

# THE GRANITE TOWER

The Korea University English Magazine

APRIL 2016



COVER STORY

**Mental Disorder:  
Mirror of Modern Society**

**Wage Peak System – Killing Two  
Birds With One Stone?**

**Professor JANG HA SUNG**

# THE GRANITE TOWER

Established on September 18, 1954, *The Granite Tower* (GT) is a monthly college journal supported by a staff of Korea University undergraduate students. The magazine is published during the spring and fall semesters and is distributed free of charge.

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**KOREA  
UNIVERSITY**

## EDITOR'S LETTER

### May

### April be a

### March Forward

Everything is ambivalent. Behind the splendor of blooming flowers is hidden the agony of the tillers that have strived to break free from the cold. Behind the streets that are embroidered with pink cherry blossoms await streets piled with fallen petals. In this sense, beauty is not about what is visible. True beauty lies in the soundless perseverance and the inevitable finitude.

Modern society is also ambivalent, but it is sometimes too tough to be romanticized as a beauty of our lives. There are people who work hard for a sincerely equal society, but ironically, their efforts often reveal the reality of our unequal society. The twenties are now calling themselves dirt spoons, and the state of being jobless seems infinite, not showing a single beam of hope.

*The Granite Tower* (GT) has attentively listened to the angers and pessimism prevalent behind the glorious spring flowers of April. Including the cover story that deals with various mental disorders modern people suffer from, GT has shed light on the conflicts happening in the international stage. Nevertheless, April is a month of a new "opening," a bridge between March and May. *May April* be a steppingstone for a hopeful *March* forward, may the silent angers of each individual come together and someday burst into a blooming society.

J.H. Kim

**Kim Jae Hyun** ([kjh95@korea.ac.kr](mailto:kjh95@korea.ac.kr))  
Editor-in-Chief, *The Granite Tower* (GT)





# CONTENTS

APRIL 2016 VOL. 471

## NEWS

- 04 *The Granite Tower* Presents a Photo Exhibition
- 04 A *Dae-jabo* Condemns the Gender Discrimination in KU
- 05 KU Center for Curriculum and Instruction Studies
- 05 KU's Acceleration on Latin American Project

## IN KU

- 06 When Anger Takes Over
- 07 KUSCC— Where the Students Can Take a Rest
- 08 Where is My Home Sweet HOME?
- 10 Korea University Paves the Way to the Future
- 12 KU Students Speak: On Campus Politics & Social Participation
- 14 Striving Forward with a Sword

## FEATURE

- 16 National Scholarships—Who Rightfully Deserves Them?
- 18 *Makjang* Drama and an Angry Society
- 20 Wage Peak System – Killing Two Birds With One Stone?
- 22 The Battle for Free Speech

## COVER STORY

- 24 Mental Disorder: Mirror of Modern Society

## PHOTO ESSAY

- 32 ANGER

## KU PEOPLE

- 38 Professor JANG HA SUNG

## CAREER

- 40 Crisis Manager, the Relief Pitcher

## FOREIGN REPORT

- 42 Why David and Goliath Is Only a Myth
- 44 Caught in the Middle

## ARTS&CULTURE

### BOOK

- 48 The Perks of Being a Pessimist

### MUSIC

- 49 Perk Up with Coffee Boy's Java Jive

### FILM

- 50 *The Big Short*: Pessimists Who Knew Too Much

### PERFORMANCE

- 52 *WASHING AWAY WORRIES TOGETHER*

### EXHIBITION

- 54 The Man Who Redefined Beauty

## OPINION

- 56 Are We All Prisoners of Language?
- 57 How Much Power Should Minority Political Parties Have?
- 58 Facebook Creating Famous Criminals



## NEWS

## The Granite Tower Presents a Photo Exhibition

By Jeon Sohyeon (jeon1995@korea.ac.kr)

A photo exhibition has taken place at the People's Square. Some of the best photos taken by past *The Granite Tower* (GT) members have been displayed to everyone.

The photo exhibition had three themes — past cover photos, Ko-Yon Games photos, and past photo essays. The past cover photos were aligned in chronological order, and gave the viewers a picture of how GT has evolved over time.

The photos of the Ko-Yon Games showed some of the grand moments of the annual festival. Those who have no experience of watching the Ko-Yon Games were able to vicariously experience the grand scale of the festival.

The last theme was dedicated to GT's past photo essays. These photos went beyond the stereotypical photos by telling stories and speaking to the viewers without using words.

“The exhibition effectively capitulates the overall scenery of KU and gives a good idea of how GT has changed over time,” said Hwang Hee Mun (’13, Electrical Engineering). It would have been something for students to stop by and appreciate GT's photography. 📷



Outer view of the Granite Tower photo exhibition. Photo taken by Jeon Sohyeon.

## A Dae-jabo Condemning the Gender Discrimination in KU

By Maeng Jun Ho (juneau0317@korea.ac.kr)

*Sukssoon*, a feminist media in Korea University (KU), has recently posted campus wall posters, commonly known as *Dae-jabo* in Korean, about the deep-seated misogyny and gender discrimination that plague the campus. The poster contains a total of 18 discriminatory comments that many female students have heard in classrooms on a regular basis.

Some of the lines include “You should try to act cute like a girl,” and “It is rude to yawn in the middle of a class, especially for a girl.” One common theme of all these derogatory lines is that they are often directed at girls in a classroom environment, particularly from professors, which makes the issue all the more serious. *Sukssoon* explained that the motivation behind this project was to “spread awareness about the severity of gender discrimination and misogyny taking place in classrooms.” 📷

“여학생들이 ‘씨발’, ‘존나같이 험한 말을 하고 다니더라’고요  
어떻게 그렇게 험한 말들을 여학생들이 할 수 있는지, 너무 놀랐어요

“학생이 수업시간에 하품을 하다니, 무례하네. 그것도 ‘여학생이.’”

“여자는 똑똑하면 남자한테 인기가 없어. 내가 선을 보러갔는데,  
여자가 검사였나, 그랬는데 말을 진짜 많이 했어.  
조금 명칭하고 백치미가 있어야 남자한테 사랑받지.”

A picture of the campus wall poster written by *Sukssoon*. Photographed by Maeng Jun Ho.

## KU Center for Curriculum and Instruction Studies Opens Special Lectures

By Kim DaHyun (byejen@korea.ac.kr)

Korea University (KU) Center for Curriculum and Instruction Studies (an affiliate of KU College of Education) has opened special education lectures on mathematics and its teaching methods for math teachers and the public. The center has developed three programs.

One is a lecture titled, “Special Lecture on Instruction for Essay Tests for Mathematics Instructors.” The lecture looks into the educational significance of mathematics essay tests. It also instructs people on university mathematics that is related to compulsory test topics in various sections such as algebra, statistics, and geometry.

Another is a special lecture on essay test instruction. Since it is a good chance to learn in depth each sections of the mathematics essay test and its instruction methods in a short time, many mathematics instructors are showing interest. The last in the series is a program called, “Special Lecture on Mathematics Education.” It coaches instructors on how to teach mathematics and plan an ideal curriculum. ☞



A lecture at KU Uncho-Useoun Hall. Provided by bmri.korea.ac.kr.

