

THE CENTRE FOR KOREAN RESEARCH PROUDLY PRESENTS

***A Fugitive
Christian Public:
Singing, Sentiment,
and Socialization
in Colonial Korea***

By Dr. Hyun Kyong Hannah Chang
University of Sheffield

Friday, January 24, 2020

3:30 p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Place of Many Trees, Liu Institute for Global Issues
6476 NW Marine Drive, Vancouver, V6T 1Z2



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Public Policy and Global Affairs
Institute of Asian Research



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Abstract

Well-known songs of colonial Korea such as "Kagop'a" and "Pongsŏnhwa" appear to be secular songs, but their origins lie in the complex intersection of North American Christian missions, Korean cultural life, and Japanese colonial rule. This talk explores the historical significance of secular sentimental songs in colonial Korea (1910-1945), a practice that originated in mission schools and churches. It is at these sites that North American missionaries and Christian Koreans converged around song-writing, song-publishing, and vocal performance. Missionary music teachers such as Annie L. Baird and Louise Becker and their Korean associates relied on secular sentimental songs to cultivate a new kind of psychological interior associated with a modern subjectivity. In particular, Dr. Chang examine vernacular song collections from the 1910s, which give a glimpse into the formation of a new intimate space of music-textual collaboration. This space was partly formed by Christianity's new fugitive status in this decade under the uncertainty of an emergent colonial rule. This talk is part of a larger project that traces the genealogy of Korean vernacular modernity back to the aesthetic, social, and sentimental activities of singing in the colonial period.

Bio

Hyun Kyong Hannah Chang is Lecturer in Korean Studies at the University of Sheffield. She is a musicologist and historian with research interest in sociocultural formations in trans-Pacific Korea. Her research examines nineteenth- and twentieth-century Korea within the intertwined histories of the U.S., Japan, and Korea, paying attention to the aspects of musical diffusion that intersected with the history of empires and the formations of new selfhoods. Currently, she is writing a book entitled *A Vocal Interior: Korean Hymns and Prayers between the US and Japanese Empires*. She has published on music and Korean Christianity, Japanese school music in colonial Korea, and Korean popular music.



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