 1730 Cambridge Street

The Korea Institute acknowledges the generous support of the Kim Koo Foundation.











DECEMBER 20, 2012

The Republic of Korea Presidential Election Panel Discussion

Panelists:

Kathleen Stephens, Senior Associate, Georgetown University; Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

Andrew Gordon, Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History, Harvard University Sung-Yoon Lee, Kim Koo-Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of Korean Studies, Tufts University William Overholt, Senior Research Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School

Moderator: Carter J. Eckert, Yoon Se Young Professor of Korean History, Harvard University

Co-sponsored by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University Asia Center, and Weatherhead Center Program on U.S.-Japan Relations



Summary By Avram Agov,

Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, Korea Institute, Harvard University

The panel discussion was a very timely event, held the day after the presidential election in South Korea. The panel gathered scholars who offered their insights from different perspectives on the Korean politics in domestic and international contexts. Thus, diverse angles of analysis and various viewpoints were a main advantage of the discussion. Jina Kim, Korea Institute events manager, had prepared a slideshow, covering important events from President-elect Park Geun-hye's family history, preparing the audience for the upcoming discussion.



Carter Eckert, Yoon Se Young Professor of Korean History, Harvard University, moderator of the panel, opened the discussion with a talk focused on elections from Korean historical perspective, covering themes of Park Chung Hee's legacy (creating a division in society based on positive and

negative attitudes toward his rule even today) and the role of President-elect Park Geun-hye in the Korean politics. The election of the first female as president of South Korea is significant not only domestically, as the country stands 108th in gender equality measurement by the Davos World Economic Forum, but also regionally, as she is the first female head of state in the current "Confucian world," broadly defined as the area including China, the two Koreas, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Singapore, which constitutes almost a quarter of the world's population.

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Sung-Yoon Kim Koo-Korea Lee, Foundation Assistant Professor of Korean Studies, Tufts University, focused his talk on the political and social dynamics behind the presidential elections in the context of record-high voting during the elections (75% of eligible voters cast their ballots). The demographics of an aging South Korean population (the majority is over 50 years of age) and voting patterns (90% of those over 50 turned out to vote and they are usually more conservative) helped Park's victory. The speaker also outlined the Presidentelect's policy agenda, including "economic democratization," which is combating inequality, actively supporting small and



medium businesses, and putting the practices of chaebol under stricter scrutiny by the state. He also expressed his concern that North Korea may stage a provocation in upcoming months to test the new leadership in South Korea, given the DPRK's history and its policy toward the South.



Kathleen Stephens, Senior Associate, Georgetown University; Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, commented

on the election of the first female president of South Korea and U.S.-ROK relations. The speaker drew on her rich experience in South Korea, first as a Peace Corp volunteer and then as a U.S. diplomat and ambassador. She expressed a generally optimistic view on the prospects of South Korea's domestic and international politics. There is an understanding in Washington that although there are many other factors, ultimately the Korean people will decide the future of the Korean peninsula.

Andrew Gordon, Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History, Harvard University, offered his view of the elections outcome from the perspective of the Japan's international politics and Japanese-ROK relations. He found similarities in the elections of the two countries, as both governments are facing similar problems: aging population, high suicide rates, economic inequality in the form of advantage to a few companies, etc. The election of Shinzo Abe from the Liberal Democratic Party marked a return to a conservative government, but the speaker also noted that in social and cultural terms Abe tends to be more liberal, while on economics he is close to President Obama's policies. At least in words, Prime Minister Abe is expected to seek a break on controversial historical issues and the territorial dispute with South Korea over Tokto (Takeshima) island. Still, the speaker does not consider the Japanese-South Korean territorial dispute as dangerous as the one between China and Japan over Senkaku (Diaoyu) islands.

William Overholt, Senior Research Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School, discussed the state and prospects of relations between China and the two Koreas. He stated that if South Korea changed course on North Korea, the United States would follow its ally in its policy toward the DPRK. A Grand Bargain (massive aid plus resolution of nuclear problem) is needed to overcome North Korea's isolation and put the country on a reform course. Such a multinational agreement would solve simultaneously the problem of North Korea as a "failed state" (in economic terms) and the nuclear issue.