## KU's Acceleration on Latin American Project

By Lee Jeong Min (cosmos0330@korea.ac.kr)

Korea University (KU) unveiled the specific details to its new innovative project—the KU Latin America Project on March 18th. This project which aims to globalize the university through inviting competent Latin American international students to KU has been planned during the last three years.

KU Latin America Project's eventual goal is to invite 200 undergraduate and 300 graduate Latin American students by 2020. KU has announced in January that it established a “Global Friends” scholarship program along with the Education Ministry of and National Scholarship Institute of Andes countries that awards Latin American international students with scholarships to study in KU.

KU announced that it is giving acceleration to the project by delineating the details to the project. It plans to sign more conventions with Latin American countries, further strengthen current treaties, and actively invite competent international students. KU is also planning on initiating a KU-Latin America Global Leadership program, in which 30 KU students have the chance to visit universities in Latin America and experience the culture there, this winter.

Many people, both inside and outside KU are hoping that this project will bring about positive effects. ☞



A scene from the KU Latin America Project's advertisement video clip. Provided by KU.

# When **Anger** Takes Over

Life is never always sunshine and rainbows; tornadoes and thunderstorms visit as well. Around every corner of jubilation in life, anger and sadness lurk. Such moments might leave some people discouraged and lethargic. However, anger is a core emotion that can foster personal growth and maturation. Let's look at some fellow colleagues' moments in life when anger took over.

By **Lee Hye Min** (min4562@korea.ac.kr)



Being a Chinese exchange student has never been easy. Not just because I am homesick, but because of myself not appreciating my precious family members. It was the day before my flight when anger took over me. With all the luggage I had to take to Korea, I needed a lift from my dad.

Unfortunately, my father had to pull an all-nighter at work the day before my flight and asked me to go without him. I got angry, but after shouting at him for how he was the worst dad, I felt guilty. In the end, dad had to rush his work to drive all the way for me, but even before I got on my flight, I did not apologize. Next time I fly home, I will look him in the eye and tell my dad, "I love you."

**Wan Yi** ('16, School of Media and Communication)

This may sound awkward, but my anger is something more realistic. It is about team-based school work. I was pretty sure I had enough experience in dealing with team projects from high school, but the team projects here in college are not like those I experienced before. I had to be discreet simultaneously in terms of making my individual efforts and working as a group. It would be a lie if I completely deny that I have a tendency to scrutinize my work during team projects. I am satisfied after I check all the group project materials, even if I am sure that the other members will handle them their best. I mean, I do not really have to be picky about the group work when there are other members assigned to do it, but I just cannot stop myself. I haven't found ways to resolve this tendency yet, but I hope to find one before I graduate.

**Solina Shim** ('14, International Studies)

I do not usually get mad, but there is one source of anger that frequently makes me upset—myself. To be specific, my rigid standards considering my life ethics and relationship with others upset me. I know that I should not expect the same attitude and generosity from other people that I have given to them, but I always resort to blankly believing that others think like me. I reach moments of anger when facing people who seem to take advantage of my generosity. Although I know that I should never blame others for giving me such scars, I cannot refrain from expecting the same kind or response and generosity that I have given to them. Maybe I will continue to be kind and generous to others and get scarred by people who do not do the same to me, but in the end I hope to feel less pain as I grow older.

**Lee Jae Seung** ('12, Business School)



For me, moments when anger takes over are very clear; they are when I find myself lethargically wasting time. What makes me frustrated is that I don't know what to do with those seconds that pass by meaninglessly. Then a friend of mine inspired me to change. He taught me to challenge myself.

His meaning of challenge was to take part in various activities, whatever the reason may be. This led me to my very first extracurricular activity, *KUchina*. At first, I signed up simply to make my summer vacation useful, but in the end it turned out to be much more fruitful than I had expected. Thanks to *KUchina*, I am now even capable of speaking fluent Mandarin Chinese. Thanks to that experience and my friend, I now spend every second looking for a chance to change. When anger takes over your useless self, try out something new. An inspiring friend might come in handy!

**Oh Ji Won** ('15, Food and Resource Economics)



**E**stablished on September 1, 1981, KUSCC aims to help students mature into a happier and healthier being through professional counseling from eight counselors. The basic programs of the center include individual and group counseling. While individual counseling focuses on counseling that can be provided by any other psychological center, group counseling is one of KUSCC's main advantages. Group counseling is a program that revolves around one chosen issue such as "Internet addiction." After the topic is chosen, the center recruits people to take part in the counseling. It also provides other various programs including lectures and workshops that are held every

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## KUSCC— Where the Students Can Take a Rest

Everyone has secrets deep inside their hearts that they cannot even tell to their closest friends or even parents. These secrets or troubles should be healed before they turn into major stresses that bully both the mind and body. Like how in the old fable "The King with Donkey Ears," the hairdresser had shouted out all his secrets into a deep hole, the Korea University Student Counseling Center (KUSCC) acts as the hole for Korea University (KU) students.

By Lee So Young (bcs1118@korea.ac.kr)

semester. The center is free of charge to any member of KU and everything that occurs inside the center is of course kept confidential.

Basic individual counseling is held once a week for 50 minutes, and it is usually a 12-time session depending on the issue. According to Kim Hyunjung who works for KUSCC as both a counselor and research professor, the problems that each student brings to the center are extremely broad. However, no matter what dilemma the student has, KUSCC always welcomes those who are in need. Any KU student who has troubles in solving different kinds of issues, including family, grade, and future plans can visit the center to receive counseling.

What differentiates KU's counseling center from other university's centers are its diverse programs. Other than basic counseling, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) examination program is one of KUSCC's most representative programs. It mainly focuses on the introspection of one's personality and the understanding of the relationship with other people through the MBTI personality test.

Starting from last year, KUSCC has planned another major program named *Kodaebut*, meaning "a friend of KU" in Korean. It is a mentoring program where seniors students of KU can directly mentor newcomers of the school who have trouble in school. Through *Kodaebut*, seniors can give advice to the mentees about campus life and give mental support to them. As a program that lasts

less than a semester, KUSCC hopes that this program will again help students' minds and bodies with direct mentoring from the seniors.

According to Professor Kim, students are not yet fully aware of what KUSCC does and therefore have trouble in easily visiting the center. She also mentioned that students can pay a visit "even when they simply want to have simple counseling before a trouble actually occurs." Actually, accessibility for the students was slightly limited because, until the previous month, the homepage of KUSCC could not be seen on mobile phones. Counseling appointments can now also be requested through smartphones, making services more accessible to students. In addition, through the homepage, students can easily take simple questionnaires regarding personality type and future career paths.

