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scribe

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CULTURE | POLITICS | SCHOOL

IDFW 2017 | Yonsei Social Innovation Networking Night  
The CODA Exhibition | Farewell, New Millennium Hall  
International Alumni Interviews. | Passion. Disconnected

ZEITGEIST

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## Dean's Message



Professor. Taeyoon Sung  
Dean, Underwood International College  
Yonsei University

Greetings to everyone at UIC! I hope you had a wonderful winter break and are looking forward to the new semester. Our faculty and staff are especially excited to welcome the Freshmen Class of 2018 and hope that they will become an integral part of UIC's dynamic student community.

While I have been with UIC since its inception—as Chair of Economics, Head of Underwood Division, and Associate Dean—I am greatly honored to be helming UIC as Dean as of this Spring semester. Having participated in the very early planning stages of UIC, at a time when the concept of a liberal arts college was entirely novel and without precedent in Korea, it has been extremely rewarding and inspiring to see UIC grow into the world-class liberal arts college that it is today. I strongly believe that our position as a national leader in reinventing liberal arts education could not have been achieved without the tremendous efforts of our faculty, staff, and, last but not least, students. As Dean, I will continue to further our dedication to intellectual discovery and diverse and vibrant community so that we may all be proud to be a part of UIC.

All faculty and staff are currently occupied with preparations for the 2018 Commencement in February. I have no doubt that our graduates are well-equipped with skills and qualifications required to succeed and prosper in their careers and journeys in life. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our graduates and wish them all the best for the future.

This edition of the *UIC Scribe* features a variety of articles on UIC life as well as on global politics and culture. Whether you are looking for something specific or just casually browsing, I hope that you will enjoy learning more about our diverse programs and our many accomplished students, faculty, and staff. I would like to express my gratitude to the editors, writers, and staff members of the *Scribe* for their dedication to publishing such a remarkable edition.



The UIC SCRIBE  
2017 - 2 Editor-In-Chief

Ji Hyun Bang  
International Studies  
Class of 15

Zeitgeist refers to “the spirit of the time” or “the spirit of the age.” The definition of this term is rather unambiguous. It is nothing but a combination of the German word Zeit [time] with Geist [spirit]. What makes Zeitgeist so important and interesting, to the extent that it has been chosen as the theme of this issue, is the profound message beneath the veneer of its simplicity that G. W. F. Hegel conveys in his *Phenomenology of Spirit* (1907).

A common understanding of Zeitgeist is a hodgepodge of everything representing a specific era—from cultural, ethical, intellectual, philosophical and political issues delineated in writings and philosophies to comparable ambience, moods, morals, and trends. This interpretation indeed epitomizes Hegel's philosophy of history, as philosophy cannot distance itself from time in Hegelian terms.

For Hegel, however, Zeitgeist is more than a summation of the current status quo: what he advocates instead is the need for endless endeavor to critically challenge, overcome, and transcend all things to which we are bound. With inquisitive eyes, we must make pauses to be cognizant of the changes that surround us and their impact upon our lives. Otherwise, we may miss the opportunity to fashion and frame a Zeitgeist by which we all wish to live in the future.

There is only one problem with this message: it is far easier said, or written, than done. Conforming to the norms at least gives a sense of security coming from a sense of belonging. After all, if Zeitgeist denotes the spirit of the age, it implies that it is shared by the majority living in the same society at the same time. And considering that our world has reached the pinnacle of globalization, the lure of joining the “mainstream” becomes ever more irresistible.

This desire to leave “the spirit of our time” unquestioned increases especially in times of uncertainty. We fear of becoming “bare lives.” We hesitate to turn ourselves into pioneers when we are busy consuming the culture of fierce competition, assuring ourselves that we must master the rules of a game before we can become masters of the very game we play. In fact, efficiency and expediency advocated by our society seem to have often overridden consistency and integrity—two values that may seem antiquated but that I cherish the most notwithstanding.

Being a reckless firebrand is not what I intend to suggest. Making careful observations of our surroundings can be our first step, which is precisely what this publication aims to achieve. Articles covering politically controversial domestic affairs, major international events, ideological conundrums, changes undergone—and to undergo—at

## Editor-in-Chief Message

UIC, a variety of reviews, and even some thoughts about daily routines altogether involved and revealed our efforts to critically engage with what we see today.

It is my heartfelt hope that our newly-launched website (<https://yonseiucscribe.com/>) will help broaden and deepen the discourse regarding the spirit of our time. I also wish that the dedication and hard work exerted by every writer, designer, and editor will contribute to creating a better Zeitgeist within and beyond UIC to ultimately bear fruit that we can all be proud of. Last but not least, I truly hope that reading this publication can encourage you to pause for a moment and think about your own understanding of Zeitgeist.

Sincerely,  
Ji Hyun Bang



# Farewell,

N E W  
M I L L E N N I U M  
H A L L

2018. 01. 03

written by **Elijah Lee**

*This article highlights select portions from the following public emails sent by the 12th UIC Student Council "Solidity" to all UIC students: "Public Hearing Session regarding UIC Relocation (documents)" [sent September 11, 2017] and "Update on Building Relocation" [sent November 10, 2017]. For more information, please refer to these emails.*

New Millennium Hall (NMH) has been the home of Underwood International College (UIC) ever since the college first opened classes in 2006. For over a decade, NMH faithfully housed UIC students, faculty, and administration. In 2018, however, UIC bids farewell to NMH, as the college relocates to Daewoo International Hall (DIH). "Daewoo" commemorates the Daewoo Group that funded the initial construction of DIH (formerly Daewoo Annex Hall) decades before its recent renovation, while "International Hall" symbolizes the identity of UIC.

Former Dean Jin-bae Chung remarked that renovation was chosen over the construction of a new building due to a "serious lack of space" in the Sinchon campus. He stated, "Having an independent building is important for the identity of UIC. The location is great. We are moving toward the center of the campus. Nobody will know of our presence if we stay in NMH. It is like being on our own island."

The Dean pointed out that additional benefits of the relocation include a 15% increase in space, modern facilities with "humanistic, student-centered design," a pleasant environment for UIC professors who "have had semi-basement offices in NMH," and "a sense of family" by having all UIC students, faculty, and administrative members in one building.

Yet, this decision to relocate was not without criticism.

Bio-Convergence (BC) Major Representative Eui Young Kim expressed concern for UIC independence, asking, "Some spaces in the fourth and fifth floors of DIH are designated to other non-UIC entities. How can you explain that?"

Associate Dean of Planning Samyoul Lee replied that UIC must share DIH with the College of Commerce and Economics because DIH was initially funded by one of its alumni. He further noted that the relocation "is not a territorial war."

BC Major Representative Eui Young Kim also criticized administrative favoritism towards students within the Underwood Division (UD) by stating, "While there is a UD student room in the basement of DIH, no facility bearing the name of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Field (HASS) or Integrated Science and Engineering Field (ISED) can be found. I think that is a major problem."

The Former Dean responded, "According to school regulation, UD students stay in the Sinchon campus for four years until their graduation while HASS and ISED students spend most of their time in the International Campus. That is why we have a spatial separation. Nevertheless, when HASS

and ISED students come to Sinchon, they will feel at home in DIH."

Political Science and International Relations (PSIR) Major Vice-Representative Ha Rim Choi expressed disappointment that, although UIC students pay twice the tuition of other non-UIC Yonsei majors, the space within DIH has to be shared with non-UIC entities.

The Associate Dean of Planning replied, "UIC's double tuition was not a factor for consideration in the move. Whereas the 30 billion won donated by alumni and students from the Business Administration contributed to the construction of the School of Business, UIC alumni and students contributed nothing to the construction of DIH."

The relocation from NMH to DIH mirrors the past relocation of UIC from Sinchon to Songdo campus. Tensions between administration and students are inevitable, as conflicting visions for improving the college persist. Nevertheless, the intention to create a better UIC is shared by all, and it is this wish we share in common that can bridge our differences.





# UIC's New Admissions Policy for Suneung-Takers

2017. 11. 25

written by **Hyunjae Lee**

The cold winter brisk of November signals the nearing end of the year. It also marks the beginning of university admissions. As it does annually, the season of university admissions has returned at Yonsei University, with a slight change in its college admissions policy for the Underwood International College. The 2018 UIC admissions policy is now admitting 15 UIC applicants through a newly created admissions system with qualification standards for Suneung, otherwise known as College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT).

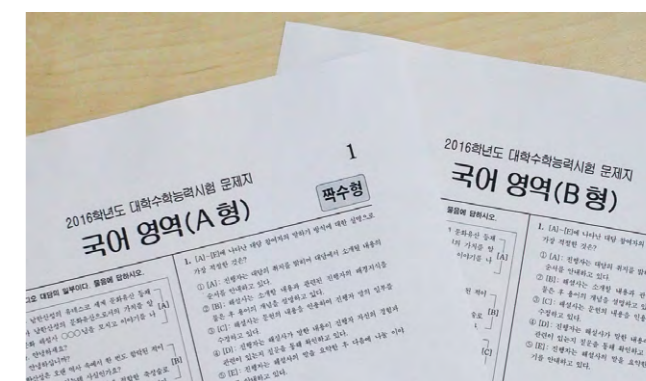
Initially, all UIC applications went through a *susi* admission system, in which no Suneung requirements were needed for applications. Students would go through two rounds of examinations. And they are required to submit certain documents for the first round, which are then evaluated and given a score. The necessary documents include the applicants' permanent high school records—which display their grades, rankings, and in-school activities—and a cover letter, which consists of a 600-word essay in English. The

2018 UNDERWOOD INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE ADMISSION PLAN					
FIELD/ DIVISION	THE NUMBER TO BE ADMITTED.		JUNGSU	TOTAL	
	DOMESTIC HIGH SCHOOL	INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL			
UNDERWOOD DIVISION (UD)	HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES	112	40	5	157
	LIFE SCIENCE & BIOTECHNOLOGY		15		15
HASS (HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FIELD)		82	68	6	156
ASIAN STUDIES DIVISION		20			20
INTEGRATED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DIVISION		53	25	4	82
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>415</b>			<b>426</b>

selected students from the first round then enter a second round, in which the aggregate scores of document evaluation and student interviews are measured. 70% of the total score accounts for scores marked from the first round, whereas the remaining 30% reflects students' performance during interviews.

All high school graduates, regardless of their year or place of graduation are eligible to apply in this new system, given that they meet the qualification standards for the Suneung. Applicants should take no less than six Suneung subjects, which include Korean Language, Mathematics, English, two subjects from Social Studies or Sciences, and Korean History. In order to apply, students taking Mathematics A (designed for the Natural Sciences track) must attain a total of Grade 8 or less. Students taking Mathematics B (designed for Liberal Arts students) must receive an added total of Grade 7 or less in four subjects of their choosing. Further requirements include a Grade 3 or less in Korean history and a Grade 2 or less in English.

As a side-note for those who aren't familiar with the Suneung system, the Suneung currently divides students into nine grades according to their test scores, Grade 1 being the top grade. Since Suneung is based on a relative grading system on a fixed scale, it is not always the case that students scoring 90~100 will receive the Grade 1. Instead, national percentile ranks are taken into consideration and accumulation rates are utilized to divide grades. Scores that receive a Grade 1 nationally rank top 1~4%. Scores receiving a Grade 2 will range until 11%, and those receiving a Grade 3 will range until 23% and so on down the list.



This new UIC admissions policy states that applicants will undergo a similar process of evaluation as do the UIC *susi* applicants, by going through two rounds of document evaluation and interviews. The evaluation methods are also consistent. Suneung scores will only be utilized for setting standard qualifications and when selecting between students of equal scores. In order words, the Suneung minimal standards will be later applied once the scores from the students' documents evaluations and interviews are added up.

UIC admissions for aspiring applicants who wish to take the Suneung and become UIC students must have their Suneung scores ready. The admission period lasts four days from December 30th to January 2nd, and interviews will be held on January 13th, 2018. The 15 accepted students will be announced on January 26th of next year.



YONSEI  
UNIVERSITY

YONSEI  
UNIVERSITY



# Ice Hockey to Seal the First YonKo Games Victory in Seven Years

**2017. 10. 02**

written by Ji Yoon Lee

The decisive game ended with a 5-1 win over Korea University, marking Yonsei University's first YonKo Games victory in seven years.

The first period started off with a powerful shot from Yonsei by Sang-Won Kim at about 00:20 but was deflected by Korea's goaltender Yeon-Seung Lee. Yonsei was on the power play when Korea's Young-Jun Seo was off the ice for the delayed penalty at 16:45 and the first period ended without any goals from both sides. Yonsei grabbed a 1-0 lead in the second period when Byung-Gun Kim received the puck from Hyung-Chul Song with an assist from Ji-Hyun Cho at 27:43, silencing the Korea University's cheering crowds. But soon, Yonsei was on a penalty kill as Wun-Jae Choi was sent to the penalty box for minor penalties.

The second period ended with 2-0 with Ji-Hyun Cho stuffing a puck with help from Hyung-Cul Song and Hee-Du Nam at 39:49, just 11 seconds before the end of the second period.



Yonsei and Korea started the last period with fierce tension. A sequence of shootings continued until Ju-Hyung Lee scored at 42:16. He shot a puck that came from Jong-Min Lee. Yonsei's Ju-Hyung Lee got his stick on a puck, which Jong-Min Lee shot but was then deflected off the goalpost, leading Yonsei to the fourth goal of the game at 42:16. Tensions continued but without progress for a while as Yonsei was on a penalty kill for the minor penalty of Hee-Du Nam.

The game was suspended when Korea's Seok-Jin Lee was injured. Yonsei's Jong-Min Lee scored his swift second goal of the game at 49:49 by stuffing home a Chong-Hyun Lee's feed.

When Chong-Hyun Lee made it 5-0 at 55:32 by wristing home his first goal of the game with help from Woon-Jae Choi and Ye-Jun Kim, the victory of Yonsei became certain as it was heading toward the end of the game with 4:28 left. With 1:51 left, face-off took place in Yonsei's side and Jae-Hee Lee from Korea University shot a puck that went into the goal at 58:11.

A promising season undoubtedly awaits the Yonsei ice hockey team with talented players from various ages and backgrounds. Winner of the first goal, Byung-Gun Kim is a sophomore who has successfully maintained his amazing performance from last season. Ji-Hyun Cho, a junior who scored the second goal, showed noteworthy work as the center, stably leading the team. Ju-Hyung Lee and Jong-Min Lee, albeit relatively young as freshmen, respectively scored the third and the fourth goal, not to mention showing an energetic play throughout the game. The last goal came from Chong-Hyun Lee, a junior who also runs for the national team. It is yet decided whether Chong-Hyun Lee will be running as a Yonsei player for the next season or be training as the national team player.

In the end, it was the teamwork. Players were fully immersed in the game when on the ice and the four lines were timely substituted, which eventually brought out the best potential of the players.





# Where Yonsei Made History

2017. 10. 02

written by Byung Sung Park

*Soccer was the last game that left a final mark on a new history of Yonsei University. The score was 1 to 1 when the clock was indicating the 90th minute with the ball still in the play. As every second ticked, everyone was anxiously gazing at the ball, wondering when it would hit the net. Suddenly, Yonsei's Ha Seung Un (#11) drove the ball into the net right before the game came to an end. The long-awaited triumph was there within a second. It was truly the fruit of hard work that could not, and should not, be taken for granted.*



## Korea University's Initiative

Korea University (Korea) brought a formation of 3-5-2 while Yonsei University (Yonsei) brought 4-3-3. During the first half, Korea tried to take the initiative by pressuring Yonsei midfielders past the half-line. With a very fast paced passing, Korea midfielders shook Yonsei's organization. Korea wingers could then exploit the gap between Yonsei center backs and wing backs. Then, Korea would penetrate the flanks and cross the ball to the center, which resulted in a perilous situation for Yonsei. With a similar pattern, Korea continued to overwhelm Yonsei defenses by penetrating to the flanks with great passes and physiques.