The panel held an extremely valuable discussion at a time when countries in the East Asian region have undergone leadership changes in the last year: North Korea, Taiwan, China, Japan, and South Korea. The panel participants agreed that these changes may trigger new dynamics in the region, although policies and international relations from the past will persist as well. Cautious optimism dominated discussion on the election of Park Geun-hye, who may strive to reach reconciliation between the Right and the Left at home and pursue a more pragmatic and active policy toward the North than her predecessor Lee Myung-bak.

SPRING 2013

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

Dong-Won Kim, Visiting Professor, Johns Hopkins University; Visiting Professor, Harvard University

Star Wars vs. Seopyeonje: Science in Popular Culture in South Korea

Faculty host: Kuriyama Shigehisa, Reischauer Institute Professor of Cultural History; Department Chair, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University Co-sponsored by the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies



Bio

Dong-Won Kim was born in Seoul, South Korea, in 1960. He studied computer science and statistics at Seoul National University (BS) and history of science at Harvard University (AM, Ph.D.). His doctoral thesis is on the early history of the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge. After returning to Korea in 1991, he taught at Seoul National University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and several other universities. He became an assistant professor of history of science at KAIST in 1994 and taught there until the end of

2004. Since 1993 he has worked on the histories of Korean and Japanese science and technology, and published several papers and a book on the topic. He has also taught the history of East Asian science and technology in the modern period since 1998 at Johns Hopkins University and KAIST. In 2005 he moved to the United States to become an independent scholar. He returned briefly to KAIST to serve as Dean of the College of Cultural Science (2009-2012). He is now working on the history of cosmic rays in the 20th century with special emphasis on Japan's role.

Abstract

The Star Wars movie series and the Star Trek television series and movies have never been popular in South Korea. The six Star Wars movies were unexpected failures there, and few Star Trek movies and TV shows have been shown in South Korea. While Japanese have been very enthusiastic about Star Wars and Star Trek, South Koreans' lack of interest is very unique. At the same time, Korean movies that emphasize Korean traditions and/or values in the past have flourished since the early 1990s. Seopyeonje, released in 1993, was the first Korean movie that



attracted more than 1 million viewers in Seoul alone. Many Korean movies since then have become mega-hits but the Star Wars sequels, Episode 1, 2, 3, attracted fewer than total 2 million movie-goers. How are these phenomena related to the popular image of science and technology in South Korea? Are these phenomena related to Korea's "crisis in science and technology" in the 21st century? How much did the changing political situation in the latter half of the 20th century influence the image of science and technology in Korea?

MARCH 28, 2013

Yongwook Ryu, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, The Australian National University

Bridled by the Past? The 'History Problem' and Korea-Japan Security Relations

Faculty host: Sun Joo Kim

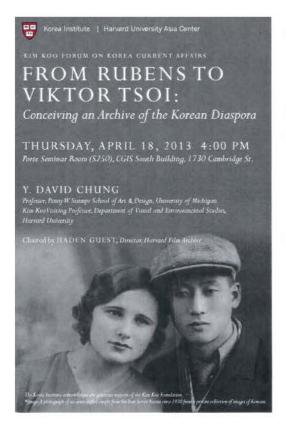
Co-sponsored by the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies and Weatherhead Center Program on U.S.-Japan Relations

Abstract

How does the 'history problem' affect Korea-Japan security relations? Korea-Japan security relations are something of an anomaly from the perspective of realism and liberal-institutionalism, two main theories of IR. From the realist perspective, the presence of a common security threat (North Korea), a common security concern (China) and a common alliance partner (USA) make the two countries natural security partners. From the liberalinstitutionalist perspective, their shared socio-political values and the large and increasing volume of bilateral trade should have resulted in better security relations. Furthermore, the dramatic improvement in people-to-people exchanges in the past decade or so also bodes well for closer



security cooperation between Korea and Japan. Yet, in reality the bilateral security relationship is minimal at best and ad hoc rather than institutionalized. As the 2012 General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) controversy demonstrates, it can be exceedingly difficult to conclude an even innocuous security arrangement between the two nations. I argue that the lack of security cooperation between the two nations is the result of the rise of the socalled "history problem" (역사문제) as a bilateral diplomatic issue and Korea's democratization. The former has turned Korea-Japan security relations into an emotional issue outside of rational, strategic calculation, while the latter has made Korea's foreign policy more vulnerable to domestic public pressure and demand. Hence in an environment of heightened tensions over the 'history problem', any advancement of Korea-Japan security relations will be extremely difficult especially when the issue is known to the public. I analyze the contents of Japan-related articles in Donga Ilbo from 1980 to 2010 to show that Korea's Japan policy has increasingly been popularized and subject to public pressure. In addition, I present the analysis of a recent survey experiment conducted in Japan, to illustrate how the 'history problem' may worsen the Japanese public sentiments toward Korea and create a vicious cycle of worsening emotions between the two countries.