Like what Professor Kim had mentioned, KUSCC is open to any KU student. They provide necessary services to the people who require them. Happy students who are satisfied with their lives and themselves are what make a healthy university. Therefore, anyone who has personal or major problems such as "I want to be happier," "I want to have more self-confidence," "I feel lonely most of the time," can shake off their worries through KUSCC's counseling and various programs. No one should be worried about getting criticized by having strange or abnormal thoughts in KUSCC. Students should have just a little bit of confidence to visit the center, and the rest of the problems could be solved together with KUSCC. ☑

# Where is My Home Sweet HOME



“Every time I come home, it is the same great pleasure to lie down in my bed. That’s when I think, ‘home sweet home,’” said Sigrid Agren, a worldwide famous model. This quote is undeniably true for many, including students of Korea University (KU) who often live out busy lives. Home is cozy, secure, and comfortable. However, for some KU students home is not so *sweet*, but *bitter*, with many welfare problems tormenting them.

By Lee Jeong Min (cosmos0330@korea.ac.kr)



**H**ousing rights involves a right to live in an appropriate house as a member of a country. As one of the most fundamental rights granted to *everyone*, it is even mentioned in the constitution of Korea. KU students are empowered with these rights, too. However, there are many cases in which these rights are violated. In other words, many KU students are not residing in satisfactory and appropriate homes.

## We Have Got a Problem Here

To deal with the infringement of housing rights of KU students, *Starzzani*, the 48th Korea University Student Association (KUSA), founded the Housing and Life Welfare Department. Ever since its foundation, the new department has been in the lead through diverse projects in trying to ameliorate the bad residential conditions students suffer from.

## I Have “No Idea Where to Put Myself?”

“No Idea Where to Put Myself (*Momdul barul morugyeoda*)” is a project that aims to improve the housing welfare of students residing in boarding homes or studios. The Housing and Life Welfare Department identified high housing costs and lack of information about housing as some of the biggest hurdles that were bugging students. To help through these matters, three specific programs have been implemented.

The first program is “Kind Realtors.” Real estate agencies that have been designated as “Kind Realtors” are literally *kind*. Not only do they provide students with detailed information about both the housing and the contract process, but they also give discounts on the mediation payments. What is more is that these realtors utilize a standard housing lease contract, which is deemed crucial during residential contracts. These kind agencies, designated as such by the Housing and Life Welfare Department members, work in collaboration with *Starzzani* to make homes better for KU students.

To make things more convenient, the department also runs an Accompaniment Project and Housing Counseling Sessions. The residential

counselors are students who have been trained by the *Minsnail* Union, an organization that deals with the residential rights of youth. The counselors are trained to rightly comprehend the housing contracts and are taught precautionary tips in evaluating the conditions of a good home. Not only that, but they also learn how to deal with the most common legal issues that many students who live alone go through.

“So far the responses of the students have been very positive,” said Lee Yun Ji (14, Media and Communication), head of the Housing and Living Welfare Department. Considering the fact that “No Idea Where to Put Myself” had more participants than the initial start of the housing welfare project of Yonsei University, which *Starzzani* benchmarked, this could definitely be seen as a good start. “This is only the beginning. We are planning more projects like building a share-house and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED) zone,” Lee added.

## Gloomy Dorm Rooms

Dormitories also have their share of problems. Although the welfare problems that occur in the old dormitory and the new one differ, the biggest common problem is their high prices. “The Frontier dormitory fee is over 400,000 won, which costs more than living alone,” said Lee. “What is worse is that Frontier has not been transparent with respect to the fees collected,” explained Lee, which is why *Starzzani* filed an information release request litigation against Frontier.

The problem did not stop with high prices though. They went further with facilities as well as living welfare. “There are countless problems—little and big—when it comes to dormitory issues,” Lee said. The most fundamental problem intimidating students’ housing rights was, as Lee expressed, that “there is no place that can actually listen to students’ concerns.” Because there is no *Sasaenghoe*—a KU student council for dormitory life—for Frontier student residents, there is no place that students can rely on for the protection of their welfare.

The Housing and Life Welfare Department is currently trying to arrange talks with the KU administration to get these welfare problems fixed. Working in cooperation with the President of

*Sasaenghoe*, the department sent an archive to the school requesting for the construction of a new dormitory, and enforcing the role of *Sasaenghoe* in the Dormitory Operation Committee. It has been a few months since the archive was sent, but thus far there is no answer. “It seems as if the school does not want to talk to us, when we want to talk and actually get things worked out,” Lee said.

## Where to Go, What to Do

Another major project that the Housing and Life Welfare Dormitory is advancing is the construction of a new dormitory. It is planning on acceding with the *Dotori* Project that *Jaeum* initiated last year. The plan to make a KU pledge to construct a new dormitory is not yet fully unveiled—the department will work full-scale after the general elections in April. “We acknowledge the fact that because the *Dotori* project failed, it may be even harder for us to accede to it this year,” said Lee. “However, we are not willing to give up.”

This is the first time students’ housing rights have been discussed on the table so broadly and systematically. The ultimate goal of the Housing and Life Welfare Department is to listen to the voices of students one by one and aggregate them into one big voice that can bring about change. Lee said it is a pity that many students think the KUSA is somewhat *too big* to talk to, but that is not true. “We want to lower the barriers of KUSA and facilitate an open space wherein communication freely goes back and forth,” she said. “For the housing welfare of KU students, we will do our best,” she pledged. ☞



Lee Yun Ji, head of Housing and Life Welfare Department in an interview with GT. Photographed by Lee So Young.

# Korea University Paves the Way to the Future

Korea University (KU) President Yeom Jae Ho has been causing quite a stir in the media with his new policies. Ever since his inauguration in 2015, Yeom constantly carried out reforms such as three-no policy and abolishment of merit-based scholarship. Although they remain controversial, it is clear that KU has set a new paradigm in the academic circle as one of the nation's major universities. Yeom plans to continue with his experiment by creating two new facilities in KU.

By **Park Min Jeong** (seoul96@korea.ac.kr)



A three-dimensional picture of the SK Future building from the Central Plaza. Provided by Design and Construction Department.



A three-dimensional picture of the SK Future building from the People's Square. Provided by Design and Construction Department.

**K**U plans to construct the SK Future Hall right across from the Centennial Memorial SAMSUNG Hall, near Central Plaza. The building will have five floors above ground and three underground. Just like most of the other buildings in the Liberal Arts campus, the SK Future Hall will be done over in a modern style, but with a slight mix of postmodern added to it.

The main purpose of the construction of the SK Future Hall is to provide a space where students can freely discuss various topics. So far, many of the classes in KU are held in big lecture rooms that can each fit over 100 students. With this great number of people per class, it has been impossible for students to communicate as a whole. Students simply listen and take notes, making themselves passive learners.

The SK Future Hall, on the other hand, will comprise 80 small lecture rooms, where students can discuss in small groups. Discussion topics will be related to the online lectures offered in a flipped class. Although class flipping is a newly introduced teaching style in KU, it is expected to be

applied in most classes by 2018, the year when the SK Future Hall's construction is expected to be complete.

Therefore, once 100 or more students listen to the same online lecture at home, they will be split into small groups. Each group will consist of around 20 students, and students within each group will either solve problems or engage in discussions in a lecture room at the SK Future Hall. Professors who have knowledge of the course will also be assigned to each group to answer any queries students may have and lead the discussion in the right direction.