To continue the initiative, Korea pushed its entire formation past the half-line even further to place more constraints on Yonsei players. Yonsei tried to launch a fast counter attack but Korea's continuous pressure forced mistakes on Yonsei players that caused turnovers. Korea midfielders capitalized on those mistakes and practiced the same offensive pattern of penetrating the flanks. Korea managed to maintain the coherent formation that enabled each player to assist one another. For the first 25 minutes, it seemed as if Korea was on the verge of scoring.

But the first half eventually ended with no goals. It was a loss for Korea while a gain for Yonsei. Korea could not capitalize on their early lead by failing to score a goal. And due to such incessant pressure and aggressive plays, Korea players consumed more stamina compared to Yonsei players who tended to stay more defensive. Yonsei had an opportunity to seize the initiative.

## Yonsei University's Counter Attack

During the second half of the game, Yonsei managed to recover and reorganize their formations through aggressive passes and plays that created cracks between Korea formation. At the 51st minute, Yonsei's Lee Jung Mun (#6) connected Doo Hyun Suck's (#13, Captain) corner kick with a header that drove the ball into the net. Yonsei finally grabbed a 1-0 lead, resulting in further initiatives. Yonsei's Yu Jung Wan (#19) acted as a playmaker who promptly carried the ball

past the half-line; he then gave accurate passes to center and flanks that granted Yonsei forwards the opportunities to take shots on the goal.

Desperate to equalize, Korea launched fast counter attacks whenever they won the possession. At the 82nd minute, Korea's Sin Jae Won crossed the ball from the left flank to the center and Jo Young Wook finished it with a header (1-1).

That was when both teams reached the heights of their ambitions. Yonsei strived to bring this game to a successful conclusion to write a new history for their school while Korea tried to redeem themselves from their previous four losses. But the crack showed on Korea's defense. At the 92nd minute, Yonsei's Ha Seung Un (#11) dribbled between Korea defenders and his medium-range shot drove the ball into the near post. All that took were few seconds to mark the triumphant end to this game.

## Final Remarks

With the goals led by Ha Seung Un and Lee Jung Mun, Yonsei finalized its complete victory over Korea with 5-0. As this is an unprecedented victory over Korea University, Yonsei players must celebrate their hard-won victory to the fullest extent. Yet, needless to say, they must not forget how to apply their lessons from such successful outcomes to the games that are to come.

Many may question the significance of this game. It may even appear as merely one aspect of inter-university sports. But what we have to realize is that such games provide us with lessons that are as valuable as, if not more than, in-class learning. Valiant efforts by the players to win without knowing the results motivated us to cheer for them likewise. Ha Seung Un's last minute goal showed us to push ourselves even harder in the last minute no matter how uncertain the future may seem. Their efforts that we, as the spectators, eye-witnessed truly exemplified the spirit of persistence. The wins are precious. But what matters more is their true demonstration of sportsmanship and their ceaseless endeavors that continue after the victory.



Bruce Lee

STUDENT WOMEN

STUDENT  
RESIDENT  
COUNCIL



# Yonsei's Hong Kong *Alumni* Network

2017. 10. 10

written by Hyeong Jin Lee

There are many reasons why aspiring university students wish to enroll into Yonsei University: the chance to be taught by esteemed faculty members, the prestige of the Yonsei brand, and, perhaps most importantly, the networking opportunities. The question is whether Yonsei University could actually help those who left South Korea build connections given its relatively limited renown abroad. To this, the following story can clarify such lingering doubts.

Thanks to the internship opportunity provided by the Underwood International College (UIC) exclusive "Three Campus Comparative East Asian Studies Program," I managed to work as an intern at a firm in Hong Kong for two months. Within the first week of the internship, an important-looking figure came to the area where the interns were working and asked for me. I stood up and the man immediately wrapped his arm around me in a brotherly way and told me in Korean that he was a Yonsei alumnus.

This Yonsei alumnus, who has been living in Hong Kong for nearly a decade, also introduced me to a prominent Yonsei alumni community in Hong Kong. The community would hold several events such as occasional picnics, the Hong Kong YonKo games against Hong Kong's Korea University Alumni committee, and biannual "Happy Hour" gatherings during which senior alumni members would rent out a bar and provide drinks and food for younger alumni. These events were undoubtedly great networking opportunities to meet senior accomplished Yonsei alumni members and young alumni alike.

With no immediate plans to stay in Hong Kong after graduation, I was nonetheless invited by my Yonsei senior at the internship to attend one of the biannual "Happy Hour" gatherings towards the end of the summer internship. The venue was at the heart of Soho, one of the rich hip areas where affluent youth spent their evenings. Each guest was given two drink coupons and a copious amount of pizza and chicken. Everyone who arrived at the event first visited the table where the senior alumni members were seated. Such alumni consisted of individuals holding senior management positions in firms such as but not limited to: Mirrae Asset Global Investments, JP Morgan Chase, BNP Paribas, and Morgan Stanley.

As the night went on, younger alumni exchanged greetings and discussed the reasons why they decided to stay in Hong Kong. One alumnus told me how another member of this community bought a group of products his company was selling, which made the business even more profitable for a few months. Another alumnus told me that if I found working life in Hong Kong appealing, I should contact him before graduation so that he could connect me with the right alumnus. While a bit inebriated, he further said: "The Yonsei alumni community is tight! We help each other out in this place."

Strangely enough, surrounded by the Yonsei alumni whom I had not expected nor imagined of encountering, I found myself immersed to the melodies of "I Love You, Yonsei" that one of the alumni sang in the streets of Soho for an hour on a Thursday evening. And I knew that the sense of community that Yonsei University offers could truly transcend borders.



--- ARISTOTLE EVENT ---

CRAZY ARCADE

2017. 10. 10

written by Sohyang Yun

Aristotle House is the international house at the Yonsei University International Campus located in Songdo. The value of our house echoes the philosophic notions of Aristotle, who promoted the "good life": the golden medium. Aristotle explains in his Nicomachean Ethics that humans must live a life of virtue and be educated to pursue that virtue. Virtue can be found right in the middle of deficiency and excess, which is the reason why he considered a balanced life as the good life. This balanced life for us in Aristotle house is achieved every time we take time to have fun.

As the hot summer weather waned, we decided to create a memorable event for the Aristotle house freshmen. The event was called "Crazy Arcade" because it comprised of minigames, dodgeballs, and the main event called "shoot the queen."

We tried to manage the games so that everyone could be part of the fun. Aristotle house started off with the "cone hat game", a game of finding balls of different colors and sizes with the cone hats not on their heads but on their faces which made it extremely hard for us to see clearly. Many of us were not able to find the balls with the cones on and wandered off the grounds finding ourselves heading outside the campus grounds.

It did not get any easier in the next mini game—"charades"—where one of us would gesture for the other team members who had to try and figure out what the gesture meant. To make things a bit more physical, we played the hula hoop game where team members had to hold each other's hands in a line and try to make all of their bodies get through the hoop without losing each other's grasp. We all became a team as we struggled together to get through the tiny hoops.

These mini games strengthened our team work and when the two games ended, we were set and ready to be truly active.

The game became even more physical when the Aristotelians began to play dodgeball, but with a special twist which is that there were not two opposite teams, but there were four teams playing against each other and with two balls instead of one. Everyone was determined to keep their teammates alive and was cheering for the ones who managed to stay alive until the end. All of us were sweating and feeling the last bit of summer heat that we had intended to leave behind.



# My experience at Global Korean History Workshop

MEIJI-YONSEI STUDENT SEMINAR  
JIMIN NAM (ASD 14)



## The Third Annual Meiji Yonsei Student Seminar

2017. 10. 15

written by **Phuong Nguyen**

On September 15th, 2017, the annual Meiji-Yonsei Student Seminar was held in New Millennium Hall in the Sinchon campus. With the participation of ten students from Meiji University and around twenty from the UIC Asian Studies department, the seminar was a cooperative success between the schools and of the friendship between Japan and Korea. The ultimate goal of this seminar was to provide a forum where the participants from both countries could explore and discuss culture and politics of Korea and Japan.

Meiji University is a prestigious private university located in Tokyo, Japan. Yonsei University has various programs with several Japanese universities, such as Keio and Waseda University. Since its inception in 2013, a group of Meiji University students travels annually to Korea to foster academic exchange with Yonsei University. After spending two weeks at the Wonju campus where they attend lectures, share thoughts and make presentations, the students from Meiji University then come to Seoul to do sightseeing and attend the annual seminar.

This year, the Meiji students were welcomed with the Asian Studies Student Council Representative Sang Jun Lee's opening statement. Then, Kyuwan Kim (class of 16) gave a thorough presentation about Yonsei University and student life in Korea. From our hectic midterm exam period to the much awaited YonKo Games, the curious eyes of the Japanese students were drawn to the speech.

Jimin Nam (class of 15), the final student presenter from our university, gave a presentation about her summer workshop regarding Ahn Jung-keun, a rather controversial figure; the assassination of Ito Hirobumi carried out by Ahn in 1909 (during Korea's colonial period) is regarded as an act of "heroism" in Korea but one of "terrorism" in Japan. The verdict remains contested. Accordingly, the crux of Nam's presentation warned against understanding history as a matter of right or wrong. Albeit inevitable, being solely judgmental about a historical event must be avoided as this stance can be misleading, thereby deterring us from examining its causes and consequent impacts.

This rather delicate topic opened up room for discussion that drove the seminar to focus on the Japanese colonization of Korea and memory politics. The Japanese students acknowledged that they had learned little about this matter at school but still agreed that what the Japanese imperial government did at the time was wrong. This exchange of opinion enabled the students from both sides to

gain a deeper understanding of one another, which turned into the building of friendships that would last beyond this seminar.

The second half of the seminar was dedicated to comparative presentations by the Meiji students on contemporary issues in the two countries. The first group gave a presentation on job hunting, a concern that most of the students shared. The second group's presentation was about the pension system. To illustrate, last year, Statistics Korea predicted that Korea will become an aged society from the year 2018, making the issue of pension one of the most crucial topics of debate. The last group gave a presentation regarding entertainment, during which famous Japanese animations and the Korean Wave (Hallyu) were compared.

The general atmosphere of this seminar was relaxing yet intriguing. In a time when Korea-Japan relations remain volatile, the academic relationships—as embodied by this seminar—remained as close as ever. Professor Yumi Horikane from Meiji University gave the closing remarks of the seminar. On behalf of Meiji University, she relayed that they were most honored to be welcomed to Korea each year. Further expressing her sincere thoughts on the topic of colonial memory, Professor Horikane highlighted that we should learn from the past and aim for better cooperation and friendship in the future.



WILSON  
SEMINARS

# YONSEI SOCIAL INNOVATION NETWORKING NIGHT

2018. 01. 03

written by Ji Hyun Bang



**W**hat is the Yonsei Center for Social Innovation?

Funded by the Ministry of Education's University for Creative Korea program, the Yonsei Center for Social Innovation (YCSI) aims to foster a new generation of social innovators by offering the Social Innovation Certificate Program and providing support for extra-curricular activities, such as internships, research programs, field trips, scholarships and much more. The Yonsei Innovation Creators' Academia (SICA) is an umbrella organization of the YCSI established within Underwood International College with the intention of fostering young social innovators.

Driven largely by Techno-Art Division (TAD) and Integrated Social Sciences Division (ISSD), the SICA is geared towards exploring the interdisciplinary mission between the two to come up with novel solutions to social problems. It also ensures that the participants understand the values in an active exchange of ideas among differing groups in order to adopt more effective, efficient, ethical, and sustainable approaches. Promoting the well-being of the society as a whole is crucial, which is precisely the overarching aim of social innovation.

**A**bout Yonsei Social Innovation Networking Night

Yonsei Social Innovation Networking Night took place on September 28th, 2017 at The Lounge B110 (Veritas Hall) located at Sinchon Campus Baekyangnuri. The event invited a diverse range of guests including current and former participants of the YCSI and Social Innovator Certificate Program; the SICA and some of its own umbrella members; professors from TAD and ISSD; and several other UIC students and faculty members interested in social innovation.

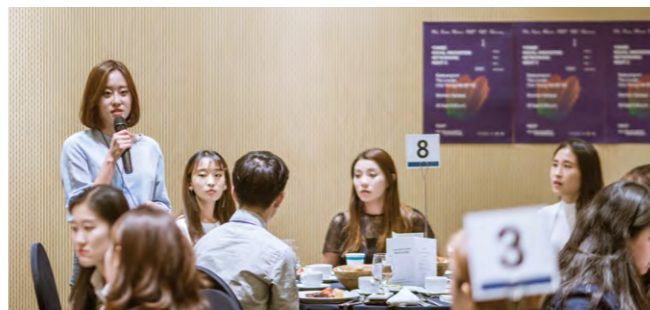
As the members, professors, alumni, and other guests began to arrive at the venue and registered themselves, gourmet finger-food catered by The Lounge was offered. There, old and new acquaintances, bound by a common interest in social innovation, exchanged greetings. Such all-embracing, welcoming discussions served as a natural segue into the presentation put together by the YCSI and proceeded by the much-awaited six-course meal.

Professor Michael Kim was the first speaker with his heartfelt welcome remarks, covering the history of the YCSI, its recent activities and initiatives to bring about true social innovation. He further introduced a wide variety of alumni, who had kindly agreed to attend the occasion in order to share their own experience, managing personal firm, working in the academia, advertising, law, Information Technology, Human Resources, and other specializations and industries.



This event essentially consisted of a series of speeches made by the President and other members of the SICA regarding their projects supported by the YCSI through the means of appropriate subsidies, network connections, and information—all indispensable to initiating and sustaining socially innovative projects and businesses. For instance, *Solvere*, an umbrella group under the SICA, is a student-led academic group of students majoring in Sustainable Development and Cooperation (SDC), all upholding the spirit of *solvere*—“to solve” in Latin—by studying and tackling social issues.

*Collage* is another organization that is supported by the SICA. As a non-profit student-led organization, it aims to deal with the problem of “generational gap” by bridging the younger and older generations. The work carried out by *Collage* take the form of projects, both short-run and long-run, that are created and recorded online by the medium of photographs, videos, and online posts, altogether designed to function as an archive towards a bigger cause. Their mission is to “alleviate the disparity between the two generations and the negative stereotypes they hold towards each other, and ultimately to break down the wall that exists between them,” as articulated by Yesun Shin (class of 16).



Other presentations given by the students included diverse first-hand experience that the presenters had gained. The stories included the work experience at Silicon Valley where the values of risk-taking and cultural diversity were highlighted once more, not to mention the participation in the process of social innovation by a dentistry firm, which makes toothbrushes out of bamboo to build factories and provide jobs for those dependent on the production of toothbrushes as their sole source of income. Other presentations discussed a coffee branding project carried out by some students to expose the true nature of Africa—a home to the lives of extremely impressive people—while other members managed to hold several workshops to help the local people visualize their problems and devise appropriate solutions to become “businesses that make a difference.”

Other achievements that SICA has attained are summarized by Hyunggee Choi (class of 14), who currently serves as the President of SICA:

“In the summer of 2017, SICA carried out plans to nurture social innovators at a global scale through NGO Delegation for Social Innovation to Bangkok, Thailand. The participants were able to gain deeper understanding in various social issues and broaden their view on international relations by visiting UN institutions, such as the UNESCO office. Furthermore, the Global Collaborative Workshop on Social Innovation with CU Innovation Hub encouraged participants to share innovative thoughts with Thai students and provide a chance to network with each other, which we hope will lead to a stronger partnership between the two countries. The workshop aimed to present a ground for students of both South Korea and Thailand to collaborate in thinking up innovative solutions for common social issues. The workshop was an opportunity to bring creative ideas together through open discussions and to interact with other innovative minds of similar interests. SICA believes the experiences of NGO Delegation for Social Innovation contributed to forming a global environment regarding social innovation research in the future.”

