

# Social Movements and the Political Polarization of South Korea and Taiwan

**Date** | Tuesday, April 21, 2015

**Time** | 12:00pm - 1:30pm

**Location** | Room 120, C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall, Vancouver, BC



## ABSTRACT

There has been a widespread perception that politics in South Korea and Taiwan have become increasingly polarized in recent elections. Are the electorates in both countries also polarized, and if so, what are the sources of this polarization? I briefly discuss some common causes of the recent social movements in both countries -- i.e., the candlelight protests in Korea (2008) and the Sunflower movement in Taiwan (2014) -- and identify some similarities and differences between Korea and Taiwan in the patterns of political cleavages. Discontent regarding democratic representation is closely associated with cold feelings toward the ruling right-wing party in each country; and I argue this may reflect the persistence of a softer version of the old pro-democracy vs. anti-democracy cleavage that originated during the pre-democratic period.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Hyunji Lee, is a Visiting Researcher at IAR. Hyunji's research focus is concentrated on public opinion and policies about issues that entail risk and uncertainty; impacts of parties and electoral systems on policy-making (South Korea and Taiwan); and gender differences in public opinion.

## CO-SPONSORS

Centre for Korean Research, The Institute of Asian Research

## RSVP LINK

A light lunch will be provided for those who RSVP

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