The groups that take the same class can vary in regards to course material. Even if the students listen to the same online lecture for a particular class, professors can help students find how the subject specifically relates to their own majors. For instance, an Economics professor could provide problems that are more mathematical for a student majoring in Statistics.

Furthermore, the SK Future Hall offers hundreds of one-square-foot rooms that serve a similar role as the reading

room, otherwise known as *dokseosil* in Korean. A chair and a table will be arranged in each room and there students can immerse themselves by taking a moment to review what they have learned and discussed in class that particular day.

Ma Dong Hoon (School of Media and Communication), who is the Director General of the Future Strategy Department, believes that the SK Future Hall will allow more “flexibility” in KU. For this flexibility to take place, however, KU needs to make sure that there are enough professors who can teach as small-sized classes replace the conventional big lecture rooms. KU also needs to decide how it will assign students into different discussion groups. Hopefully, KU will spend the remaining three years wisely by drawing up specific plans.

Meanwhile, another building will be built this year as part of the KU Business Incubation Support Team’s brand new project. It is a five-story building made out of 30 to 40 container boxes, and the area where the building will be situated is called Pioneering Village. Pioneering Village will be created in between the Media Hall and College of Political Science and Economics.



A three-dimensional picture of Pioneering Village. Provided by Design and Construction Department.

The purpose of this village is to give students a space where they can discuss their plans for a business. According to Professor Ma, Korean students do not have a place where they can gather together and endlessly work on their business item. “In the United States (U.S.), there is a garage. Even Bill Gates and Steve Jobs started off in their garage. There, they worked on their items with their friends. There is no such garage in Korea, so students go to the library and study alone,” said Ma.

As a result, Pioneering Village will be open to KU students 24 hours a day. Students can study and debate incessantly among themselves. Once students have finalized their ideas, they can conduct a test run in this village to see if the business works in the direction they hoped. If the idea becomes too successful, KU can help with attracting

investment, too.

The most remarkable thing about Pioneering Village is in its creativity. It is like a real village in that there will be a village chief, passports that enable students to enter the village and money that can be only used in this village. Moreover, there will be a variety of facilities like a convenience store and a bank so that students can enjoy an easy and convenient life.

This creative space will foster creative minds. In an open atmosphere like Pioneering Village, students are more likely to come up with brilliant ideas. “Future education should be taught in a playground-like environment, not in a room filled with partitions. In Apple, for example, it is not difficult to find an employee working right next to another employee strumming on a guitar,” said Ma.

Once Pioneering Village settles in KU, there is a great chance that students would consider school as a “fun” place. Students will want to come to school everyday and be more motivated to carry out their own ideas. To manage this great place though, KU would need to make sure that there is a steering committee that administers the facility so that it does get not degraded to a common room.

“Future education should be taught in a playground-like environment, not in a room filled with partitions.”

The SK Future Hall and Pioneering Village are very original models designed by KU. Thanks to this change, students would no longer be stuck behind the hard desks but rather study in a congenial environment. Even though there are a few concerns as to how the new facilities will be run and maintained, students will definitely look forward to this change. Hopefully, KU will yield good results from this change and set a good example for other universities. This way, our society will make ceaseless progress led by creative minds. ☑

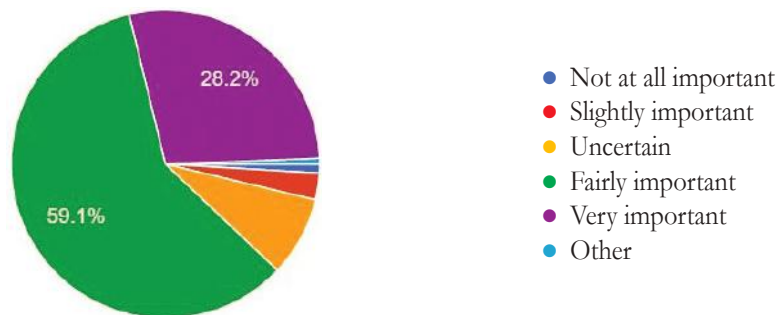
# KU Students Speak: On Campus Politics & Social Participation

*The Political and Social Participation of University Students and Student Organizations.* We asked five questions—323 voices of Korea University (KU) answered. *The Granite Tower* (GT) came to discover the spirit of democracy alive and kicking in many KU students. These anonymous responses reveal KU students' candid opinion of college students' participation in politics and social issues. Take a look.

By Kim DaHyun (byejen@korea.ac.kr)

## Do you view college students' active social participation as important?

Majority (58.7 percent) answered that they view active social participation as being important.



## Do you have an active interest in political and social matters?

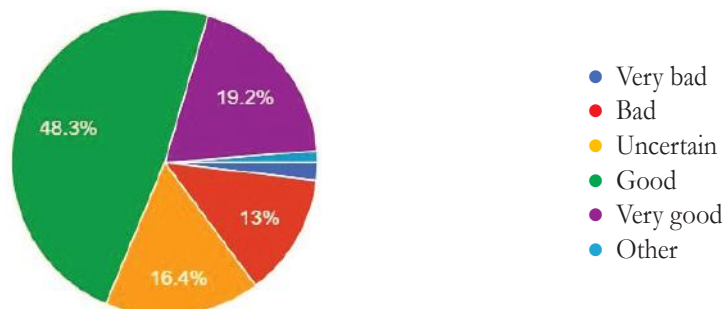
Majority (55.8 percent) said that they do take an active interest in political and social matters.





**How do you feel about Korea University Student Association (KUSA) and student bodies of university departments actively voicing their opinion on sociopolitical matters and actively partaking in the resolution of society’s problems?**

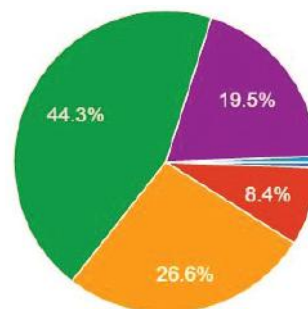
Majority (47.9 percent) viewed it as a positive phenomenon.



**If student organizations should voice their opinion on social matters, what do you believe the scope of the matter should be?**

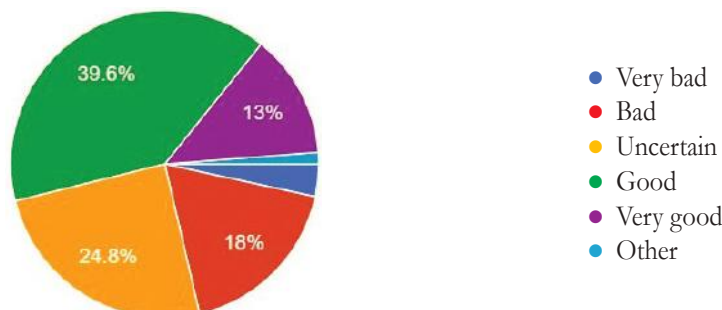
Majority (44.2 percent) answered, “As long as there is no excessive ideological controversy involved, student organizations should actively voice their opinion on any issue.”