To Conclude

Yonsei Social Innovation Networking Night was a basket with more gifts than one could have expected. Not only was it an extremely amicable meeting with delectable food to enjoy, this evening presented some of the transnational, eye-opening progress that the YCSI has accomplished so far. Surrounded by a group of alumni, professors, and members who were all eager to share their thoughts regarding their own projects, we found ourselves already many steps closer to bringing about social innovation towards a more inclusive, innovative, and inspiring future.

For more information regarding Yonsei Center for Social Innovation, please visit: <https://uic.yonsei.ac.kr/ycsi/>





# Yonsei's Step Towards a Sustainable Future

2017. 10. 10

written by Ji Yoon Oh

On September 25th, 2017, the opening ceremony of Yonsei University's new Institute for Global Engagement and Empowerment (IGEE) and the inauguration ceremony of Dr. Ban Ki Moon as its Honorary Chairman were held in the Kumho Art Hall. The IGEE was established by uniting under one roof the numerous missionary and voluntary activities scattered around in different colleges and the Yonsei University Health System. Comprised of the Ban Ki Moon Center for Sustainable Development, the Center for Social Engagement, and the Yonsei Institute for Global Health, the Institute is a declaration of Yonsei University's commitment to engaging in and responding to the challenges the global society faces today.

In his welcoming address, the Yonsei University President Kim Yong Hak articulated the necessity of finding creative, innovative, and integrative solutions to challenge the previously unknown and unexplored. In the wake of the global society's call for multilateral cooperation in carrying

out the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Institute for Global Engagement and Empowerment—under the supervision of Honorary Chair Dr. Ban and Director Myong-Sei Son—will expand Yonsei's involvement in achieving sustainable development. By utilizing the university's rich intellectual resources and research expertise, the institute will be covering all areas of the SDGs, including climate change and official development aid projects, as well as fostering social participation, medical aid, and health care. Yonsei, by combining collaborative education, research, evaluation, and by establishing a communication network for sustainable development, will be carrying out its mission as a university founded on the values of social engagement. Furthermore, Dr. Ban's experience and the connections he built for eight years as Secretary-General of the United Nations will prove valuable in linking international.

Besides the Yonsei President and faculty, several public figures attended the event to celebrate the opening of the Institute and Dr. Ban's inauguration. Dong-yeon Kim, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance, congratulated the opening of the Institute and Dr. Ban's

inauguration. He highlighted Dr. Ban's prestigious career, his important work on climate change and the SDGs, and of the 'premium' effect his presence would have on the Institute. Eunkyung Kim, the Minister of Environment, drew parallels between the Korean government's efforts and the Institute's vision of sustainable development. The mayor of Seoul, Won-Soon Park, applauded Korea's increased contributions to providing aid to the global society and its growing presence in the international sphere. At the same time, he also acknowledged that Korea still wasn't doing enough and pushed Korea to strengthen its global influence. Mentioning Dr. Ban's personal experience with poverty and his work towards lifting the world out of poverty, Michael Reiterer, the EU Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, spoke of the positive influence Dr. Ban would have in establishing world peace and prosperity. Though their respective celebratory remarks focused on slightly different aspects of sustainable development, their common message emphasized the importance of multilateral cooperation and participation of state governments, intellectual communities, education hubs and universities, and civil societies.



# The CODA Exhibition: A Grand Send-off for UIC's Bright Designers

2017. 11. 06

written by Hyeong Jin Lee



In the afternoon of October 14th, 2017, artists and their friends and family were gathered at Cheongdam-dong's Gallery 'Won' for the 2017 IID Graduation Exhibition titled "CODA The New Prologue." Here, the graduating class of the IID (Information & Interactive Design) major showcased their works, which were the culmination of all the skills that they have cultivated throughout their university careers. As expected of an IID event, all the guests were well dressed for the occasion and many even prepared flowers for the young artists who seemed anxious yet eager to share their works.

The opening ceremony began at 4 P.M. where professors of the IID major spoke a few words commemorated the hard work that the graduating class of the IID major put into the exhibition. The professors also expressed their belief regarding the future of their students' post-graduation careers. After the opening speeches, the guests were then taken on a tour of the exhibition during which the young artists introduced and explained their pieces. There was a wide variety of pieces displayed at the exhibition such as photo collages, phone applications, metal chains, video presentations, and even a video game.

After the tour, a few members of the graduating class were asked to share a few comments on the exhibition and the IID major overall. The respondents were first asked what their impression of the major was before entering. Hyejin Kim (IID Class of 2014) replied that she thought it was simply an art-related major. Another student, Hedgie Choi (IID Class of 2013), replied that the major appeared to be about digital art which was "the intersection between software engineering and fine arts." A third student, Yeji Park (IID Class of 12), replied that she thought that IID was "a very interesting major where [she] could learn the cutting-edge skills that will practically contribute to designing a better world."

When asked how their impressions of the IID major changed now that they are seniors, Hyejin Kim responded that the "meaning of 'design' expanded...We [also] study how and why people use such services (app, space, object, etc.)." Hedgie Choi replied that the major seems to be oriented towards UX design (also known as design research)

while Yeji Park answered that the major seems to focus on teaching students how to design easier and more interesting ways to deliver information or services to users.

The three graduating students were then asked to give tips for their underclassmen. To begin with, Hyejin Kim reassured the freshmen that design courses are not intimidating and can broaden their viewpoints as designers and inventors. Interestingly enough, Hedgie Choi and Yeji Park both stated that due to the very diverse nature of the major, one should choose a certain field or set of skills to focus on. This point was evident by the diverse range of pieces shown in the exhibition and the depth of professionalism portrayed in every single piece albeit them all being completely unique and unrelated to one another.

The students were also asked what they have learned upon completing their senior projects for the exhibition. Hyejin Kim spoke of how she came to the realization that IID helps one see ordinary objects in novel perspectives which helped her come up with the idea of her senior project.

As for Yeji Park, she expressed joy at the fact that she was able to not only apply the skills she learned in her classes but also have more confidence in her self-taught skills, which she utilized for the final project. Hedgie Choi answered that she realized her passion for programming.

Lastly, the senior students were encouraged to share any comments that they wished. Hyejin Kim pointed out that "the learning [in the IID major] will come together and make you more professional. Knowing one thing very well is not enough. You have to understand the related area in order to be good at your interested field. IID is where this can happen." Yeji Park wished to express thanks and cheers to her fellow IID major students who "went through this intensive, but fruitful journey together." And Hedgie Choi jokingly remarked that she was simply pleased to be graduating.

For more information on the CODA The New Prologue exhibition, please visit the official website at <http://iid2017.yonsei.ac.kr/>

# International Design Factory Week

Professor Kyung Tae Lee, the Vice president of Yonsei University, International Campus explained that creativity and social innovation are key concepts of Yonsei University's vision and added that "now, Ban-ki Moon, former UN secretary general, is at Yonsei to initiate his social engagement activities at Yonsei. As part of this initiative, I hope that the IDFW acts as a chance to introduce how Yonsei University is engaging with social innovation activities throughout the campus." He anticipated the next five days to be a chance to expand relations with other new members of the Design Factory global network to enrich educational institutions for students and create new opportunities for business in academic societies around the world. He thanked everyone for coming and also thanked all 21 representatives of Design Factories around the world. Special thanks were given to the former Dean Jin-bae Chung for hosting this event. He also expressed gratitude towards colleagues from industrial sectors and the government for the dedication that made this event possible.

2017. 12. 22

written by Sohyang Yun

A congratulatory message was delivered by Hannu Seristo, the vice president of Aalto University. He explained that the Design Factory is not simply a model of modern higher education, but is a kind of education that is interdisciplinary, very international, and closely linked to reality. "Design Factories are very relevant to innovative actions and they tend to attract very talented, particularly active and outgoing people like university students who are able to come up with innovative solutions for the whole society, including not only corporations or companies but also the public sectors as well." Hannu was impressed at how social innovation was very visible in the projects and how the Design Factory itself is a fantastic example of social innovation in the sense that "it is truly global and people get together from all around the world, this time in South Korea." He expressed his affection towards traveling in South Korea and visiting Yonsei University and said, "I am happy to be with the faculty from the Technology and Art Design Division. I thank Yonsei University and the partners who helped arrange this event, including the companies and public sectors." He wished all participants of the week to have a very rewarding and good week and congratulated everyone on the work they have come up with so far.

International Design Factory Week 2017 was held in Veritas Hall B, joined by many UIC students, professors, and representatives from Design Factories all over the world. October 30th, 2017 was the opening ceremony of the IDFW and at two o'clock, the former Dean of UIC Jin-bae Chung, opened the ceremony with his welcoming remarks.

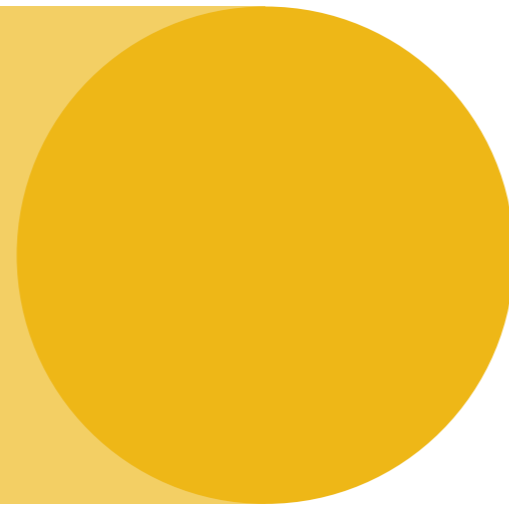
DFK is anchored by the Techno-Art Division (TAD), an interdisciplinary design, technology, and management program offered at UIC. TAD consists of three majors: Culture & Interaction Design (CID), Creative Technology Management (CTM), and Design Management (DM). CID focuses on the field of IT and interaction design. A major emphasis is entrepreneurship, and CDM, on product design and management. The students incorporate ideas from other academic fields and incorporate them with corporate, commercial and industrial designs to design and develop products and services perceived in both micro- and macroscopic visions.

More than 250 students participated in a number of different projects. 17 projects have been initiated by some of the students and have been recognized by multinational corporations in Korea like LG. This kind of interdisciplinary education in DFK holds new challenges and brings new educational platforms, creativity, and innovation.

The Opening Ceremony of 2017 IDFW was a great opportunity for both the students and Yonsei University. It was motivational for the former because they could see their fellow students actualizing their plans in order to make social change. It was also a great chance for the latter to stress the educational importance of social innovation.



# Deciding What's Next



2017. 12. 28

written by Hyunjae Lee

During the 2017 International Design Factory Week (IDFW) at Yonsei University International Campus that lasted from October 30th to November 3rd, 2017, the Design Factory Global Network (DFGN) held one of its sessions on November 2nd, at Veritas B. The Design Factory Global Network is a network of innovation hubs based in universities and research organizations, with a mission to instill positive change in the world of learning. Anita Kocsis, one of the Design Factory directors representing Melbourne, Australia, stated that the goal of Design Factory—involving students, faculty, and industry partners who share a passion for creative learning and efficient problem-solving—was to “come together all ways, to reenergize, share practices, and together decide what’s next.” During an hour-long session from 11:30 to 12:30, the directors worked on a creative exercise to discuss what the DFGN would look like in the distant future.

Out of eight tables, each table had a different scenario. Four to five members assigned to a table discussed and initially made notes of the topics. Then, the directors rotated from table to table, contributing new ideas to each different setting. The topics were fun and creative. What if Design Factory was a university? What if you were learning for 55 years? What if 90% of all education was digital—supported by AI? What would DFGN’s network look like then? If life-long learning is a norm, what would education look like? The directors were told to not feel limited by present conditions. The objective of this exercise? To have fun, gather as many ideas as possible with a bit of future forecasting, and produce a fruitful workshop.

With three other directors, I sat down at the table discussing the topic “life-long learning is a norm.” Some ideas that had popped up were that education needs to be democratic to all and available from cradle to the grave. Non-competitive, cooperative learning should take more form. Shorter “in-between” programs, including intensive seminars lasting a few weeks, should be made for students willing to break free from their average four to six consecutive years of college in order to develop or learn other skills.



Ten minutes later, we moved to the next table to discuss measures to extend DFGN’s influence. Ideas of producing a DF broadcasting channel, making a new home in Africa, and further establishing operational branches were brought up. Some tables presented the “crazy” idea of establishing a DFGN university, which would accept both conventional students and life-long learners. The university would have no holidays and a very flexible system. The directors imagined a future where a 20-year-old and a 60-year-old would collectively work on projects in a creative space. Another table, understanding the technological push, introduced ideas to harness technology to DFGN’s advantage—the future could be that Design Factory is installed in our smartphones! Programs using augmented reality (AR) could become a reality and directors added suggestions regarding digital DFGN programs such as producing online courses (like MOOC--“massive online open courses” available to anyone).

Other tables thought of new professions that would accompany the futuristic activities. Mindful of the dystopian view that our knowledge could well be injected into robots, leading to a decrease in the number of available jobs, directors discussed the need for more world peace activists

and more animal kingdom coordinators, not to mention well-being analysts to keep us on the right track on creating a better world. Virtual world tour guides were also a potential profession for DFGN to work on virtual “hugging points”; these represent the culture and values of DFGN which refer to specific locations where people can engage in cooperation and conversion.

At the end of this interesting workshop, I interviewed Anita to gain the director’s perspective on the conference. Her responses reflected the passionate spirit and positive energy of the workshop. When asked which activities from today she would like to run in the next few years, she responded: “Anything that empowers [students] to become the change-makers because they are the drivers of their own education.” She would also like to put the academics to work better. Anita was especially eager to integrate education with mobile technology to make education more accessible. I then asked her whether she sees the “crazy” ideas from the conference coming to life in the foreseeable future. “We were crazy when we said we would have 50 design factories a few years ago, and now we have 20. So we are almost there. Out of crazy ideas, if you have a passion for it, [you] just do it.”



**INTERNATIONAL  
ALUMNI  
INTERVIEW**

# International Alumni Interview

2017. 12. 28

written by Mijin Kim, Elaine Natalie

Fangzhou Joy Yuan · Daniel Woehler · Taylor Herman

**Q.** Please introduce yourself (student year, major, the location of your current work, etc.)

**F:** I was in UIC from 2009 to the spring of 2014 and I majored in economics (class of 9.5). I'm currently working in Shenzhen, China, but I had moved around a little bit. When I first graduated from UIC, I did an internship in Seoul. After working in Beijing, I began to work in Shenzhen starting from mid-2017. Currently, I am working in Tencent as the Global Business Manager of Tencent WeStart, which belongs to Tencent Open Platform. The work is hard to explain because it combines a lot of different things. We have departments that conduct different businesses as we have 32 innovation spaces across China. We have some MBA programs with Shinhwa University and another MBA program in China. Indeed, it is more like an MBA program for the tech-related funders.

My team just started early this year. It is related to internationalization because Tencent WeStart started in 2014 and within just three years, we have more than 30 incubators in China. We have not had a lot of extrapolation in the global scale, which is the reason why we have this team that tires to build more bridges between China and international entrepreneurial communities in various other areas.

**D:** My name is Daniel Woehler. I graduated from UIC in 2012 (class of 8.5) with a major in Economics and a minor in Business. Straight after graduating, I started my career at CBRE in London and have been there ever since. CBRE is the world's largest real estate consulting, investment and development company. I am an Associate Director within the Investment Properties team, advising institutions such as pension funds, insurance companies and investment banks on investing in commercial real estate. I do that for London, the UK, and continental Europe.

If you're interested to learn more about CBRE, you can have a look at the 2013 Global Career Tour, which visited my offices in London: [https://uic.yonsei.ac.kr/main/academic.asp?mid=m03\\_05\\_03](https://uic.yonsei.ac.kr/main/academic.asp?mid=m03_05_03)

**T:** My name is Taylor Herman. I am part of the class of 11.5. I graduated in 2015 as an International Studies major and I currently work for CBRE in the Microsoft Account at Seattle Washington. My official title is Business Operation Specialist for Global Account Operations.

