

MeToo in Asia

Friday, March 11, 2022

Virtual Symposium (Part 1)

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/3sD21p0>

Organized by the Centre for the Study of Korea and co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology, the Asian Institute's Global Taiwan Studies Program, the Centre for South Asian Studies, the Dr. David Chu Program in Asia-Pacific Studies, University of Toronto, and WIND Toronto Korean Feminist Collective

9:00-9:05am EST

Introduction & Opening Remarks

Hae Yeon Choo

*Interim Director, Centre for the Study of Korea;
Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Toronto*

9:05-10:35am EST

Panel 1: MeToo in East Asia

Chang-Ling Huang

Professor of Political Science, National Taiwan University

"Why Asia's Most Gender Equal Country Has No MeToo Movement?: The Case of Taiwan"

Hae Yeon Choo

*Interim Director, Centre for the Study of Korea;
Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Toronto*

"From Madwomen to Whistleblowers: MeToo in South Korea as an Institutional Critique"

Di Wang

PhD candidate in Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"#MiTu: The social and political costs of becoming an anti-sexual harassment activist in China"

Jesook Song (Chair)

Professor of Anthropology, University of Toronto

Vanita Reddy (Discussant)

Associate Professor of English, Texas A&M University

10:50am-12:00pm EST

Panel 2: MeToo in South Asia

Chaitanya Lakkimsetti

Associate Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University

*"Stripping Away at Respectability:
#MeToo India and the Politics of Dignity"*

Ayesha Khurshid

*Associate Professor of Gender and Education,
Florida State University*

*"Na Tuttiya Ve: Spiritual Activism and the
#MeToo Movement in Pakistan"*

Mahua Sarkar (Chair)

Professor of Sociology, University of Toronto

Brenda Cossman (Discussant)

*Professor of Law and Goodman-Schipper Chair,
University of Toronto*

MeToo in Asia

Friday, March 11, 2022

Virtual Symposium (Part 2)

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/34Qpvz4>

Organized by the Centre for the Study of Korea and co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology, the Asian Institute's Global Taiwan Studies Program, the Centre for South Asian Studies, the Dr. David Chu Program in Asia-Pacific Studies, University of Toronto, and WIND Toronto Korean Feminist Collective

7:30-8:30pm EST

Poetry Reading by **Choi Young-Mi** & Conversation with the Poet

(Chair: **Janet Poole**, East Asian Studies, U of T)

Choi Young-Mi is a poet and novelist from the Republic of Korea, and is one of the defining figures who ignited the #MeToo movement in Korea.



8:30-9:30pm EST

Conversation with **Garam Kangyu** and **Somyi Yi**, Directors of *After MeToo*

(Chair: **Michelle Cho**, East Asian Studies, U of T)

Garam Kangyu is a feminist filmmaker based in South Korea, and a co-founder of the Alternative Cultural Club, Youngheeya Nolja.

Somyi Yi is a filmmaker based in South Korea, whose work centers on the power of marginalized lives and voices.

#After MeToo (South Korea, 2021, Documentary, 84 minutes)

DIRECTORS: **PARK Sohyun, YI Somyi, KANGYU Garam, Soram**



Photo credit: provided by the Seoul International Women's Film Festival



박소현 _ 여고괴담 강유가람 _ 이후의 시간
이슬이 _ 100. 나는 몸과 마음이건강해졌다 소람 _ 그레이섹스
프로듀서 _ 박혜미 남순아

PLEASE NOTE:

After the registration, a link for streaming the documentary will be sent via email on **February 21**, as part of the Zoom meeting registration confirmation, and the documentary can be viewed **from February 21 to March 11, 2022**, before the conversation with the directors.

Virtual Symposium: MeToo in Asia

Friday, March 11, 2022

Register here for Part 1: <https://bit.ly/3sD21p0>

Register here for Part 2: <https://bit.ly/34Qpvz4>

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Symposium Program

PART 1

9:00am-9:05am EST **Introduction & Opening Remarks**

9:05am-10:35am EST **Panel 1: MeToo in East Asia**

- **Chang-Ling Huang:** *Why Asia's Most Gender Equal Country Has No MeToo Movement?: The Case of Taiwan*
- **Hae Yeon Choo:** *From Madwomen to Whistleblowers: MeToo in South Korea as an Institutional Critique*
- **Di Wang:** *#MiTu: The social and political costs of becoming an anti-sexual harassment activist in China*

Chair: **Jesook Song**

Discussant: **Vanita Reddy**

10:50am-12:00pm EST **Panel 2: MeToo in South Asia**

- **Chaitanya Lakkimsetti:** *Stripping Away at Respectability: #MeToo India and the Politics of Dignity*
- **Ayesha Khurshid:** *Na Tuttiya Ve: Spiritual Activism and the #MeToo Movement in Pakistan*