- It should do its best to refrain from voicing its opinion regarding social issues.
- It should only participate in on-campus matters such as tuition fees.
- It can voice its opinion on matters related to younger generations such as unemployment.
- As long as there is no excessive ideological controversy involved, student organizations should actively voice their opinion on any issue.
- There are no limits. It should actively partake in all political matters.
- Other



**What is your opinion on student organizations of various universities cooperating or partnering with off campus non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to actively partake in social matters?**

Majority (39.3 percent) answered that they view cooperation between student organizations and off campus NGOs as a positive phenomenon.



Our survey received around 323 replies. Among those who answered, 32.5 percent (105 respondents) were freshmen, 25.4 percent (82 respondents) were sophomores, 18.3 percent (59 respondents) were juniors, 17.3 percent (56 respondents) were seniors, 3.7 percent (12 respondents) were students on a leave of absence, and 2.8 percent (nine respondents) identified themselves as “other.” (Survey date: February 25~March 14/2016)

# Striving Forward with a Sword

In modern society, people are burdened with too much stress from work and their daily routine. How often people are exposed to stress, however, is not important. What is essential for our health is finding a way to cope with stress. For those who have not yet found a way to relieve stress, *kumdo* can be an excellent alternative.

By Park Min Jeong (seoul96@korea.ac.kr)

**K***umdo* is a modern Korean martial art that has its origin in Japanese Kendo. Although *kumdo* initially came into existence as a way of combat, it is considered as a sport for training the body and cultivating the mind in modern days. It is a battle between two people and a point is given to the person who successfully manages to strike an opponent's wrist, head, waist, or neck with a bamboo sword, otherwise known as *juk-to*.

The act is not dangerous at all since there are protective gears designed to lessen the shock absorbed by the body: *Homyeoun* for head and face, *kap* for chest and torso, *kapsang* for hip and groin area, and *hovan* for hand and wrist area. Therefore, it is unnecessary for anyone to be concerned about getting hurt by an opponent's attack.

Korea University (KU) *Kumdo* club consists of KU students who are mesmerized by the charm of this very sport. Master Lee Jong Ku established the club in 1935 and, ever since, students have endlessly shown interest in *kumdo*. Anyone who has passed by the sports hall in the afternoon would remember being startled by the sound of the swords clashing together.

Currently, more than 20 other members learn *kumdo* on weekdays under the guidance of three board members. Out of these, there are around ten females, which breaks the common stereotype that *kumdo* is a sport for men. A training manager, Lim Hyo Jung (Graduate School of Public Administration) recalled her experience as a beginner. "Seniors encouraged me and led a path for me. I came to practice every week and before I knew it, I could perform well," said Lim.

Students can decide how frequently they



would like to come to the KU *kumdo* studio. Nevertheless, it is recommended for members to practice at least twice a week. Missing a few classes can lead a member to lag behind the others as it usually takes some time to acquire new skills. The practice should not be a big burden because it runs for only an hour and a half, from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

Members would not want to miss training especially on Fridays. Once a week, members of *Geomubae* come visit the studio to offer some advice to the members. *Geomubae* is a *Kumdo* club for KU graduates and just like the club's long history, many are in their 50s and 70s. When time is allowed, *Geomubae* members listen to any personal agonies KU *Kumdo* members may have and provide suggestions as the elder in life.

Prior to and after training, the captain pounds on a drum and the members ruminate upon the three courtesies that must be kept in the studio. "*Kumdo* is not just any sport, but a sport of manners. Members recall courtesies toward the national flag, the master, and others," said the captain of the club, Kim Gun Min ('14, Biomedical Engineering). Afterwards, members exercise basic movements together and in rotation, they strike their opponent with *juk-to*.

It is unavoidable for freshmen and juniors to practice with the seniors. Nonetheless, they do not need to worry about attacking seniors, as all members are "equal" once they enter the studio. Kim explained that seniors like it even more when juniors attack them. "When we have a match with the *Geomubae* for instance, we get scolded if we do not go hard on them. One senior told me to think of him as an enemy."

The battle for the newcomers, however, begins only after a couple of months. They first

need to start with the basics and learn new moves and rules from the training manager. If the board managers believe that the beginning member is ready, they will present the necessary *kumdo* equipment that is engraved with his or her name in June.

Prior to the commencement, a five-day training camp waits for all club members in April. The goal of the camp is



2

to help members prepare for the upcoming *Hwarang Yeonmu* competition, where they show off the skills they had honed in front of KU students. Members start the day by running across the Green Field. After class, members dine together and the training starts afterwards.

The five-day spring training camp serves more roles than simply training. As members eat, sleep and exercise together, members get to know more about each other and build a strong friendship. Lim said, “I made good friends at this camp, and I still stay in contact with them.”

Members go to another training in summer, either to Naksan or Jeju Island to prepare for the annual Ko-Yon Games. For the first time, members face off in the match so that they know what to expect for at the annual Ko-Yon Games. They grasp their merits and demerits and persistently work on any improvements that need to be made. Their hard work pays off since members produce fine results every year.

Their outstanding performance stood out in other major competitions, too. In fact, it is hard to find a year in which the members did not receive an award for their performance. The most recent achievement was made in 2015 at the Seoul fall league where the female team won the first prize and the men team won third.

As part of this impressive Kumdo club, Lim described how the whole exercising process has been a stress-reliever for her. It was the only time when she did not need to worry about assignments. “Because the battle is a combat between just two people in *kumdo*, you need to always focus on your counterpart’s eyes,” said Lim. “If I do not concentrate, seniors would immediately instruct me to focus and ask me later if everything is alright.”

Shouts of concentration also helps members relieve stress. Every time members strike, they must give out shouts of concentration, which gives the body a lot of energy. Kim explained that he feels much relieved after practice because he yells a lot. “In the beginning, females hesitated and tended not to shout as much, but now their shouts are even sharper than ours. It is scary,” chuckled Kim.

The good news is that anyone can be part of this KU *Kumdo* community if one has the determination to learn *kumdo*.



3

Even if the student neither has knowledge nor experience of this sport, warm-hearted members will be there to walk through the steps together. As long as the student actively participates in training, the student can feel a sense of achievement and confidence growing within oneself and one day, he or she will be amazed at how far he or she has come in a short space of time. If you are curious about how it feels to travel in a real time machine, hop in now! 🗡️

## Recruiting Information

**Period of Recruitment:** Anytime

**Requirements to Join *Kumdo* club:** All students and all ages are welcomed

**Contact Information:** Kim Gun Min (010-9594-7028)

- 1 The *Kumdo* members strike each other with a sword. Photographed by Kim Hye Ri.
- 2 The members of the club are well equipped with gears that protect them from injury. Photographed by Kim Hye Ri.
- 3 A member takes time to catch his breath. Photographed by Kim Hye Ri.