**Q.** What projects or tasks are performed in a typical week of your job?

**F:** I would say it is constantly changing because Tencent is an internet company with a lot of changes happening every year. In July, we did the Tencent WeStart Entrepreneurial Competition in the United States, during which we conducted an AI related entrepreneurial competition and managed to attract more than 100 startups to compete—including top startups from Harvard, MIT, and other universities. We also had different tracts, including one about artificial intelligence and another about content. From August to October, we visited our potential content-related partners. We went to survey the top content companies so that we can work cooperatively with some companies that may suit China. We also travel to Taiwan, Macao, Hong Kong; talk to the potential business partners; and conduct some research about the business opportunities. During the last two months, we worked on creating an official international website for Tencent WeStart.

We have a different focus for every project. For example, a project related to AI competition is more associated with branding, marketing, and PR. However, when we have a project regarding content, it becomes more closely related to business development and research because you have to search for your future partner, look for contacts and build up relationships in order to move on to the next stage. If it is about the official international website, you need to understand different kinds of business, allocate your emphasis, and decide what you can make out of the website. It is really fun and challenging. And the reason why we do content is so that we can better follow the trend.



▲ Taylor Herman

**D:** There are few typical weeks, but I generally look after a number of international clients, especially the ones from Korea. Because of the time difference, I spend my mornings on calling clients, catching up on the current projects or introducing new opportunities for them. The afternoon is spent mostly on client meetings or inspections, preparation for financial and other strategic analyses, presentations and reports, and liaison with other advisors within legal, tax, and technical areas. Travelling is fortunately limited to a few trips to Asia and continental Europe every couple of months.

**T:** Typically, I have a few meetings discussing current processes or agenda items where my team and I see how we can programmatically take these processes and improve them. On my own, I take raw data through Excel and use that to create actionable information and send out communications. I utilize mostly Microsoft Office tools. Excel is my main one and also SharePoint, which I don't know if they use a lot in Korea. In Microsoft however, because it is a Microsoft tool, we do use it a lot. We also use, to a smaller extent, a Microsoft tool called Power BI. Right now we have a program called HeadTracks and it basically tracks the occupancy and all the CBRE people that work for Microsoft. Our job is to go in and do an audit. We have to export all the raw data, go through it, and

see if there are any discrepancies. Basically, we programmatically manage this HeadTracks system to ensure that we have correct information.

**Q.** Why did you choose the career that you are currently in?

**F:** Honestly, I didn't expect I would work in the tech industry. I still remember how I considered my passion to lie in working for a nonprofit organization or an international organization in general. In fact, my first internship was at a non-profit foundation during which I felt as if this work was a mission from the bottom of my heart. But I realized that if I am just a fresh graduate, getting a good position in these fields would be hard as I lack the necessary training. So I just decided to do spend my free time as a volunteer of such organizations as supposed to a full-time worker. I then thought maybe I could postpone working for these causes, which motivated me to look around and find many internship opportunities within UIC.



▲ Graduation Photo of Daniel Woehler

I remember a trip to Singapore during the Global Career Tour. We visited several companies in varied industries such as P&G, UBS, and Facebook. My visit to Facebook taught me a lot. When I saw the people working there being not only friendly but also passionate about what they were doing regardless of their backgrounds. From then on, I realized that I may as well be interested in the tech industry and that I could give it a try.

After this experience, I took an internship at a company where I worked on researching about the Chinese mobile games. And I realized that there had been a lot of changes in the Chinese market. For example, people there didn't really use smartphones when I started my college education; but later on, everyone was using a smartphone and mobile apps in China.

**D** : I always had a passion for real estate. In fact, when I was younger, I wanted to become an architect. I also liked studying business, economics, and finance as reflected in my decision to major in these subjects. Real estate is where I could combine these interests. After interesting internships in architecture, accounting along with consulting, I started looking up the largest real estate companies. Amongst several options, I decided to work for three months with CBRE in Germany in the PPP (Public Private Partnerships) team, which was a great first experience that led to two more internships with CBRE in Paris (Debt and Structured Finance) and London (Investment Properties) followed by an attractive job offer.

**T** : So what I didn't know when I was majoring in IS was that I liked data. For instance, I remember there being a class called "Information Systems," which made me think like "Oh my God, this sounds like it is too much." It sounded too complicated and I hated Excel, but after I graduated I took an online course in Excel and I really love it now. You know, I love data, and I love managing things and making things more efficient. Even in college, I would think to myself, "Okay, how can I take the fastest route on the subway home?" Efficiency is in my mindset. I thought, "How can I put that into a career related to data? How can I have a career that I really like as well as one that will pay the rent?" That is how I ended up going into the data field.

When I initially graduated from UIC, I got a job in a small tech company in Seoul. There, I got the experience of the business life and I got to work with international customers that introduced me to the tech side of things. I got energized about working for a tech company. Later on, as I was building my skill set to get a job in America, I realized, "Hey, Excel is kind of cool. I like using this."



I mean, data is the big thing now. Still, most people seem to focus solely on getting a job related to politics or the public sector. Some of the most obvious examples would be Samsung, KakaoTalk, etc. But you have to think outside the box and work with the smaller companies so that you get a more intimate knowledge of how the business actually works. Then you can go to a big company and apply that knowledge.

**Q. If you had to choose one essential skill that is critical in order to succeed in the workplace, what would it be?**

**F** : I think being proactive is really important. I didn't realize the value of this quality that much when I was in college though I knew it was what many professors had emphasized. Only as I was working could I realize how important it really is. In this ever-evolving world, there will be a lot of opportunities that you will want to take. In order to successfully do so, you will have to proactively think about what you need to do to prepare. You can't expect that with all the necessary materials, you will only have to take one step after another in pre-determined manner. Instead of staying passive, you should proactively think about what is most needed at your department or the relevant industry. I think of this as a soft



skill that is crucial because pretty much every UIC student will have acquired the harder skills of reading, writing, and researching—"knowledge," in short.

**D** : I'm not sure if there is one skill that is so much more essential. Rather, it is a combination of skills that are important. If I had to bring it down to one though, I would probably say that you need to be forward thinking and proactive. Everyone can work hard and efficiency comes with practice, not to mention communication and presentation skills. But if you are not thinking ahead and anticipating the needs of clients, colleagues, your boss or business, then you are likely to stay where you are.

**T** : For a general personal skill, I would say being able to think outside the box. Being able to take that job and kind of make it your own and being able to adapt and see things from a different lens than just your normal view. Being able to deal with ambiguous situations and take initiative. I think one of the biggest things in my interview for the position I am in now is that they love my initiative. Being able to show that "Hey I can take this on; I can do what you need me to do."

For a more tangible skill, I love Excel. I think every company uses it because, you know, we are in the data age now. So if you can use Excel you will be in the top percentage of applicants in the realms of administrative, technology-related, and even pharmaceutical careers.

**Q. How did your UIC experience prepare you for your career (previous internships/ school clubs at college/ study abroad programs, etc.)?**

**F** : I benefitted a lot from my UIC experience. For instance, I went on a study abroad program in the Netherlands for half a year. I think this opportunity truly helped me see the other side of the world. Also, although I majored in economics, I took many courses from different departments. In terms of school clubs, I was also a part of the UIC Scribe for about two years, during which I was both a writer and a layout designer. I think I managed to do a lot of things I had wanted to but wasn't sure if I really could at UIC. For example, I studied painting from a really young age, but I never thought I would design a booklet all by myself as the layout designer of the UIC Scribe. In fact, I could not only present these works when I applied for a job but also be remembered by one of my professors as the designer of particular publications.

I also had been a member of a debate club. It was really difficult and challenging for me at that time because a lot of the debaters came from a very international background and were therefore already accustomed to the debate formats and styles. And I think the experience at this debate club pushed me forward and helped me overcome my initially lack of confidence. I could develop my debate techniques not to mention critical thinking skills.

**D** : I was in the student council, UGC (Underwood Global Community), UVE (Underwood Vision Ensemble, VOIS (Visionaries of International Studies), MADE (Major Assets and Development of Equity), and the UIC Student Ambassadors. I think I joined pretty much all the English-speaking clubs that one could join at the time. I don't think it necessarily matters which club you join though. What you do within those clubs is what matters. It's great being a member, contributing and participating, but if you have an opportunity to take on additional responsibility, initiate and lead a project, or manage the activities and members of an organization, I think that's what prepares you the most for your career. At work you'll be have to look for opportunities that will let you take responsibility from day one. If you got experience taking responsibility and creating excellent outcomes, that will be the best preparation for a successful career.

I also went on an exchange program to Paris for a year, at a school called ESCE. In retrospect, it doesn't really matter which country and which university you go to, but you really need the foreign experience. I think the three-campus exchange is a unique opportunity to experience other Asian countries, especially if you intend to work in EMEA or the Americas, but Yonsei has great exchange partners everywhere. I chose Paris because I knew I wanted to work in Europe and was always fascinated by the city. It also helped me get another internship there. If you want to work in a particular place or just want to learn about another culture, city, or country, then I highly recommend going on an exchange program. It is not something that comes around very often.

**T** : I was involved in the UIC Ambassadors. I also did cheering for one year, which was fantastic. And I did a program called NEAN, North East Asian Network, during which I was the project manager for the business team. Just little things that show your involvement and initiative. Show your work ethic through the activities you do. A little extra is that I have a black belt from Taekwondo. Even if it is athletic, not even related to business, it is like "Oh, you achieved that level. So you must be a hard worker, you must be able to really put your mind into something and get it done."

Akaraka and the YonKo games were also some of my favorite things ever. Because I entered in the fall of 2011, it was the YonKo games season when I entered. At first, I must confess that I felt like an outsider as an international student, but when I got in and did the cheers with everybody, I felt like I was part of the school. And this indeed has instilled pride in me, which remains in me until this day. I think having that pride of, "Yeah, I came from a good school, I came from a good place, I can get a good job," and I think being able to experience so many different things in, a foreign country was the coolest thing. Have pride in where you come from. Have confidence in your background.

One thing that people may not know about is the women's soccer team at Yonsei. I was actually part of it and we won the Seoul Cup. When I came in I didn't know they had a soccer team until I was a senior, and then at that point I could only play for one semester. Learning about different teams and things can be a challenge and some underclassmen have contacted me through Instagram about it. If there are any girls out there who would want to join, the team is an amazing group of girls and so much fun. So for anyone out there that plays soccer, join the W Kicks women's soccer team. Their Instagram handle is @wkicks\_yonsei.

▼ Taylor Herman



**Q.** As one of our alumni, please give us some of your advice and/or recommendations regarding UIC student life.

**F** : Try to get as much experience as possible. For example, if you know you want to do something related to investment, you should try to take opportunities to learn about finance through the means of internship or other projects. But if you are not sure about your passion, you could take a lot of electives, join a variety of organizations, and make many friends from different areas of interests. I believe that UIC in general has a lot of programs, such as the Study Abroad Program and the Global Career Program. Through these programs, I could discover where my interests actually lied in along with other alternative paths I could pursue. The alumni talk offered by Career Development Center (CDC) is also very helpful as I ended up attending almost all the CDC talks. All in all, following your passion and finding something you are genuinely interested in, and proactively working towards your goals will take you to the place you want to be at.



**D** : If you are an international student that doesn't speak Korean, make sure you learn Korean and become fluent at it. You never know when you might need it in your career. It will also make your stay in Korea and at UIC more exciting and enjoyable.

Secondly, do go on exchange if what I said earlier appealed to you. It's highly unlikely for you to get a chance to take out a year of your life again after you start working. If you do go on exchange, make as many new friends as possible from all parts of this world. You will learn a great deal about other cultures and their best practices, which you can apply wherever you are going. Moreover, it is always nice to have friends and a home everywhere in this world.

In terms of clubs, I personally think it doesn't matter which club you join as long as you take an active role.

As for classes and professors, I think they are all great and I would rate them on par with some of the best lectures I have attended while on exchange or during my Masters. I am obviously biased towards Economics as a major, but it is certainly a more widely known and demanded subject in Europe than other courses.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me anytime if you have any further questions.

My email address is [daniel.woehler@outlook.com](mailto:daniel.woehler@outlook.com).

**T** : Be involved in a lot of different things. Experience different things. Even if it is not something that you're good at, or something that you have a really strong interest in, being able to get different viewpoints and different perspectives and develop these different relations with people is important. Even as an alumnus I still keep in contact with professors or people whom I met in college that can help me. Or sometimes, they will be like "Hey, I'm coming to Seattle, can you tell me a good place to hang? Or a good place to stay?" So creating experiences and relationships that will continue to provide dividends years down the road once you've graduated would be my advice.







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# DOWNFESTIVAL DATA

# BLIND RECRUITMENT IN KOREA

2017. 10. 25

written by JuWon Shin

"Blind Recruitment" is a compound word consisting of "blind" and "recruitment," which means that a corporation will focus on evaluating the degree to which an applicant can contribute to the company based on one's character, aptitude, and specialty. This trend is different from the past. The prestige of an university doesn't matter as much as it was in the past. The applicants are no longer allowed to put their school name on the resume, and therefore no merit can be earned from it. It places greater value on knowledge and practical business skills.

The blind recruitment system has become an issue in especially prominent universities because until now, the title of the university was a significant deciding factor for employment. However, the implementation of this policy has dramatically changed the recruitment system. Opportunities may become more open to diverse people, even for the universities with less recognition. This measure is to benefit those who have worked hard in self-development more than anyone else, regardless of their university or their grades. What is meant to be most important now is one's suitability with the job and the company.

Moreover, the procedure of this recruitment begins with a selection of candidates by examining their documents containing their personal backgrounds, followed by two interviews. Personal histories are shown in portfolio, including what one has done over the years for the job, not to mention some meaningful experiences. The first interview tests the applicants on their capability for the work, and the second is led by board members of the corporation. In the first interview, one has to prepare a presentation, following instructions from the company. The candidates are given a simple task and they have to show the company how they can

solve a task skillfully through their presentations. The second interview is to let the interviewers learn more about the personality of each interviewee. The last stage is the physical evaluation. The government has announced that guidebooks and financial support will be provided to private companies to support such newly implemented procedure. There are, however, certain exceptions that would make "Blind Recruitment" less applicable, in areas dealing with security or laboratory works.

The intent to provide opportunities through the "Blind Recruitment" arose when it seemed as if the people who graduated from prominent universities were the only ones who could give a shot at finding a job--whatever it may be. Of course, this may seem fair for some, since being a student of those top universities would reflect the years of hard work and success in fearsome competition. However, getting into those universities would have meant good grades in high school or tests, but it didn't mean that such efforts remained persistent throughout their lives in college. Some became lazy after their admissions whereas there were also those who tried their hardest to become specialized in a particular area. The government and private companies are thus trying to widen the doors to give greater prospects for the latter group of people.

On the point that it provides opportunities for a variety of people is certainly a good. And yet this issue has been highly controversial ever since its introduction. On the one hand, the advocates of "Blind Recruitment" argue that there have been many structural problems in the original resume provisions, such as requests for private information irrelevant to the job requirements. For instance, when one is applying for a job in a company that has no relevance with



health, one does not need to give the company personal health information; however, some companies require all hospital records, and those who were sickly before may have been disadvantaged. Since those records do no harm to the current condition, they must be set aside. Secondly, certificates and exam scores can tell one's capability in taking tests, but it does not reveal much about practical skills at all times. Companies are accepting this "Blind Recruitment" because there are those who believe the title of their university will solve every problem. They believe in themselves, or the name values of their universities, too much which has often resulted in idleness and incompetence.

On the other hand, others disapproved of the idea that it is highly disadvantageous for people who have graduated from prominent universities. Since the new system only requires the total grade, it seems less fair to those who managed to stay diligent in competitive universities. There are many university students who regard university titles highly, and they are mainly the ones who disagree with this kind of recruitment.

According to a Job Korea survey, it has been shown that 82.5% of human resources managers sympathize with "Blind Recruitment." The purpose of this system is to better guarantee fair procedure by placing greater emphasis on what each applicant has actually managed to achieve as a college student.