APRIL 18, 2013

Y. David Chung, Professor, Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design, University of Michigan; Kim Koo Visiting Professor, Department of Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University

From Rubens to Viktor Tsoi: Conceiving an Archive of the Korean Diaspora

Faculty host: Haden Guest, Director, Harvard Film Archive

Jointly sponsored with the Harvard Asia Center as part of the Asian Diaspora Project

Bio

Born in Bonn, Germany, and educated in the United States, Y. David Chung is an acclaimed visual artist and filmmaker known for his films, multi-media installations, drawings, prints, and public artworks. Prof. Chung's documentary film, Koryo Saram, codirected with Matt Dibble, won the Best Documentary Award from the National Film Board of Canada. He has been commissioned to design permanent artwork for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority and the New York City Public Art Program. His work has been exhibited at the Boston Museum of

Fine Arts, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Asia Society, Walker Arts Center, Wadsworth Atheneum, Gwangju Bienniale, Tretyakov Gallery of Art (Moscow), and in a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, to name a few.

Prof. Chung's work is currently on view at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History's Korea Gallery. He has been commissioned to design and install permanent artwork for the Rosslyn Metro Station, VA and the New York City Public Art Program. Prof. Chung has been the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Individual Fellowship in New Genres, the Washington Mayor's Art Award, the Lila Wallace Readers Digest Fund-Artist at Giverny Fellowship, two Artslink Collaborative Projects Fellowships (Kazakhstan), the Rosebud Best of Show Film and Video Award (with Matt Dibble), and the Michigan Faculty Fellowship at the Institute for the Humanities. This coming summer, Prof. Chung will have co-instructed the Harvard Summer School-Korea program's course on film and filmmaking in Korea with Harvard faculty for three years.

Abstract

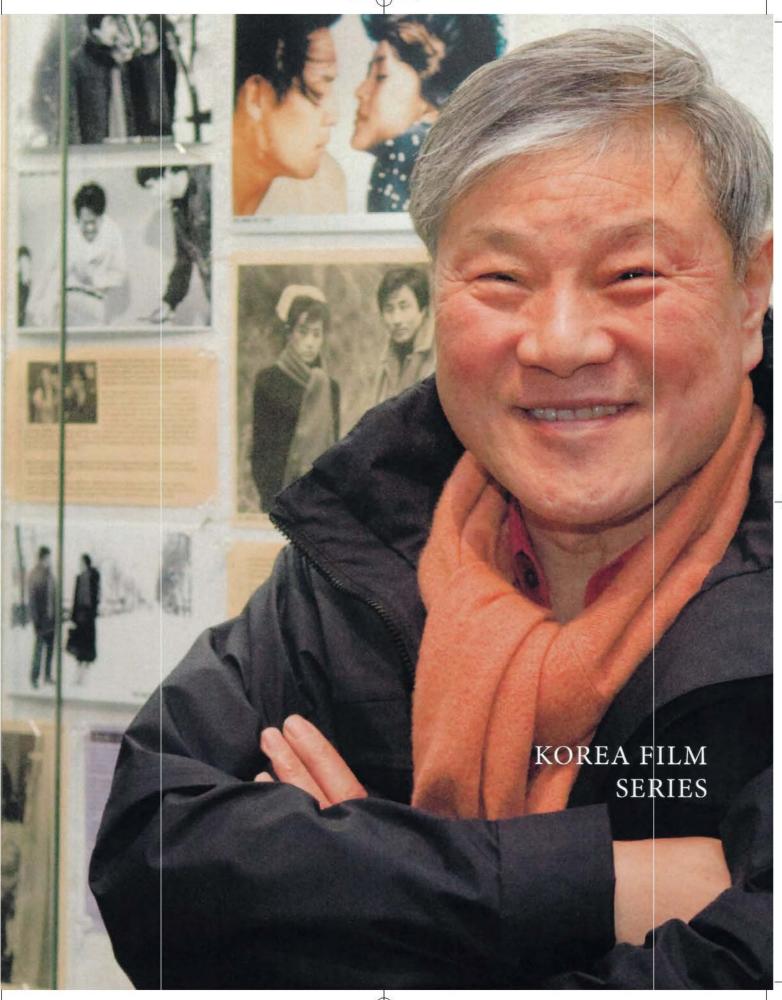
Almost 6.8 million Koreans live outside their home country. Whether driving a taxi in Sao Paolo, growing cabbages in Almaty, writing songs in Moscow, operating drycleaning shops in Los Angeles, or running bulgogi taco trucks in D.C., Koreans can be found around the world. Large Korean communities are located in China, Japan, the former Soviet Union, Southeast Asia, South America and the United States. However, in comparison with other diasporas comprising Jewish, Chinese, African, or Armenian peoples, the dispersal of the Korean population is a relatively modern occurrence that traces back only