# National Scholarships— Who Rightfully Deserves Them?

How national scholarships are awarded has been controversial since 2012, and students voice their anger at the start of every new semester. Although changed to the process in 2015 seemed to alleviate some of the problems, many still consider the income calculation method used to choose scholarship recipients flawed.

By Jeon Sohyeon (jeon1995@korea.ac.kr)

The national scholarship program was started in 2012 under the control of the Korean Student Aid Foundation (KOSAF) and under the supervision of the South Korean government. The program was established to provide sufficient financial support to students who might not otherwise be able to afford attending university.

Of the different types of national scholarship, the Type I and II national scholarships are the most common types, almost any student can apply for them. Both scholarships are distributed according to student family incomes and student grades. All applicants of the financial aid need a

grade point average (GPA) of more than 80 out of 100, and among those who meet the grade criteria, students with lower family incomes can receive more aid than those with higher family incomes. Students

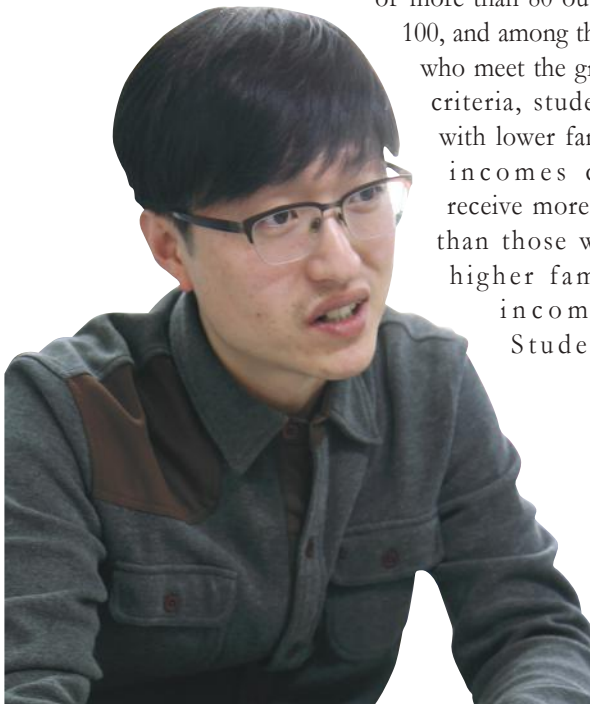
are classified into different percentiles depending on how much money their family earns in a year.

The problem comes from how the family income is calculated, and this problem mostly arises from Type I scholarship, which is the most common type among several national scholarship types. Many have questioned the method of calculating student family incomes and claim that it is leading to the wrong people receiving the scholarships.

Prior to 2015, when the KOSAF first modified the income calculation method, all the information needed for the calculation came from the National Health Insurance Corporation (NHIC). This information included family's assets and income, but the calculation method did not include financial assets such as bonds and stocks that have a direct influence on the real income of the family. Moreover, the KOSAF did not reveal how the exact calculation was done, leaving students and their families in the dark.

KOSAF took such complaints and, starting in 2015, included all a family's financial assets when calculating its income. In addition, KOSAF now looks at financial information provided by 44 different organizations, resulting in a change in percentile for 70 percent of the students who had applied for a national scholarship before. KOSAF, referring to such change argued that "the calculation method has become more impartial and accurate." However, Yeon Dukwon, a researcher at the Korea Higher Education Research Institute (KHEI), said that "such change does not take us anywhere," and that "even if there has been a change in the percentiles, we can't say they were the right changes." He has also commented that the current system fails to deal with the biggest issues regarding national scholarships.

One of the unsolved problem of this program is the KOSAF's vague definition of being poor and rich. Although the KOSAF insists that the scholarship distribution has



Yeon Dukwon, a research staff at the Korea Higher Education Research Institute. Photographed by Lee Hye Min.





The Korean Student Aid Foundation logo. Provided by culine.co.kr

“become more accurate and impartial,” students are not satisfied with what they receive. One student commented that, “It is so unfair to see how students receive different amount of national scholarship when in reality the living standards of most students are just about the same.” Another student added, “The calculated family income is very unrealistic and that generally the calculated income is much higher than it really is, preventing many students from receiving reasonable amount of national scholarship.”

Another unsolved problem of national scholarship is when the money goes to the wrong person – someone who is affluent. This issue has been around before the change in the calculation method took place, and despite the change in the calculation system, this problem has yet been solved. According to *Hankook Ilbo*, KOSAF does not take the foreign income of each family into account. Due to this, affluent students may turn out to be poor on paper just because their parents work abroad. “I cannot say that I am unhappy with the amount of financial aid I receive from the national scholarship program,” said a student who, on paper, falls into the lowest percentile, “but I am pretty sure that I should not fall into this percentile. It would have been a different story if my parents worked here in Korea.”

“The method of calculation itself is flawed,” said Yeon. “This is the best the current system can do, and it cannot get any better. The efficiency of this method has reached its limit.” He added that the current method of calculation is “cruel for students since even if you are slightly more affluent than the others, you lose your chance of receiving the scholarship. If you want to receive enough scholarship, you need to be extremely poor, even if there is not much real difference among those in different percentiles.”

Yeon first pointed out at the lack of information of the data used by the KOSAF to distribute the money. According to the statistics in 2013, only 62.7 percent of the students eligible to apply for the national scholarship applied for the program. “Generally it’s the poor students who apply for the scholarship. Those who are rich both in reality and on paper



People protesting against faulty national scholarship. Provided by ohmynews.com

don’t even bother applying.” He added that “since it’s these poor students that compete for the financial aid, it’s difficult for students on the edge of poverty line to receive any scholarship from the government.”

He also slammed the unreasonable method of including part-time job wages of student. “It is common knowledge that college tuition fees in Korea is extremely high and many students have to spare time doing part-time jobs to afford such high fees,” said Yeon. “The problem is, these realistically low wages unreasonably increase your family income and your percentile. Students will either have to give up the part-time job or the scholarship. The flawed system of calculating the part-time job wage makes the students difficult to have both of them, when they actually need both of them.”

The KOSAF replied to all accusations by saying that “none of the problems students call upon are true,” and that “all the information provided by the students are taken into consideration before distributing the money to the right people.” Yet it is not uncommon to find students frustrated by the percentile they are put in. Yeon commented that, in order to achieve the proclaimed goal of the national scholarship program – helping students to study with lesser financial difficulty - “The government should look for alternative ways of rendering financial aid to students by actually decreasing the tuition fees instead of clumsily looking for students who need money.”



A wife slaps her husband with *kimchi*. A mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship is reversed a few years after their husbands' deaths. A main character simply puts a dot beside her eye and suddenly no one recognizes her. These hard to believe situations are all parts of popular Korean *makjang* drama—yes, it is getting worse and worse. Putting aside how much these provocative scenes lead to high ratings, many viewers ask a basic question—why do they have to go so far?