What remains still unclear is the outcome of this policy. Some say that in the long term, "Blind Recruitment" will eliminate any potential biases during recruitment process. In fact, companies may better motivate candidates to prepare for their future careers, which are often accompanied by preparatory years of self-development. In times of uncertainty, as the one we witness today, what we can hope is that the determination to create a system that can better grant equal opportunities becomes more than a temporarily politicized debate with unanticipated side-effects.

# Comfort Women Statues Ride Buses in Seoul

2018. 01. 10

written by **Phuong Nguyen**

From mid-August to the end of September this year, travelers who rode the five buses of Donga bus company got some new companions: Comfort women's statues. The image of young Korean girls wearing simple black and white traditional Hanbok not only raises contrast with today's modern fashion but also symbolizes the Korean women who were forced to provide sexual service to the Japanese soldiers during World War II. These statues belong to the project titled "Dream Lost by Girls" to commemorate the sexual slavery victims during the fifth anniversary of World Comfort Women's Day: August 14th, 2017. The statues were also brought to the Japanese embassy, Suwon, Daejeon and Jeonju before they arrived as a permanent monument at the end of September.

Although the statues are part of Donga bus company owner Rim Jinwook's personal campaign, it received support from the government. Nonetheless, the project also triggered fierce criticism from Japan. In response to the circulation of these statues on the streets of Seoul, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga Yoshihide, regarded as the Japanese government's spokesperson, stated at a press briefing that, "We are concerned this move could put a damper on efforts between Korea and Japan to develop a future-oriented relationship" (Kyodo News Agency). Later in a talk with the Japanese Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe, President Moon Jae-in remarked, "The reality is that the majority of our people cannot emotionally accept the comfort women agreement."

President Moon's statement is part of his efforts to regain justice for the victims. In 2015, the South Korean government led by the impeached President Park Geun-hye signed a landmark deal to "finally and irreversibly" resolve the comfort women issue, with Japan agreeing to give one billion yen (9.1 million dollars) in compensation to provide support former comfort women and their families. Unlike previous funding from private donors, this compensation money will come directly from the Japanese governmental budget. In return, Seoul agreed to stop criticize Tokyo on the comfort women issue and considered removing a comfort women memorial located in front of the Japanese Embassy.

This deal, however, was rigorously protested by the people since the opinion of the direct victims, comfort women themselves, had not been considered during the negotiation process, not to mention the refusal by the Japanese government to issue an official apology to the victims. Without an official apology, reparation of this kind is seen as an insult as if all the atrocity committed against the comfort women can be simply resolved by financial compen-

sation. Lee Yong-soo, a former comfort woman aged 88, articulated in 2015 that "We are not craving for money. What we demand is that Japan make official reparations for the crime it had committed."

On January 4th, 2018, President Moon invited eight former comfort women to the Blue House for lunch during which he expressed his thoughts on the 2015 deal: "I am sorry that the discussions were held against the [survivors'] wishes without even hearing their opinion." He then gave an unprecedented official apology to the comfort women: "Since liberation restored our sovereignty, we ought to have embraced your pain and addressed your grievances. But we failed to do that.... I'm sorry about that, and as the President, I'd like to offer my apology." And this apology appears to hint President Moon's effort to rectify the 2015 deal.

As most surviving victims are getting old, if not have already passed away, it is essential to fight for an official apology from Japan before no victims are left to receive it. The establishment of World Comfort Women day and projects like "Dream Lost by Girls" manifest the revitalization of their campaigns for comfort women's justice. In the same spirit, an exhibition of 500 hundred comfort women statues was held at Cheonggye Stream Square in central Seoul during World Comfort Women Day.



# Should We Fight Grade Inflation?

2017. 12. 04

written by Mijin Kim

Grade inflation, which is defined as an increase in the average grade of college students, has become a major discussion topic in the last couple of years. Many believe that this rapid increase is not necessarily the result of more studious and diligent students, but of more lenient grading policies by academic institutions.

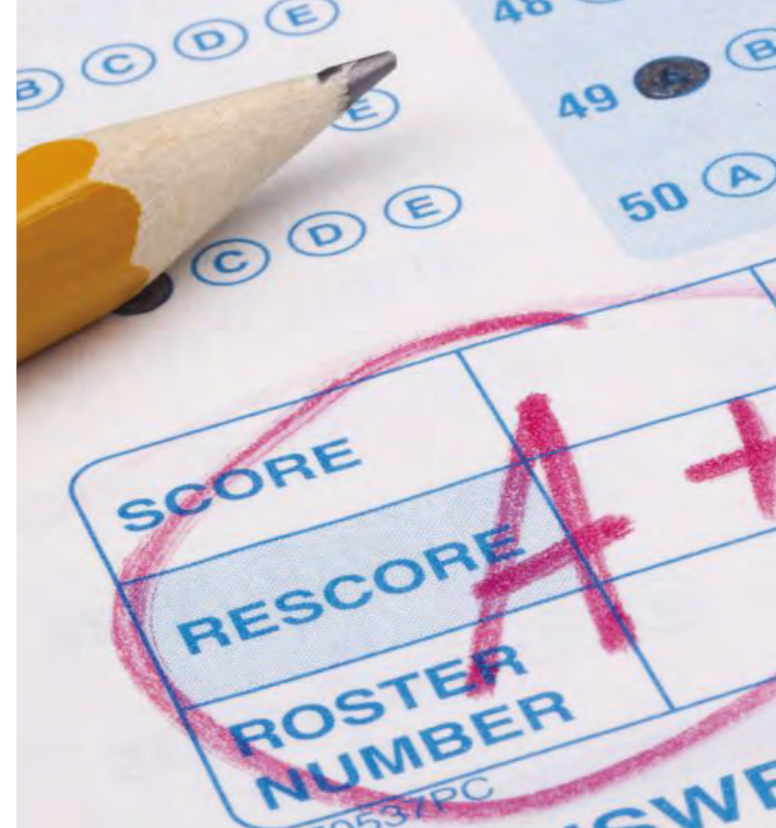
In South Korea, grade inflation had been addressed before it was recognized as a problem. Most higher education institutions in Korea have a 'grading on a curve' policy that allocates strict percentages for each letter grade. This is also commonly referred to as a grade deflation practice. The intention behind it is to not only maintain consistent standards across all departments, but also promote a sense of competition so that students can be motivated to perform better.

But what if this system backfired?

In 2005, Princeton University implemented a grade deflation policy in which only a maximum of 35% of the students could receive a letter A grade for coursework. It was found that this policy added a "large element of stress to students' lives, making them feel as though they are competing for a limited resource of A grades," according to the report made by the ad hoc faculty committee reviewing the University's policies. In 2014, this practice changed. The university opted for a removal of numerical targets and replaced them with a set of grading standards developed by each department and approved by the dean of the college. Additionally, they also changed their focus from grading to giving more quality feedback.

Struggling for a limited amount of A's can drastically change the perception of education that students have and their approach to it. A competitive spirit becomes toxic when students no longer walk into a classroom with the purpose of learning, but with the preoccupation with incessant competition. The paranoid revolving around the pressure to absorb information can easily result in passive, instead of active, interaction with the content. And this translates into a cycle of one-sided absorption and reproduction, which leaves little space for critical thinking.

In 2016, The New York Times published an opinion article titled "Why We Should Stop Grading Students on a Curve." Adam Grant, a professor of management and psychology at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, conducted an experiment with the objective of creating a



collaborative culture among his students. Grant told his students that he would only curve their grades upward, meaning that even if one student got a higher grade it would not hurt the rest.

Then, Grant increased the difficulty of his exams. In this case, what really pushed the students to work cooperatively was the addition of a multiple choice section at the end of his exams. Students were allowed to choose one of the four questions and write the name of one of their classmates who they thought would know the answer. If their classmate answered correctly, they would both earn points. As a result of Grant's experiment, more students started to form study groups. This cooperative environment showed a two percent increase in the grades in comparison to the previous year.

These observations may face skepticism in a competitive society such as the one in South Korea. Some may argue that maintaining a cap on grades, and thus on the GPA of students, is necessary in South Korea since these numbers become highly relevant for individuals' employability after graduation. It has been a common practice for companies in South Korea to require applicants' GPA during their screening process. However, this process might be soon left in the past.

As of September 2017, the Korean government has implemented a policy of blind recruitment for all public jobs. The government has also expressed an interest to extend this policy to the private sector in the future. This policy will leave out the applicants' hometown, alma mater, and GPA, among other things. While the new policy has been met with some counterarguments, a survey by JobKorea has shown that the majority of respondents agree with the new policy.

This new blind employment policy may dismiss some of the initial anxiety toward removing grade deflation policies. In a society that does not focus on workers' GPA, but on their competence and efficiency, grade deflation practices in higher institutions are no longer necessary. By removing grade deflation practices, higher education institutions can promote a more cooperative environment in which students are no longer passive subjects, but active agents and competent individuals prepared to join the workforce.



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INTERNAZIONAL  
AFFAIRS

# 2017 Asia Tour

## Trump's Short Yet Somewhat Meaningful Visit to South Korea

2017. 12. 09

written by Hyeong Jin Lee



POLITICS

On November 3rd, 2017, President Trump left the United States to go on a 12-day trip to five Asia-Pacific countries such as Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines. His goal appeared to consist of strengthening US-led efforts to deal with North Korea and its nuclear threats, spreading his administration's idea of a "free and open Indo-Pacific region," establishing more favorable bilateral trade relations to reduce US trade deficits, and lastly, temporarily evading his domestic issues such as low approval ratings and the ongoing Russia probe. President Trump's Asia tour took place as follows: on November 5th, President Trump arrived in Japan and departed from Japan for Korea on November 7th. After a short 24 hour stay in South Korea, President Trump then proceeded to China on November 8th where he stayed until he departed for Vietnam on the 10th.

While President Trump's visit to other Asian countries during his Asia tour were considered to be "official visits" as the U.S. representative, President Trump's visit to South Korea was a visit as a head of state, the first since George H.W. Bush's state visit in 1992. Nevertheless, not only was South Korea President Trump's shortest trip during the Asia tour, but President Trump was also unable to visit the Demilitarized Zone which is an essential part of any formal visit to South Korea by a U.S. representative. The U.S. President was

unable to visit the DMZ due to poor weather conditions which may have been a relief for President Moon, who had advised President Trump not to go near the DMZ while tensions were still high.

Upon his arrival in South Korea, President Trump was greeted by South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kang Kyung Hwa and Ambassador to the U.S., Cho Yoon Jae. President Trump made a visit to Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi province where he was briefed by both American and South Korean military officials on the current situation in regards to North Korea. South Korean officials made use of this visit to Camp Humphreys to inform the U.S. President that South Korea had paid over 90% of the \$10 billion cost (and also provided the land and equipment needed) for the construction of the largest U.S. overseas military base. This was in response to the U.S. President's previous statement that South Korea was not providing enough financial assistance towards the U.S.-South Korean military alliance. Furthermore, the South Korean government's sanctions against bank officials charged with aiding Pyongyang's nuclear and missile program, symbolic as it may be, may also have helped prove to the U.S. President the commitment of the South Korean government towards combating North Korea.

After the visit to Camp Humphreys, President Trump visited Cheong Wa Dae (the Blue House) to hold his third bilateral summit meeting with President Moon to discuss trade relations and strengthening of the US-South Korean military alliance. Once the summit ended, President Moon stated in a press conference that there would be an "unprecedented" cooperative effort between the United States and

South Korea to boost South Korean military capabilities. This boosted effort was exemplified by the lifting of the restrictions on South Korean ballistic missile payload and surveillance technologies.

On the second day of President Trump's stay in South Korea, the U.S. President met U.S. Embassy officials and their families at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. Afterwards, President Trump met Chung Se-Kyun, the representative of the National Assembly before giving his address to parliament. President Trump was the first U.S. President to address parliament since President Bill Clinton in 1993. The final stop of President Trump's trip in South Korea was the national cemetery in Seoul where he laid wreaths to pay respects.

Upon returning to the United States, President Trump claimed that his Asia Tour had been "tremendously successful." Although this may be an exaggeration of the truth, the Asia tour did have some positive aspects. President Trump was given warm receptions in Japan, China, and South Korea (aside from some anti-Trump public protests in Seoul) and despite the questionable success of building bilateral trade relations, all three countries have clearly expressed their interests in military cooperation with the United States to keep North Korea in check. And perhaps it was in response to North Korea's warning to the U.S. ahead of President Trump's visit to South Korea, but President Trump's address to the Korean parliament had a softer tone and stated that he was "open to talks with North Korea" if they promise to give up their nukes. This was a stark contrast to the "fire and fury" rhetoric towards North Korea from earlier this year which was indeed a welcoming change.

# THE FINAL FATE OF THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP



On his fourth day in office, Trump signed the executive order, formally ending the United States' participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a core part of the Obama administration's strategic "Pivot to Asia" that aimed to secure U.S. commitment and write the rule of trade in the region. The TPP, the largest regional trade accord ever, was designed to bring together the United States and 11 other nations in a free-trade zone for about 40% of the world's economy. It was intended to lower tariffs while establishing rules for resolving trade disputes, setting patents, and protecting intellectual property. Most importantly, it finally brought the United States and Japan, the world's largest and third-largest economies respectively, together in a free-trade pact. Trump's decision to abandon the TTP not only erased his predecessor's main legacy, but also reversed the free-trade strategy adopted by the Presidents of both parties dating back to the Cold War.

Leaving the TPP will damage America's image in the region since other countries may view the U.S. as an unreliable partner both economically and perhaps even in other important areas such as security and politics. It is inevitable for governments in Asia to be concerned about Trump administration's long-term commitment to the economic prosperity

and security of the region, given Trump's sharp policy shifts from "Pivoting Asia" to "America First." Additionally, the U.S. risks losing its dominant position in Asia, leaving room for its growing rival China to fill in the power gap. China has already been working on an alternative pact, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which includes the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and India.

Trump's 12-day Asia tour in November, 2017, was aimed to strengthen the relationship with the Indo-Pacific region, but 11 countries that were originally in the TPP have already decided to move on without the United States. Japan, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Chile, Peru, New Zealand and Brunei recently announced that they had committed to resurrecting the Trans-Pacific Partnership multinational trade agreement. Even without the U.S., this will still be the largest trade agreement in history. The agreement will "serve as a foundation for building a broader free-trade area," across Asia, as Taro Kono, Japan's foreign minister, said in a statement. While the Trans-Pacific Partnership has found its final fate, the future of Trump administration's Asia policy is still uncertain.





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# KEYS



# A Foreigner's Guide to a Fun Chuseok

2017. 10. 15

written by Elaine Natalie

In 2017, Chuseok was something extra special. Chuseok itself fell on October 4th, but because it was in the vicinity of National Foundation Day (October 3rd) and Hangul Day (October 9th), the government had decided to also make October 2nd a national holiday. Thus, Chuseok holiday in 2017 lasted from September 30th until October 9th.

Chuseok, also known as Korean Thanksgiving Day, is one of the most important holidays in Korea. Families gather together in their hometowns to make special food and give thanks to their ancestors. Due to Korea's past as an agrarian society, people traditionally celebrated Chuseok during a full harvest moon, to give thanks to their ancestors for a bountiful harvest. These days, families still honor their ancestors by holding memorial services on Chuseok morning, but the customs of Chuseok have shifted over time to visiting hometowns, vacationing, and spending quality time with relatives.

Since international students don't have hometowns to visit or relatives to spend quality time within Korea, Chuseok can be quite a bore, especially with most of the restaurants, cafes, and "hang-out" spots closed for the holiday. Don't put your week-long break to waste just by sitting at home and watching Netflix all day. Since most Koreans travel out of Seoul during Chuseok, it is actually the perfect time to go and explore the city's usually crowded hotspots.