Chair: **Mahua Sarkar**

Discussant: **Brenda Cossman**

PART 2

7:30pm-8:30pm EST **Poetry Reading by Choi Young-Mi & Conversation with the Poet**

Chair: **Janet Poole**

8:30pm-9:30pm EST *After MeToo* Documentary Screening and Conversation with Directors,

Garam Kangyu and Somyi Yi

Chair: **Michelle Cho**

Documentary Information

#After MeToo (South Korea, 2021, documentary, 84 minutes)

Directors: **PARK Sohyun, YI Somyi, KANGYU Garam, Soram**

SYNOPSIS: How has South Korean society changed since the #MeToo movement shook up the society? Can this question even be answered, in the midst of strong backlash, persistent male alliance, and structural sexism still in place? The film explores the questions and possibilities that the #MeToo movement has left, through the daily lives and voices of women today.

Please Note: The poetry reading and the poet's remarks are in English, along with the Korean original poems. The documentary is in Korean with English subtitles, and a link to the documentary *After MeToo* will be shared with those who registered for this evening session to be viewed from February 21 until March 11 as part of the confirmation email. Please note that the recording, sharing, or capturing the images of the documentary is prohibited. The conversation with the directors will be in Korean with English translation.

Symposium Participants



Choi Young-Mi is a poet and novelist from the Republic of Korea, and is one of the defining figures who ignited the #MeToo movement in Korea. She is the author of poetry collections *At Thirty the Party was Over* (1994, 2015), *Bicycling in Dreamland* (1998), *To The Pigs* (2005, 2014), *Life that has yet to Arrive* (2009), *Things Already Hot* (2013), and *What will not come again* (2019) which includes the poem "Monster" and other #Metoo poems. <http://choiyoungmi.com/>



Michelle Cho is Assistant Professor of East Asian Popular Cultures and Cinema Studies at the University of Toronto. She's published on Asian cinemas and Korean television, video, and pop music in such venues as *Cinema Journal*, *the International Journal of Communication*, *Asian Video Cultures*, and *Rediscovering Korean Cinema*. Her first monograph analyzes millennial South Korean genre cinemas, and her current project theorizes "vicarious media" in K-pop and its fandoms. She is co-editing a volume with Jesook Song on mediations of gender politics in contemporary South Korea. Her public-facing writing on K-pop, fandom, and media convergence can be found online at flowjournal.org, pandemicmedia.meson.press, *Even Magazine*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*.



Hae Yeon Choo is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Decentering Citizenship: Gender, Labor, and Migrant Rights in South Korea* (Stanford University Press, 2016). Her research on gender, intersectionality, citizenship, and urban sociology has appeared in *Gender & Society*, *Sociological Theory*, *positions: asia critique*, *Urban Studies*, and *Feminist Formations*. Her current book project examines social activism in contemporary South Korea as sites of emergent critical social theory and new political imagination. She has translated Audre Lorde's *Sister Outsider* and Patricia Hill Collins's *Black Feminist Thought* into Korean.



Brenda Cossman is Professor of Law and Goodman-Schipper Chair at the University of Toronto. She was Director of U of T's Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies from 2009-2018. Professor Cossman's teaching and scholarly interests include family law, law and gender, and law and sexuality. Her book *The New Sex Wars: Sexual Harm in the Age of #MeToo* is published by NYU Press in 2021. Her publications include *Sexual Citizens: The Legal and Cultural Regulation of Sex and Belonging* (Stanford University Press, 2007), the co-authored *Bad Attitudes on Trial: Pornography, Feminism and the Butler Decision* (University of Toronto Press) and *Censorship and the Arts* (published by the Ontario Association of Art Galleries).



Chang-Ling Huang is a professor of political science at the National Taiwan University. Her research interests are quota politics and women's political representation. She participates in Taiwan's feminist movement and was once the president of the Awakening Foundation, the earliest established feminist organization in post-war Taiwan.



Garam Kangyu is a feminist filmmaker based in South Korea, and a co-founder of the Alternative Cultural Club, *Youngheeya Nolja*. She was the assistant director and film distributor for the feature documentary *The Girl Princes*. She was awarded the Best Korean Documentary Award for her film *My Father's House* at the 3rd DMZ International Documentary Film Festival. In 2013, she collaborated with female documentary filmmakers for the feature documentary *Let's Dance*. She also completed *Itaewon*, a feature documentary about the lives of women having lived in a U.S. military town and their experiences (2016), and *Us, Day by Day* on the everyday lives and activism of young feminist activists in South Korea from the 1990s and the present (2019).