By Lee Hye Min (min4562@korea.ac.kr)

This January, the court ruled that broadcasting *makjang* dramas on weekend evenings was inappropriate and should be banned. The drama at issue, “Apgujeong Baek-ya,” was heavily criticized for its provocative scenes—the main male character’s sudden and outrageous death and a mother and daughter slapping and kicking each other, for example—but this is the first time a court has spoken up for specific restrictions. Considering this, TV dramas are no longer viewed, at least by some in Korea, as simple entertainment. They, especially *makjang* drama, can now be viewed as closely related to the overflow of anger in current Korean society.

The original meaning of *makjang* is “the blind end in the mine.” In other words, *makjang* is an idiom saying things cannot get any worse. This term is now most frequently used for a drama with an outrageous plot or setting after one

netizen commented, “This is a complete *makjang*” in regard to the Korean drama “Seduction of Wife.” However, this first *makjang* drama and its provocative scenes succeeded in gaining viewers' attention, garnering a high viewer rating which averaged 30 percent. After this unexpected hit, the Korean drama industry soon started a game of chicken—each drama becoming more and more provocative, regardless of plot or logical necessity.

Most recently, the weekend soap opera “My Daughter Geum Sa-Weol” is giving viewers *makjang* drama fever. Its plot, the revenge of a woman on her husband, who killed both of her parents and deliberately embezzled their money, was criticized for lacking logic and exaggerating its tragedy. However, it scored the highest rating, 33.6 percent, among shows aired at the same time. “*Makjang* drama can

be compared to junk food,” says Professor Choi Eun Kyung (Media and Communication). “People consume junk food even though they know it is unhealthy. Likewise, the viewers choose a *makjang* drama because even though they know it is harmful for their mental health, they just cannot stop watching it—they are already addicted to its provocative taste.”

Behind the success of *makjang* dramas hides a more significant social issue; they can be seen as signifiers of the excessive display of anger in current society. “One thing is clear—*makjang* drama does not contain commendable virtues, especially regarding excessive anger,” said Choi. In this society full of anger and pessimism—often referred to as *Hell-Choson*—viewers tend to alleviate their stress by watching *makjang* dramas. From a certain point of view, they can be seen as one method of relieving anger accumulated in people's intense lives. Especially for housewives, a *makjang* drama is a gateway to a refreshing world where the characters unload their anger on their husbands or families without any restraints.

However, a significant number of screenwriters, producers and viewers consider the rush of *makjang* dramas problematic. “If the viewers start to lose resistance to *makjang* drama, it is a signal that they are also breaking down,” said the famous writer Kim Soo-Hyun in an interview with *Yeonhap News*. “Despite the reality, when drama constantly shows crude human nature every day, viewers start to believe this as an absolute truth.” As Kim stated, *makjang* drama works by distorting reality and building the anger and disbelief in viewers' minds, whether they are conscious of it or not. For example, a drama constantly portraying extreme discord between a husband and wife can form a negative image of marriage in young minds who have not yet formed solid values about marriage.

In the outrageous situations that form the core of *makjang* dramas, the intervention of nonrealistic measures is needed to solve the plot's conflict. Furthermore, such stories focus on each character's wickedness instead of looking at the inconsistencies of a system or society as a whole. Therefore, *makjang* drama is all about punishing the villain rather than changing a problematic system. In *makjang* dramas, for the common situation of a female protagonist being discriminated against because of her poverty, the solution is always for her to find love with a rich male character and rise dramatically on the social ladder—when the fundamental solution in real life has to be the removal of discrimination itself.

Due to the constant criticism and its problematic aspects, *makjang* drama is now undergoing change, even if involuntarily. On January 3, the Korea Communications Commission (KCC) demanded restrictions on drama plots subverting socially accepted morality or depending on outrageous situations. Furthermore, they insisted that the broadcasting industry establish more strict rules to prevent an overflow of *makjang* dramas. Considering these requests, the broadcasting industry and KCC are now working on plans to cutting funding for *makjang* dramas, with the ultimate goal of replacing them with healthier programs.

Broadcasting—especially public broadcasting holds more responsibility than maintaining rating and profit. It is true that *makjang* drama has some virtue in its recreational characteristic. High rating of *makjang* drama also proves why broadcasting does not give up these outrageous scenes despite severe criticisms. Yes, it might be an inviting and easiest offer for the broadcasting industry—but it cannot be a reason for justifying *makjang* dramas. Since television program has a broad spectrum of accessibility to people of all ages and backgrounds, they have to consider its potential negative influence on society. Therefore, it is highly recommended that the broadcasting industry play fair with meaningful and humanistic contents, professional and solid plots. No more *makjang* chicken game is needed—it is time to escape from the very end of dusky mine. ❏



- 1 Posters of *makjang* drama—Apgujeong Baek-ya, Seduction of Wife, Princess Aurora, My daughter Geum Sa-weol, Chungdam-dong Scandal. Provided by [www.imbc.com](http://www.imbc.com), [www.sbs.co.kr](http://www.sbs.co.kr)
- 2 Issued scenes of *makjang* drama, provided by [www.imbc.com](http://www.imbc.com), [www.kbs.co.kr](http://www.kbs.co.kr)



# Wage Peak System

## – Killing Two Birds With One Stone?

The 13th largest economy in the world and a proud member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). These are just a couple of the glamorous titles that South Korea has rightfully earned through decades of hard work. However, such titles are increasingly losing their shine as the economy struggles to get back on its feet. Against such a backdrop, will the wage peak system be a saving grace of the Park administration that has been nothing but a disappointment?

By Maeng Jun Ho (juneau0317@korea.ac.kr)

In an attempt to kickstart South Korea's ailing economy and sluggish growth, the government has been pushing forward a sweeping reform in the labor sector since last year. As such a monumental reform is not a matter to be decided overnight, the lengthy negotiation process involves the Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL), the Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) and the Korea Employers' Federation (KEF). However, the negotiating table was off to a rough start and has faced numerous hiccups along the way due to a critical lack of compromise to find common ground.

### What is the Wage Peak System?

Yet, at the heart of the meager progress that the tripartite negotiation committee has managed to produce so far is the highly controversial "wage peak system." This is a government-proposed system in which workers' wages start to plateau and slowly decline as they near the retirement age. More specifically, workers at the age of 55 and onwards will see their wages start to reduce by about 10 percent annually.

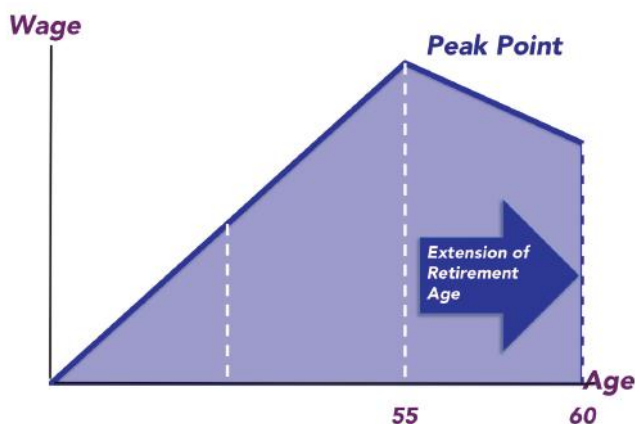
As of February, more than 90 percent of state-run corporations and 11 major conglomerates, namely

Samsung and LG, have adopted the wage peak system and the number is rising. In fact, starting in 2017, firms with less than 300 employees are scheduled to implement the system as well. On top of this, the government is seeking to incentivize more companies to introduce the system by doling out additional subsidies.