Historic sites such as palaces and Hanok villages are one of the best places to visit during Chuseok. Not only are they still open on the very day of Chuseok, but the cultural performances and activities in these places fully operate during Chuseok as well. The most popular palace is Gyeongbok Palace, which was the main royal palace of the Joseon dynasty. With its grand structures and a beautiful pavilion, Gyeongbok Palace is easily one of the most attractive historic locations in Seoul. If you have already visited Gyeongbok



Palace, you should also check out the other two palaces nearby--Changdeok Palace and Changgyeong Palace. Changdeok Palace is known for its beautiful gardens and green, open spaces, while Changgyeong Palace is home to Korea's first ever western-style greenhouse and botanical garden.

Surrounded by Gyeongbok Palace and Changdeok Palace lies Bukchon Hanok Village, another place you can explore. Bukchon Hanok Village is home to hundreds of hanoks, which are traditional Korean houses that date back to the Joseon Dynasty. Most of the hanoks' interior in this village have been remodeled; they now serve as modern-day houses, cultural centers, guesthouses, restaurants, and cafes. If you'd like to see a more traditional hanok village, you should visit Namsangol Hanok Village. The hanok houses in this village have traditionally furnished interiors to show guests a more authentic glimpse of the past.

If visiting palaces and traditional villages is too slow-paced for your taste, then visiting an amusement park might be a better alternative for you. During Chuseok, amusement parks give plenty of discounts, especially for foreigners. And since this year's Chuseok coincides with Halloween season, amusement parks will have special themed rides and events. Everland, Korea's largest amusement park, is located on the outskirts of Seoul, in Yongin, Gyeonggi-do.

Here you can find the world's fourth steepest wooden roller coaster, T-Express, and even a zoo. If the two-hour subway commute is too long for you, then maybe you'd opt for a closer amusement park instead — Lotte World. Lotte World consists of both an indoor and outdoor amusement park. In addition to the numerous rides, here you can also find an indoor ice skating rink.



If you enjoy nature and the great outdoors, Chuseok would be the perfect time for you to go hiking, especially since Seoul is home to numerous mountains. And as mentioned earlier, most of the people who live in Seoul travel out of the city during this time, so hiking trails and national parks would be a lot less crowded. Also, since fall is already upon us, the scorching hot summer sun has been replaced by a nice, breezy weather — perfect for hiking. At 837 meters, Bukhansan, located in Bukhansan National Park, is one of the largest mountains in Korea. The mountain has at least five peaks and the view from the top is just breathtaking. On your way up, you might come across a hidden temple carrying out Chuseok rituals. Make sure to stop by the beautiful pool of cool, crystal clear mountain water on your way back down, perfect to refresh your post-hike body.

If you enjoy the outdoors but are not up for hiking, then the Han River is the place to be. The parks along the Han River, especially Yeouido Park, are always teeming with people. Since the park is a popular family destination, you wouldn't usually be able to escape the shrieks of children, no matter how early or how late you come. But during Chuseok, you can enjoy a much quieter Han River and spend a thoroughly relaxing day at the parks. There are smooth biking trails along the river, and you can rent a bike for only 3,000 won. The breezy weather is also perfect for a picnic with your friends. Get fried chicken delivered straight to your mat and crack open a cold can of beer and watch Seoul's skyline light up as the sun sets over the river.

Even if you don't have a hometown to travel to, or family to spend quality time with here in Korea, there are still lots of things to do and places to visit during Chuseok. Take the opportunity of a deserted Seoul to go out and explore as many of its popular hotspots as possible. May this year's Chuseok be a fun and meaningful one for you. Happy Chuseok!

# DICHOTOMIES SURROUNDING THE FIGHT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

2017. 12. 09

written by Se Mi Park

Quite simply put, gender equality refers to men and women being offered equal opportunities within all facets of society. Observing this topic from the surface, the concept seems to be a rather basic, easily-comprehensible one. However, a multiplicity of issues and perspectives surround these two simple words, and much-heated debate and argument continue to arise amongst people who are, essentially and ultimately, fighting for the same cause.

*The definition of the two terms most commonly associated with gender equality is as follows according to Oxford Dictionary:*

1. *Egalitarianism: the doctrine that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities*
2. *Feminism: advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes*

In short, both support the concept of providing equal opportunity regardless of gender. So why do these terms exist separately?

The first cause of the disparity reflects a contrasting perspective. Amongst those passionately against feminism are those who believe that men are actually the ones being increasingly underrepresented. This viewpoint finds its groundwork within the existence of stereotypes that assume men are less capable or less competent than women. Differences in the working environments of these genders is another source of such controversy. If a company offers lenient maternity and menstrual leave, does this place men in a disadvantageous position by not being provided with the same kind of situational benefits? Is this an act that simply balances out the working conditions of men and women by taking note of the inevitable, physical disadvantages that women have?

The latter question brings attention to those who believe that females have been and still remain as the under-

ones who typically classify themselves as being equalist (equalism is a form of egalitarianism). The main reason for such inclination, that is to avoid the word "feminism," stems from the impression that the word "feminist" indicates a support for the belief that women should be superior, if not the propensity to be anti-male. In response, many advocates of feminism have actively rebutted this particular view with the justification that feminism is not a movement that seeks to empower one gender at the cost of another. It is instead a movement that believes in the need to give females greater privileges and social acceptance in order to make the two genders equal.

In this manner, feminists seem to have openly clarified the misconceptions surrounding the word "feminism"; and yet, most equalists have not chosen to take up the feminist campaign, probably due to the existence of deeper differences regarding this issue. What most forget to thoroughly consider is that every individual holds one's own perception regarding the specific extent to which certain issues indicate gender difference. For example, let us reconsider the issue of maternity and menstrual leave (one of the most controversial women's rights issues within South Korea). A feminist may advocate for this privilege arguing that it is an act that makes working conditions between the two genders equal. However, an anti-feminist may view this as an instance that is favorably biased towards women. In this instance, the anti-feminist's perception that feminists tend to support women superiority would not be altered, regardless of whether the feminist sector actually believes that women should be made more superior through this working condition alteration or not.





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The feminism movement continues to gain the most publicity and widespread attention with regards to gender equality. Movements supporting the feminist cause have received quite a lot of attraction in recent years as many influential female celebrities have taken the reins on the issue. Actress Emma Watson became appointed a UN Women Goodwill ambassador in the summer of 2014; in the same year, Watson delivered a self-written speech to honor the launching of a campaign called “HeForShe.” Within this speech, Watson unleashed yet another unaddressed approach to gender equality which served as the basis for the campaign:

“I’ve seen young men suffering from mental illness unable to ask for help for fear it would make them look less ‘macho’...men don’t have the benefits of equality either. We don’t often talk about men being imprisoned by gender stereotypes but I can see that they are and that when they’re free, things will change for women as a natural consequence.... If men don’t have to control, women don’t have to be controlled.”

This third viewpoint argues that gender stereotypes exist for both genders. And the need for a women’s rights movement exists because the male stereotype presume that males exert certain amount of control over females. The result is a decreased amount of opportunities for women to expand their influence. Thus, according to Watson, gender equality cannot be accomplished without the participation of both genders—“HeForShe”—whereby males too work for the equal representation of females and in turn become liberated from their own gender stereotypes.

This interpretation certainly deserves as much merit as the stunning amount of publicity it received. However, it brings up the question of whether it is physically possible for true gender equality to ever be achieved. What is the fine line between “control” and consideration for the physical female characteristics that undeniably serve as handicaps in certain situations? The obstacles to achieving genuine gender equality can misguidedly magnify day-to-day events to their nitty-gritty details.

Midway through my last year in high school, my school band was loading a truck with equipment for an outdoor concert. I vividly remember how my female friend had been getting ready to haul one of our biggest bass amps onto the truck when another male student took the amp from her arms and told her to load other lighter objects. Being a friend who took immense pride in her strength, she had complained that she would not have voluntarily lifted the amp if she knew she could not do it. Upon the conclusion of the event, the band instructor claimed that he would like to see more female students help out at the next performance. To this remark, the aforementioned friend complained about how she was supposed to help out when there were people who assumed she could not move heavier equipment just because she was a girl. Another friend of mine expressed that she did not understand how she could have helped when all the equipment was too heavy for her to lift.

The boy who had lifted the amp probably focused on the anatomical differences that undoubtedly limit the strength of certain females over males. The band instructor had chosen to adopt the idea that females are just as capable of helping out as males. Which person had been the one acting in support of gender equality? Who has exercised

“control” and embodied gender stereotype over the females? It is impossible to come up with a single correct answer because it is all a matter of perspective—the interpretation of the situation depends on one’s own analysis of the situation.

In conclusion, the three main stances supporting the gender equality issue are the following: 1) men are underrepresented, 2) women are underrepresented, and 3) both are misrepresented. And they all hold a certain degree of truth. The fact that both genders cannot be the same in every aspect is what will always result in an endless debate over which solution can be more effective at creating a more equal world. The ideal form of gender equality does not only lie in the degree to which both genders have been made “equal.” The goal is to combat the existing discrimination by striving to eliminate the obstacles that may hinder anyone from fulfilling his or her full potentials.

And if the definition of gender equality a community holds can be broadened out into encompassing “gender equality” instead of being a mere firebrand, an infinity of the conflicting dichotomies we see today can and will indeed be thoroughly tackled down one day.

In modern times, the environment portrayed in science fiction from the 20th century no longer holds extreme deviation from reality. Technology is advancing at an alarming rate, and the world is becoming increasingly obsessed with the idea of intellectual technology, better known as artificial intelligence (AI).

Just as its name suggests, artificial intelligence refers to machines that demonstrate a certain level of wit, such as cell phones that can respond to human voices. AI is a theory that is already being injected into mass-produced products and is thus embraced by the general population with some degree of familiarity. What most people do not realize, however, is that there is another similar technological advancement that is currently in the development process: neuroevolution.

So what exactly is neuroevolution?

As one can infer from the use of the prefix "neuro," which refers to the study of nervous systems in living organisms, the concept of neuroevolution is largely based off of how the human nervous system works with the human brain to conduct analyses that help carry out smarter actions. Neuroevolution refers to a branch of computer science where algorithms create their succeeding algorithms based off of the results of their previous algorithms. In simpler words, neuroevolution is a technology where non-living machinery can develop its own conclusions through a thinking process—similar to how humans develop opinions from a compilation of experiences and personal thought. The perfection of such a concept would definitely be a huge step forward in modern technology, but how would this change the world that we live in? Would this technological progression be responsible for an advancement or a regression in society?

Neuroevolution could definitely be a positive indication in many fields. For example, one can take the manufacturing field into consideration. A compilation of neuroevolution and machines in a manufacturing plant would result in factory machines that can make their own judgments. How could this elevate the manufacturing process? Let us imagine that we own a company that mass-produces french fries. The company would then need to sort the "good" potato from the "no-good" potato. The closest that a modern-day machine would get to achieving this process would be by programming specific guidelines. For instance, one could set a machine to classify a potato as "no-good" if more than 40% of the potato portrays a color that is darker than a certain designated shade. However, this sort of machine is not really put to practice because it creates so much room for error: What if the potato itself just happens to be darker than an average potato? There is no way to confirm that the sorted potatoes are actually damaged to the point of being unusable. Thus, such processes are normally conducted by humans or entirely overlooked. In contrast, a machine that integrates neuroevolution would be able to determine the quality of a potato, similar to how a human would make the same decision upon observation. Integrating such a machine into the manufacturing process could potentially allow select companies to use fresher produce or more wholesome material. The same is true for other fields as well—creating machines that can make decisions can be used to accelerate or simplify almost any process.



The problem is that neuroevolution has many apparent downsides as well. As one can see from the potato example, neuroevolutionized machines have the capabilities of replacing humans in areas that even AI would not. Technology becomes an alarmingly huge step closer to developing robots that can think just like humans. Neuroevolution means that machines would be able to determine on their own who to trust and what kind of actions they should do for their own benefit, in addition to coming up with specific reasons why. The movie *I, Robot* (2004) depicts a world where it is standard for humans to use robots to perform their everyday chores and busy work. These robots develop the thought that they can overtake the role of humans. Society thus becomes strikingly close to being overrun by the technology it creates. Such arguably mainstream science fiction plots have often been deemed as exaggerated by the general public. However, neuroevolution indicates that these plots may not be so hyperbolized after all. On a less-extreme side note, neuroevolution could also potentially worsen unemployment rates as machines become more capable than ever of replacing human labor.

What are some ways that neuroevolution can be put to great practice? What are some ways that it can lead to a depressing societal lapse? Should there be boundaries limiting how far technology should be allowed to advance?

What are your thoughts?

Do answers exist?

# Neuroevolution: Is the Impossible becoming Reality?

2017. 12. 30

written by Se Mi Park



# Passion! Disconnected.

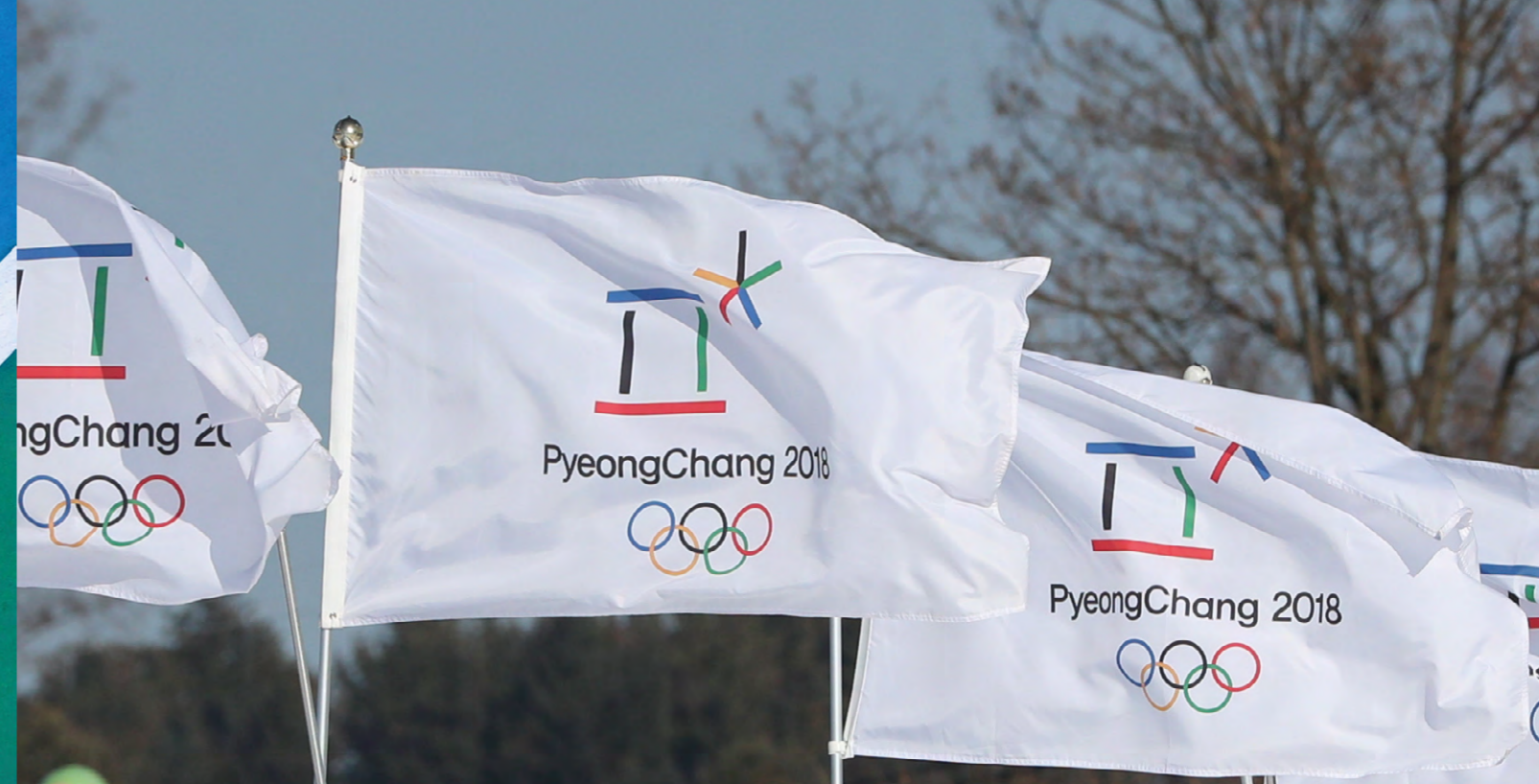
2017. 12. 09

written by Hyun Jae Lee

Here we are, in the year of 2017, when the whole world seems to have broken down into minuscule particles of dust, laboriously trying to blow each other away. Just five months ahead of the quadrennial Winter Olympics, a hallmark of peace and connectivity, the host country seems to have failed to live up to its heartening slogan. Starting with the pandemonium caused by political parties and their groupies, to the dispute between victims of either the mandatory military subscription or the glass ceiling, to anonymous online roasts by angry nerds directed at each other's universities, it seems we have entered an age of disconnection...and much localized passion. Of course, these clashing personali-

ties share a common feature: a heated passion to debate over differing perspectives. Sadly, we all have witnessed a number of cases where debates have degenerated into brawls and common etiquette into inflammatory behavior. Problems begin to arise when debaters shut all eyes and ears to possibilities outside their caves of shadows.