Ayesha Khurshid is an Associate Professor of Gender and Education at Florida State University. Her ethnographic research focuses on gender, culture, and education in Muslim communities, and examines how gendered subjectivities are produced and contested through education in these contexts. Her current research projects explore the lived experiences of women in a rural community of Pakistan and in a Mayan Muslim community in Chiapas, Mexico.

Symposium Participants



Chaitanya Lakkimsetti is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the Texas A&M University with a faculty affiliation in Women's and Gender Studies. She is the author of *Legalizing Sex: Sexual Minorities, AIDS, and Citizenship in India* (NYU Press, 2020). Her work at the intersections of sexuality, law, and social movements also appears in *Feminist Formations*, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, *Sexualities*, *positions: asia critique*, and *Qualitative Sociology*. She is also the co-curator of the dossier "#MeToo and Transnational Gender Justice" for the journal *Feminist Formations* (2021). Her current work "Sex, Death, and the Law" explores the impact of carceral state agendas on discourses around rape and sexual violence in India.



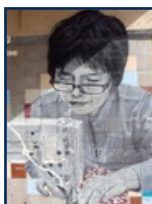
Janet Poole teaches Korean literature and literary translation at the University of Toronto. Her exploration of Korean modernist writers' response to Japanese fascist occupation during the Pacific War appeared as *When the Future Disappears: The Modernist Imagination of Late Colonial Korea* (Columbia University Press, 2014) and was awarded the 2015 Modernist Studies Association Book Prize. She is translator of the mid-twentieth century writer Yi T'aejun and has published a collection of his anecdotal essays (*Eastern Sentiments*, Columbia University Press, paperback edition, 2013) and a selection of his short stories written during the Pacific War and the early years of the Democratic People's Republic (*Dust and Other Stories*, Columbia University Press, 2018). Her most recent project is titled, "Going North and the History of Korean Modernism."



Vanita Reddy is associate professor of English at Texas A&M University with a faculty affiliation in women's and gender studies. Her research examines practices of cultural identity, belonging, and political community within the South Asian American and the global South Asian diaspora. She has published widely on beauty and fashion cultures in diasporic communities, and is the author of *Fashioning Diaspora: Beauty, Femininity, and South Asian American Culture* (Temple University Press, 2016). She is also the coeditor of a special issue of the journal *The Feminist and Scholar Online*, "Queer and Feminist Afro-Asian Formations" (2018), and has just completed co-editing (with Chaitanya Lakkimsetti) a dossier on the transnational Metoo movement for the journal *Feminist Formations* (Winter 2021). She is currently writing a book about comparative South Asian diasporas from a feminist and queer perspective, tentatively titled *Global Intimacies*.



Mahua Sarkar is a professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto. Before joining the faculty at the University of Toronto in 2021, she was Professor of Sociology, and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Binghamton University, New York. A historical sociologist by training, Professor Sarkar's research and teaching is interdisciplinary and spans a range of topics including contemporary guest-work regimes with particular focus on Bangladeshi male migrants; gestational surrogacy as a new form of racialized and gendered labour; free and unfree/constrained work under global capitalism; religious nationalisms in South Asia; Muslim and Hindu identity formation and the gender question in late colonial Bengal; and epistemological debates underlying qualitative research methods. Her current writing project is an advanced monograph entitled *Bidesh Kara (Going Abroad): Bangladeshi Contract Migrants and Contemporary Guest Work*.



Jesook Song is Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on contemporary urban transformation and welfare issues, including homelessness, youth unemployment, single women's housing, mental health in South Korea. She is author of *South Koreans in the Debt Crisis: The Creation of a Neoliberal Welfare Society* (Duke University Press, 2009) and *Living on Your Own: Single Women, Rental Housing, and Post-Revolutionary Affect in Contemporary South Korea* (SUNY Press, 2014), *On the Margins of Urban South Korea: Core Location as Method and Praxis* (University of Toronto Press 2019, co-edited with Laam Hae).



Di Wang is a feminist researcher and advocate from China. She is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. Her ten years of experience as a women's and LGBTQ rights advocate have informed her research, which has been published in *Law & Social Inquiry*, *China Law and Society Review*, *Qualitative Inquiry*, *ChinaFile*, *lambda nordica*, and elsewhere.



Somyi Yi is a filmmaker based in South Korea, whose work centers on the power of marginalized lives and voices. She directed "100. My body and body became healthy," as part of the documentary *After MeToo* (2021), which follows the lives of Park Jongsun who later came to terms with the identity of victims of sexual violence later in life in her 40s, offering a poignant account of the power of her language. *After MeToo* premiered in documentary af. Her earlier work, *Observation and Memory* (2018), an autobiographical documentary about sexual harassment from the past in the absence of evidence, received the Grand Prix (KAFA) award in 2019 at the Busan International Short Film Festival, and was featured in several South Korean and international film festivals.