to the mid-nineteenth century. Koreans left their homeland both voluntarily and by forcible removal due to poor farming conditions, famine, colonialism and political persecution. After independence from Japan in 1945, many Koreans returned to take part in building the new nation, while many thousands of others elected to remain in their adopted countries. New waves of emigration were spurred by war, dictatorship and economic instability. Until recently, little has been researched or documented about the lives of these diasporic Koreans. What



political and economic alliances did they form while living abroad? How were Korean traditions of life, including language and religious beliefs, maintained or assimilated into the host culture and what were the other challenges faced by the Korean diaspora? David Chung will outline the ideas behind conceiving an archive of the Korean diaspora and the urgency of documenting those with living memories of their displacement or emigration.













Art Cinema as Rebellion. Three Films by Lee Jang-ho APRIL 13-15, 2013



One of the seminal artists driving the renewal of the Korean cinema that began in the 1970s and reached full flowering in the Korean New Wave of the late 1980s and 1990s, Lee Jang-ho (b.1945) is among the most influential filmmakers of his generation. A mentor to such luminary directors as Park Kwangsu and Jang Sun-woo, Lee received his formative training working as an assistant to the great Shin San-Ok. Lee's long and impressive career as rebellious spirit pushing always against the constraints of draconian government censorship and the dominant tradition of commercial genre formulas began in earnest in the mid-1970s when he banded with a group of like-minded artists and critics to helped launch Young Sang Shi Dae, Korea's first authentic film art movement. Translated literally as "The Era of the Image," Young Sang Shi Dae, was the name Lee and the UCLA-educated director Ha Kilchong gave to the influential film journal that began shortly after the group formed, publishing articles and editorials calling for a new

brand of art film able to awaken the unrealized potential of the Korean cinema. Forging a tight network of young filmmakers, screenwriters and actors in their 20s and 30s, Young Sang Shi Dae also brought together performers and artists from the theater and art worlds, creating an unprecedentedly rich cross-pollination among the new generation who would not only witness but participate actively in the profound transformation of Korean cinema and culture after the fall of the military dictatorship.

In key films such as his visionary The Man With Three Coffins, Lee embraced a bold mode of free narrative, exploring as much an elusive mood as the haunting theme of dislocation and profound loneliness that informs the best films of the period. Largely unavailable and unseen in the US, the films of Lee Jang-ho remain difficult to see even in Korea due to complexities of copyright and prints, the vestiges of the upheaval that took place in the film industry in the Seventies and Eighties. In defiance of the obstacles placed in the way of a larger retrospective,



the Harvard Film Archive offers a suite of three seminal films in Lee's oeuvre as an intervention, a tribute and an urgently needed introduction to one of the Korean cinema's most influential voices. (From Harvard Film Archive Website)

All screenings were held at the Harvard Film Archive in the Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy Street, co-sponsored by the Harvard Film Archive and the Korea Institute, and supported by the Kim Koo Foundation Fund at the Korea Institute, Harvard University.

April 13, 2013: The Man With Three Coffins (Nageune-neun Gir-eseodo Swiji Anneunda)

April 14, 2013: Euodong

April 15, 2013: Good Windy Day (Balam Bureo Joheun Nal)

KI EVENT VIDEOS AND VIMEO CHANNEL



Most of the Korea Institute events are now video recorded, and posted on the KI Vimeo Channel at http://vimeo.com/channels/koreainstitute.

The videos are partly funded by the Kim Koo Foundation.