In an age of interweaving networks and the widespread use of social platforms, where we are taught and raised to become open-minded to new and different ideas, why is it that the people of today have become more estranged from others, and less eager to listen?



Social division rarely occurs in the piping times of peace. Rather, it feeds on societies in which its people experience times of uncertainty and anxiety. An average citizen in Korea can observe the defects that our society today contains: our futures are blurrier than ever, competition has never been this fierce, and the declining pool of resources fails to accommodate all, altogether fueling our anxiety and fear of falling behind. Whereas the period of rapid development has led to all sorts of expansion—in particular, the workforce and economy—modern society seems to show a stall or a decline in resources that are in serious demand. Human workforce, for example, is being replaced by machines and robots. Entry barriers for permanent positions have soared higher than ever. Youth unemployment rates have reached an all-high in August 2017 in 18 years. These disturbing uncertainties lead university students to engage in constant online warfare, proving themselves over others by putting a ranking on professions, schools and majors that can best guarantee a job. We can see the brawl between the fields of liberal arts and the natural sciences. But look a little closer. We can then spot another division within liberal arts, between economics/business departments and the humanities. The list goes on and on.

It seems that when times are hard and life has turned into an ever-competitive zero-sum game, stepping over any potential competition becomes key to safeguard our interests and positions. We find ourselves becoming more self-centered. We conclude that the prerequisites for winning this game we call “life” are to establish hierarchies and consider any opposing view an invention of our foes. To discriminate others based on gender, political affiliation, age, or educational backgrounds—but always in our favor. In a world where the winner takes it all, the uncertainty of our place and future discourages us from seeking answers to virtuous questions and debate. We spend too much time proving ourselves to be right and therefore a winner.

Psychological factors also endorse division. It seems as though living according to one's due are now a thing of the past. Today, people want to enjoy all the luxuries in life. Our endless desires, together with our incessant comparisons to others dissuade us from ever feeling satisfied and sufficient. Social media platforms have largely contributed to the evolution of this psyche. We upload the lives we want others to

think we have. We hide behind the screen of our imaginary worlds when posting “the perfect selfie” (only after the arduous process of “taking about 300 photos until you get the right selfie” in the words of reality TV star Kim Kardashian). Wishing our lives were as fabulous as the seeming lives of others, we crave for the better things in life, even if they are far out-of-reach. This mindset gives way to a sense of relative deprivation and feelings of detachment from others, which inevitably instigate division.

Other causes can be found in the political arena whose influence permeates our everyday lives. The period of hardship has brought about discontent and anguish onto the toiling masses, leading many to see or hear what they want to believe. Meanwhile, we are constantly made vulnerable to incitement by demagogues who aggravate social division for the benefit of their political careers or parties. Admittedly, politics has always been a tug-of-war between different interest groups. Yet the recent political drama, featuring the impeachment of President Park, caused aggression and radical divide of left and right among the people. In the midst of this frenzy, politicians added fuel to the fire by using deceptive politics and the “us versus them” repertoire, pressuring us to pick a side. But we are well aware that the world can't be seen in black and white, as can't political issues or national policies. Politicians have often overlooked a large gray area in the middle. And the result was another ideological dichotomy, which only added onto our current social disharmony.

A single passion, when brought together and shared by many, has the power to shift the paradigm. As a slogan for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics reads: “Passion, in its various forms, changes the world.” By connecting passion, Pyeongchang 2018 aims to connect people, places, and possibilities, and ultimately promote peace. It is certainly worth hoping that the host country gets better and more inclusive over time as well—that the deep cracks in our current economy, psychology, and politics become mended—by embodying this Olympic spirit. In the meantime, we should find more trust and faith in ourselves and others, open our hearts a little wider, find the breadth of mind to listen and empathize as we gracefully embrace the uncertainties of change and turn this bleak life around.

# The Dark Age of South Korea National Football Team

2017. 11. 06

written by Byung Sung Park

On October 7th, 2017, Korea lost against Russia (2:4). On October 10th, Korea lost against Morocco (1:3). Both games ended in depressing defeats that elicited much disappointment from Korean fans. But what is more disheartening with such results was not the loss itself but the fact that the Korean national team was unable to put up a good fight. On the one hand, the defense ended up giving too much space to the opponents along with conceding goals. On the other hand, the offense did not manage to create enough pass plays that could penetrate the opposing team's defense.

But why was this happening? The Korean national team has highly skilled players who play competently in European league teams. Son Heung-Min (Tottenham Hotspur) is the Asian super star who scored 21 goals last season in the English Premier League, replacing Cha Bum-Kun's record of 19 goals in a season. Ki Sung-Yueng (Swansea City), Kwon Chang-Hoon (Dijon FC), and Koo Ja-Cheol (FC Augsburg) are all esteemed players who established themselves as essential players in their European teams. It is safe to conclude that the Korean national team does have players adroit enough to form a competent team. In fact, many Korean football analysts believe that the problem lies not necessarily in the players, but in the Korean Football Association's management.

To elaborate, a lack of long-term plan, or a roadmap, seems to be what the Korean national team lacks. It is undoubtedly responsibility of the Korean Football Association to come up

with a practical strategy that can maximize the team's strength and hire a competent general manager who can implement it. A football columnist Seo Hyung-Wook suggests that the controversy regarding hiring Gus Hiddink as general manager or keeping Shin Tae-Yong, the inability to find a formation that can maximize national team's strengths, and the failure to recruit K-League players for international matches all indicate the absence of long term strategy, not to mention administration problems.

The 2018 FIFA World Cup that will be hosted by Russia is less than eight months away. But if the association fails to provide a specific tactical long-term plan, it will massively hinder the Korean national team from demonstrating its full potentials. What worries the fans is not necessarily the scores. It is the possibility that the association may fail to sufficiently support the team and the players.

Fans of the Korean national team are not necessarily demanding that the team create another World Cup miracle of advancing to the semi-final similarly to what had happened in 2002. What we want to see from the players and the associations, however, are some of the practical solutions that can prepare and match Korea to stand against the World Cup giants--be it Germany, France, or Brazil. And we believe that the Korean national team can and will find a way to resolve current crisis through, and only through, valiant efforts to take appropriate measures within the realm of management.

South Korea achieved a resounding victory against Colombia with Son Heung-Min's multi-goal (2:1). Against Serbia, we put up a good fight to bring the game to a tie (1:1). It is surprising how much our national team has changed after experiencing humiliating defeats during the international matches in October. What caused South Korean team to improve so substantially? What could have potentially changed the attitudes of our players?

One of the contributing factors that has improved the performance of the South Korean national team seems to have lain in a change in its strategy and formations. In October, Shin Tae-Yong stubbornly used 3-4-3 formation and emphasized on keeping the possession. The result was a lack of creativity on offense and a stretched defense that gave too much space to opponents. Against Colombia and Serbia, however, Shin Tae-Yong abandoned his original formation completely and used 4-4-2 formation. Such formation revived South Korea's unique style of football play, not to mention its fast counter-attacks. Furthermore, by placing Son Heung-Min as a striker instead of a winger, he managed to get behind the defenders with his fast speed and scored with his accurate strikes.

Of course, Son Heung-Min is not the only player who deserves credit for the triumph. Ki Sung-Yeung was one of the star players who took command of the mid-field. With his great footwork and accurate passes, he could escape the pressure in the mid-field and precisely pass the ball to forwards and wingers. He was the essential central mid-fielder who would initiate the attack from the half-line. Kwon Chang-Hoon and Lee Jae-Sung were also among the star players who adroitly intercepted the passes and effectively exploited the flanks as winger forwards. Overall, each player performed his expected role in the match, which led to a highly coherent and powerful offensive plays.

Perhaps, one of the most important changes was their attitude. Ever since their poor records against Russia and Morocco in October, the players, blatantly put, had nothing to lose. Their fighting spirits were revived, determined to pour out all of their efforts. Consequently, all the players persistently pressured their opponents and won possessions after possessions. Every player seems to have given 110 percent of their efforts while staying thoroughly active throughout the game.

The South Korean national team delivered what fans had exactly wanted to see. Fast and quick offensive plays and coherent passes were what they needed to bring the games to a great and meaningful conclusion. But what really won the hearts of the fans were the team's valiant efforts. Despite the fact that Colombia and Serbia were much more competent counterparts, our players did not back down and instead put up a great fight. They exemplified the beauty of sports and the pinnacle of sportsmanship where an underdog could still win.

The team's results are commendable. But we should not be solely satisfied with them. The World Cup involves many other teams with seasoned players and strategies. We must therefore find various other strategies that can maximize our strengths and overcome some of the preexisting limitations. The 2018 Russian FIFA World Cup is not far away. Nevertheless, so long as we stay humble with our victories, we will further redeem ourselves and bring even more fruitful results from the World Cup.

# Glimpse of Hope for South Korea National Football Team

2017. 12. 04

written by Byung Sung Park





**BREKERS**

# BLAND

2017. 12. 04

written by Ji Yoon Lee

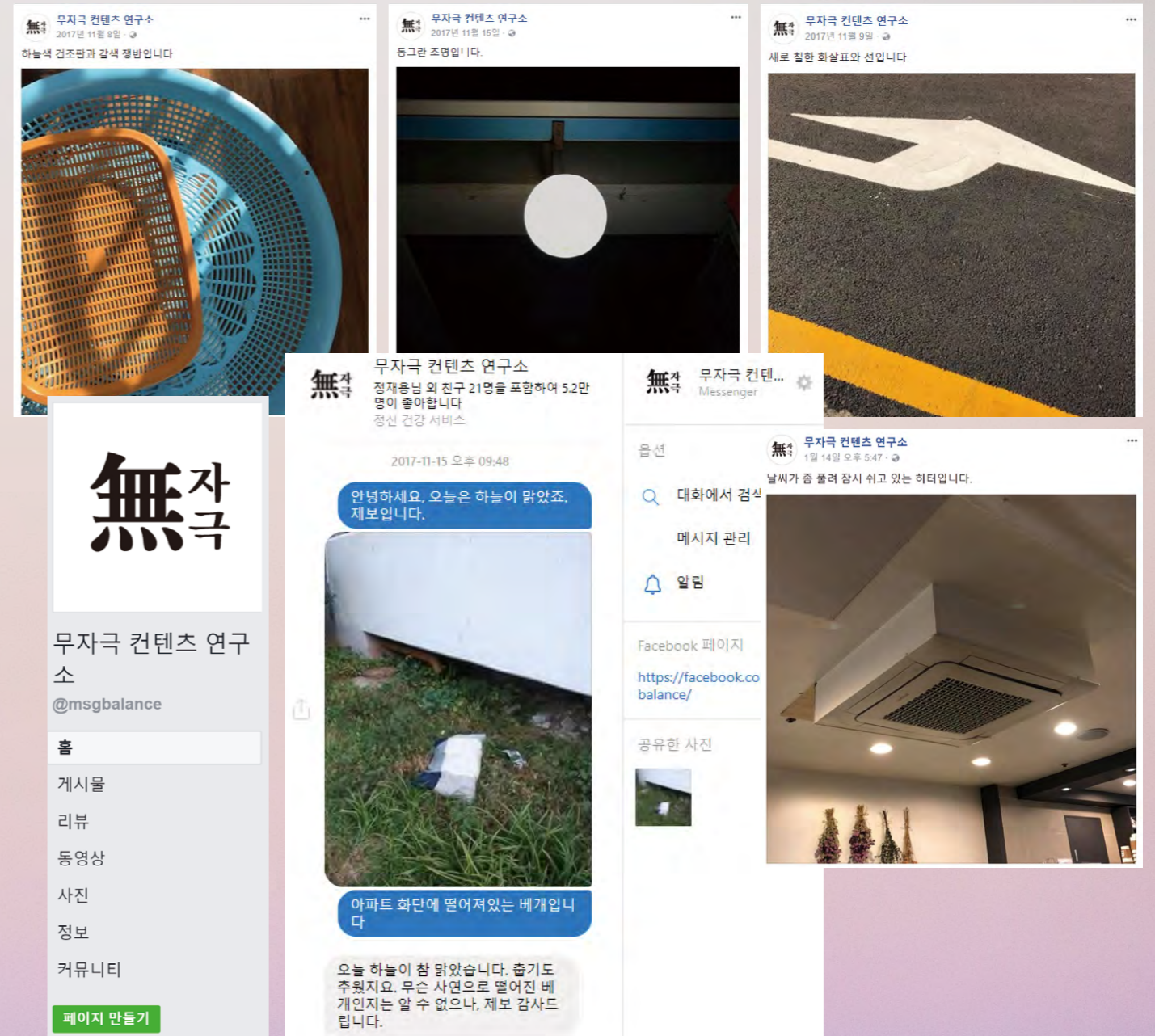
*"This is a circular lamp."  
"These are a newly painted arrow and line."  
"These are a sky blue dry rag and a blue tray."*

These are some of the latest postings from the Facebook page "Bland Contents Lab(무자극 콘텐츠 연구소)." One of the fastest growing pages in Facebook Korea, Bland Contents Lab uploaded their first post on June 23rd, 2017. It said, "This is the early evening sky of Jeju." This was the beginning of a phenomenal Facebook page that now almost fifty thousand people follow. In fact, this bland hype gathered more than five thousand followers in the first week and among these followers, 86% were reported to be between 18 and 24 years old. And the source of these statistics? Bland Contents Lab themselves. Occasionally on weekends, they upload the report of their posts. They explore the characteristics of the followers and why some of their posts were not so bland. One of the subjects that they have not yet invested in depth is why people like their page. So this article will look through the possible reasons for the emergence of bland hype.



Many Korean Facebook users have been undoubtedly tired of typical Facebook contents that would attract attention with flashy photos and videos. The Facebook feed of most users is flooding with posts introducing delicious restaurants and must-go places with heavily adjusted photos and speedy video clips. Most of these posts somewhat pressure Facebook users that they should do something to be trendy. Meanwhile, some pages post too many posts per day that the feed ends up being covered with their posts. In fact, Facebook even introduced a policy that if a page uploads more than five posts per day, only five of their posts will randomly appear to respective page followers.

But once you follow Bland Contents Lab, you are freed from all these. Bland Contents Lab shares photos of everyday life, rather mundane scenes. The objects on their photos are quite unconventional in the SNS world. Just like ambient music, photos from Bland Contents Lab are like ambient photos. Photos of wet blocks on the sidewalk, new shower curtains, rainy window, and a doorstopper are one of their most liked feeds. All of their photos seem to be taken by a smartphone. Their unedited photos may therefore seem unprofessional. They might be cropped, but at least no Photoshop liquification and no multi layered filters.



If you are enchanted by this MSG-Free Facebook page, you can write comments about what you felt when looking at these photos. Then, the page will reply. Bland Contents Lab replies to all the comments it receives. When someone tags their friend, the Lab replies "Thank you for the recommendation." On comments that point out why the particular photo was not so bland, the Lab sympathizes with the reason and comments that they will try to post better bland photos. If you wish to share the bland and ambient scene right in front of you, take a photo and send it to the Lab via Facebook Message. They will reply to you and simply say "Thank you for the photo." On a weekly basis, they upload the selected collection of photos that their followers have sent with apologies to photos that are not chosen. When you interact with the Lab, you will soon be attracted to their comfortably gentle, yet humorous manner.

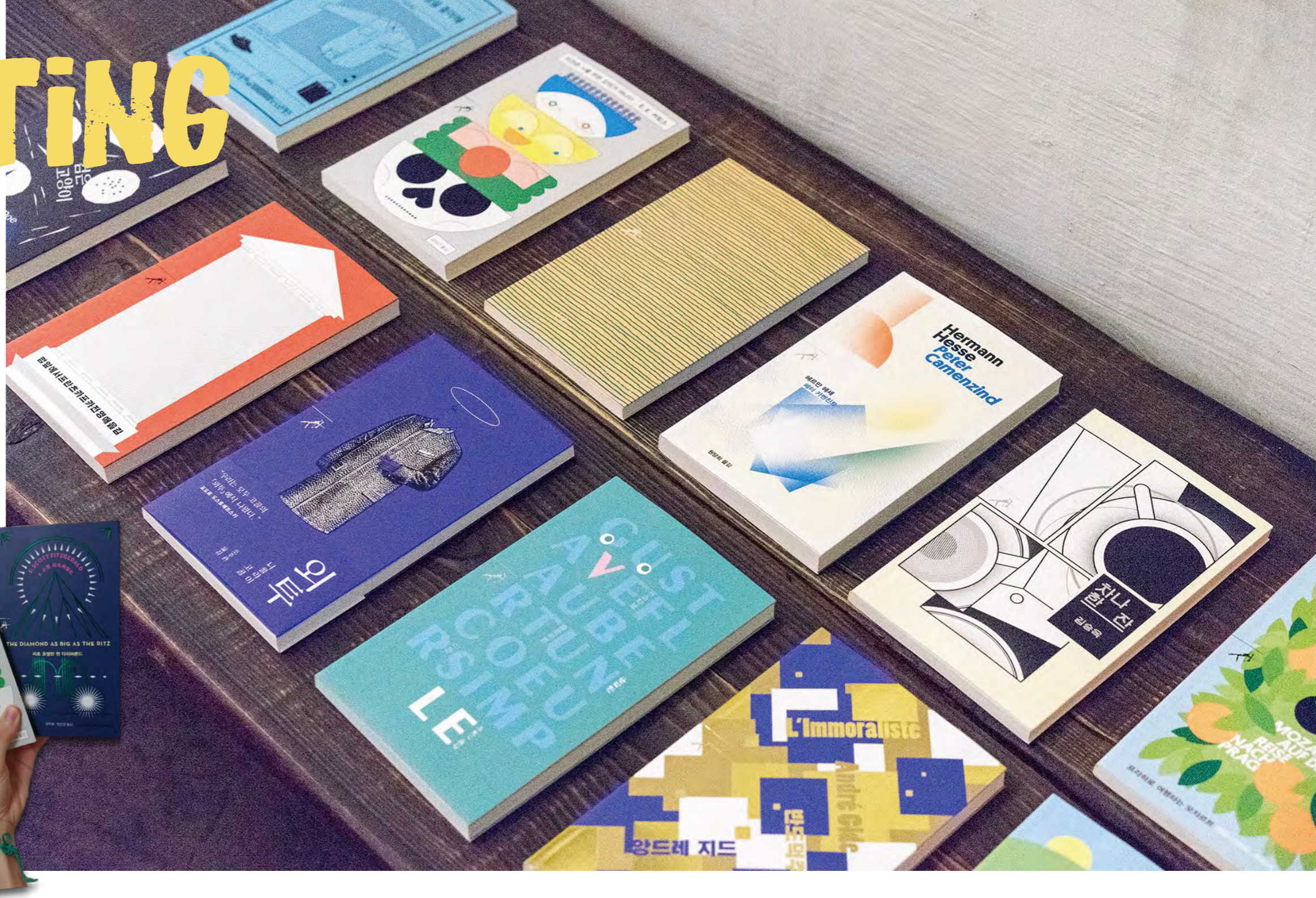
Last Wednesday, I sent a photo to Bland Contents Lab. I didn't realize that I had paid close attention to ordinary scenes of my daily routine until I took this photo. It was a photo of a pillow fallen on a flowerbed of an apartment that I passed by every single day. Thanks to Bland Contents Lab, I felt more attached to such seemingly insignificant objects.

With all these thoughts in my mind, I sent a Facebook message to them. I wrote "Hello, today's sky was very clear. I have a photo to report. This is a pillow fallen on a flowerbed of an apartment." And they replied "The sky was very clear today. And cold. I cannot know why the pillow has fallen, but thank you for the photo. Have a good evening." What a bland, yet warm conversation it was.

\*Bland Contents Lab: <https://www.facebook.com/msgbalance>

# COMMUTING

## VIA SUBWAY WITH A POCKET BOOK IN MY HAND



2017. 11. 25

written by Ji Yoon Lee

I would define the "classical" as something that I return to after a long wandering. My example of 'classical' things would be the film *Wall-E*, which is what I watch after going to the movies a couple of times per month to watch a series of brand new box-office films. Another "classical" thing is the 1980s Korean rock music that I listen to after listening to trendy popular songs with similar melodies for a while.

The story goes back to my freshman year when I first used a smartphone. My commuting time took more than an hour. All the way from my home to school, I endured the tiring process by using a smartphone. I even missed a stop that I should get off at because I was watching a video or playing a mobile game. But all of a sudden, fidgeting with smartphone became a mundane thing. Mobile contents were fun, but I became tired of them because of their shallow and flashy characteristics.

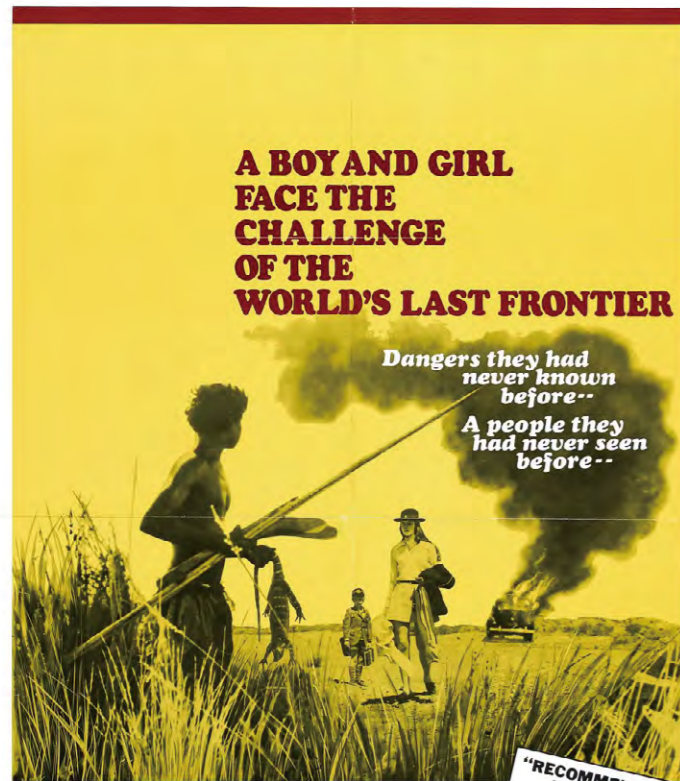
These days, I ride the subway with a book in my hand. Pocket-sized books are especially great commuting companions as they are small and light. Even when I go standing all the way, reading is not that difficult with pocket-books. Unlike smartphones, it neither hurts my wrist nor dries my eyes. Some book publishers paid particular attention to this new trend--books coming back to the attention of subway commuters--and presented new pocketbook series.

Sson-Sal Moon-Go, published by Min-Um Sa, is one of the most successful Korean pocketbook series so far whereby Min-Um Sa is one of the major Korean publishers. Sson-Sal Moon-Go, which means swift arrow book series, was named after the publisher's symbol. A man is aiming an arrow at the symbol. Min-Um Sa explains that they named the series as a swift arrow because this series is going to introduce books that are light like an arrow but hit the reader's mind like an arrow hits the bull's eye.

The books in the series are not long nor expensive. They are about 150 to 200 pages long and the price starts from 5800 KRW. In the series are Hermann Hesse's "Peter Camenzind," Edgar Allan Poe's "The Black Cat," Kim Seung Ok's "A Cup of Tea," Andre Gide's "L'Immoraliste," Franz Kafka's "Before the Law," and more.

Among these 29 Sson-Sal books, I bought E.E. Cummings' "I: Six Nonlectures" and Scott Fitzgerald's "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz." These two books carry the Sson-Sal characteristics. "I: Six Nonlectures," which is a book that contains six lectures at Harvard University, was published in Korean for the first time. Cummings shares his stance on the role of art in these six unconventional lectures. "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz" is made of five short stories that illustrate the ups and downs of the writer's life and the turbulent 1920s Jazz Age.

Sson-Sal Moon-Go aims to capture the minds of its readers with books that resonate with a message. In particular, a "new" classical book series, including books from Japan and Nigeria, has always made me ponder for a while as I was walking or on the train. One is Hirokazu Koreeda's "After the Storm," which depicts the life of a family after going through painful moments: death and divorce. The other is Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions." In Korean version, the title is "Feminist Mother: Fifteen Ways To Raise A Child To Be A Feminist," a title that clearly delivers the writer's intention. I would say these two new books, which I'm planning to read, have not only solidified the Sson-Sal brand but also widened the boundary of the series. So far, reading the Sson-sal series is the subway moment that I cherish the most.



"RECOMMENDED WITHOUT RESERVATION"  
—Judith Ripp, Parents Magazine

# Walkabout

20th Century Fox presents A MAX L. ROEG SI LITVINOFF PRODUCTION WALKABOUT starring JENNY AGUTTER · LUCIEN JOHN · DAVID GUMPILIL executive producer MAX L. ROEG produced by SI LITVINOFF directed and photographed by NICOLAS ROEG screenplay by EDWARD BOND based on the novel by JAMES VANCE MARSHALL music by JOHN BARRY COLOR BY DE LUKE

GP ALL AGES ADMITTED

# Walkabout:

## Attempted Homogenisation of Aboriginal Culture on Screen

2017. 10. 25

written by Mijin Kim

**Directed by** Nicolas Roeg  
**Produced by** Si Litvinoff  
**Screenplay by** Edward Bond

**Based on**  
 Walkabout by James Vance Marshall

**Starring**  
 Jenny Agutter, Luc Roeg, David Gumpilil

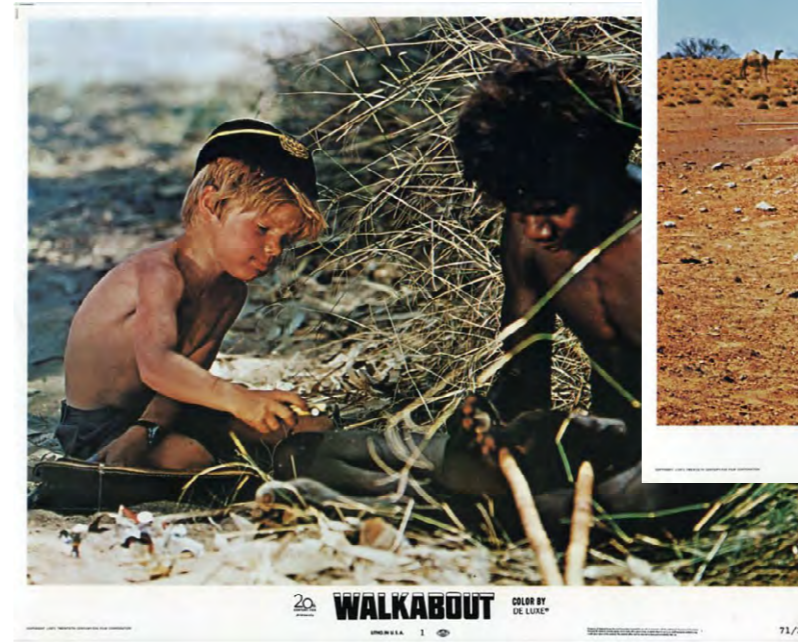
**Music by**  
 John Barry

**Cinematography**  
 Nicolas Roeg

**Release date**  
 May 1971 (Cannes)  
 October 1971 (UK/Australia)

**Running time**  
 100 minutes

Nicolas Roeg's famous 1971 film *Walkabout* narrates the story of two English siblings, a boy and a teenage girl, who struggle to survive at the mercy of the Australian Outback. The children accompany their father into the desert with the promise of having a picnic. In an inexplicable frenzy, their father sets their car on fire and begins shooting at them. Without success in hurting the children, he takes the last bullet and kills himself. The abruptness of their father's death marks their sudden estrangement from civilization and the beginning of a journey unforeseen. Along the way, they encounter a teenage Aborigine who joins them and becomes their guide.



The title of the film, "walkabout," refers to an Aborigine ritual in which young males make the transition from boyhood to manhood by going on a solitary journey where they must fend for themselves. *Walkabout*, however, does not tell the story of the young Aborigine's trek, but that of the first experience the English protagonists have in the land of the Aborigines. This narrative, however, is violent and irresponsible. The film doubly subjugates the Aborigines to the voice and eyes of their colonizer; first, by granting authorial expression to an English director, and then, by positioning English characters as the protagonists in an Aboriginal narrative. The story of the Australian indigenous people is delineated by the colonizer, which does not serve as a magnifying medium, but rather a silencing tool.

The young Aborigine is portrayed as a half-magical individual naturally embedded in the scenery of the Outback. With the exception of a short sequence showing a handful of Aborigines working in an establishment managed by Caucasian people, there are no other indigenous characters introduced to the audience. As described in Garry Simmons' article, "VCE Film as Text," the Aborigine represents "the 'noble savage' emerging mystically from the landscape—as organically linked to the landscape he inhabits...." His lack of community and consequent dearth of land further illustrate how indigenous people have been desocialized and dehistoricized in order to fit into the narrative the colonizer has constructed for them.

Roeg's statement that the film is "a simple story about life and being alive, not covered with sophistry but addressing the most basic human themes: birth, death, and mutability" conveys the film's explicit intention of finding a common ground for Anglo and Aboriginal cultures. Yet, the

film goes beyond pointing out similarities. It instead portrays the Aboriginal culture as another version of Anglo culture. This can be observed in the film's use of juxtaposition of images of the Aborigines' experiences and those of the English children. During the young Aborigine's hunting scene he manages to secure a kangaroo. This scene is followed by a sequence of alternating shots of the young man beating the kangaroo and a Caucasian butcher aggressively cutting some meat. Images such as these depict how the film ignores intrinsic cultural and historical differences, equating the Aborigine with the Anglo culture.

Ironically, the film appears to argue for an underlying commonality while portraying Anglo culture as superior to Aborigine. The notion of the incessant "black courtship of white," for instance, appears during the mating dance the young Aborigine performs for the girl. She rejects him as the former is unable to understand the significance of his dance, and is overwhelmed by feelings of confusion, discomfort, and, to an extent, fear. The characters' failure to communicate effectively mirrors the tragic story of the dominant culture's inability, potentially even unwillingness, to comprehend the oppressed culture's needs or desires.

Just as the Aborigine's mating dance is rejected by the girl, Aboriginal culture is also rejected by Anglo culture, and just as the Aborigine meets his death, Aboriginal culture meets the end of any lines of communication. The film highlights the imbalanced narrative between the Aborigines' voices and the message assumed and conveyed by Anglo culture on their behalf. This gap can only be bridged through a dialogue that, as observed in *Walkabout*, is still to take place.

designed by Soomin Amiee Kim

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