### Why Now?

The government's rationale for taking this initiative at such troubled times is twofold: lower youth unemployment and higher job security for older generations. The soaring youth unemployment rate has reached a record high of 9.5 percent as of January. They are holding onto the belief that the labor costs that are saved through the system could be reserved for new hires, thereby remedying the unemployment crisis.

On the other hand, the extension of retirement age from 55 to 60 with the recent passage of the Employment Promotion for the Aged Act is another key factor. As South Korea has entered the phase of a full-blown aging society, extending the retirement age was deemed necessary. However, because



A graph of the wage peak system.



such a measure will inevitably incur tremendous costs on the part of the management, the government expects the wage peak system to alleviate some pain. Therefore, the government is essentially aiming to kill two birds with one stone with this ambitious policy.

### Predictions – A Wishful Thinking?

The Park administration has been promoting the system based on the claim that it could be a “win-win” for both workers and employers, reviving the overall economy in the process. For instance, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF) forecasted that state-run organizations are expected to hire 4,400 additional workers this year, thanks to the savings from the wage peak system.

However, such data provided by the government is far from conclusive and fails to look at the larger picture. There is a plethora of experts and concerned parties who remain skeptical about the effectiveness of the wage peak system. “The problem lies in the fact that the reduced wages will not necessarily translate into more vacancies for new hires,” says Professor Ham Gi-Young (Economics). In that case, he warns that this will further aggravate the challenges that are already on our hands.

Even if everything plays out according to the government’s blueprints, they should not rule out a potential side effect of this system, according to Professor Ham. “Given that 22 percent of Baby boomers in Korea are not registered in the national pension, on top of a hefty college tuition and marriage fund for their children, a smaller income could deal a serious blow to their quality of lives,” he said.

Won Jun Yeon, an executive director at ISU Chemical that is well-known as a leading chemical manufacturing firm, also reinforced these doubts about a “lack of logic” in the government’s policy. He says “Companies are already under crushing pressure in terms of labor costs with the

extension of the retirement age.” In this sense, the wage peak system is “a tool that is designed to partly alleviate such pressure, not hiring more people,” he added.

### Room for Improvement

It seems quite obvious that the wage peak system is an overly ambitious policy that requires further scrutiny. According to Professor Ham, one way to do so is to coordinate the national pension with the wage peak system so that “the Baby boomers can reap the benefits of both systems simultaneously.” In other words, the national pension should be scheduled in a way that retired workers can receive their pensions the moment their wages start to go downhill.

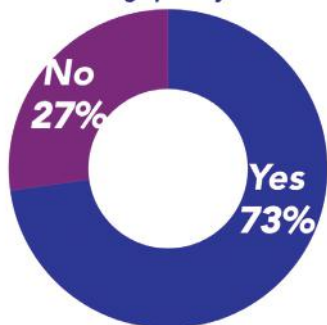
Moreover, “Rather than imposing the same rate of wage reduction across the board, applying different rates in different industries based on each sector’s wage situation seems to be a prudent approach,” he added.

He also suggested that the income level could be another criteria when determining the rate of wage reduction, like the progressive taxation. This way, the government can cushion the blow on the deteriorating quality of life and appease the disgruntled workers in their 50s approaching the retirement age.

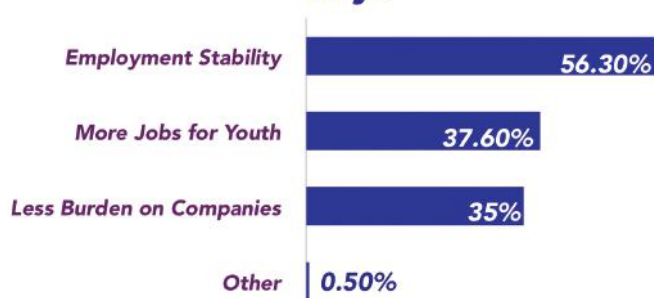
As for its impact on the youth unemployment, the government should oversee companies’ use of the saved labor expense to assure that the money is spent to boost the labor market by hiring more workers, instead of fattening their own pockets.

By all appearances, the government-proposed wage peak system seems to be a policy that is designed specifically for addressing the ever-worsening aging phenomenon. What they need to do at this point is to dial down the expectations and aim for one specific target. Rejuvenating a stagnant economy is a long and arduous task that requires patience and caution. ❏

Do you think the wage peak system is necessary?



Why?



Graphs showing the results of public polls on the wage peak system. Source: Ministry of Employment and Labor.

# The Battle for Free Speech

More than a hundred protesters gathered at Gwanghwamun Square, the center of Seoul, on February 24, to demonstrate against the crackdown of the current Park Geun-hye administration. However, the cries did not come from real people; it echoed from speakers. In fact, there was nobody at the scene of the protest. Only 3D holograms of protesters in the size of real people marched while chanting. The police watched, taking notes and arresting no one. Why and how did holograms end up there?

By **Chae Jisu** (michaela1004@korea.ac.kr)

## Amnesty Uses Holograms, Not People

World's second hologram demonstration took place in Korea, on the eve of the third anniversary of President Park's inauguration. A screen, ten meters in length and three meters in height, projected blue ghostly images that cried out, "Government should protect the freedom of assembly and speech!" The protest lasted for around thirty minutes and was peaceful from the beginning to the end, while three hundred police officers were assigned to the site.

The first venue of this unique type of demonstration was Madrid, Spain. Thousands of holographic images

marched pass a Spanish parliament building to protest against constraints in the Citizen Safety Law, which the critics referred to as the "Gag Law." While the Spanish law criminalized the right to protest, none of the protesters were arrested, for no one existed at the site. Only a recorded film was shown in which people shouted with pickets and banners.

The latest hologram demonstration held in Korea was designed and directed by the local branch of Amnesty International. More than 120 people gathered to take part in the hologram film on February 12, at a studio in North Ahyun-dong. In addition to the imageries produced by

the actors and actresses, text messages and voice mails from all those who wished to voice opinions against the restriction of freedom of speech were also included as part of the hologram film.

## Why Holograms, Not People?

Amnesty International had designed the hologram demonstration in order to make a point against the Park administration's gradual limitations in the boundaries of the freedom of speech and assembly. "The government has been gradually limiting the boundaries of citizens' freedom of assembly since the tragedies of Sewol," continued Kim Hee-jin, the director of Amnesty International Korea, "and therefore there was no choice but to protest in the form of ghosts."

In fact, Amnesty International Korea's initial plan was to hold a live demonstration, but this was rejected by the Seoul Metropolitan Police. Grounds for the rejection was that the protest would be disruptive to traffic. The rejection prompted the organization to design a hologram protest, which circumnavigates the existing law. Amnesty International slightly changed the event and reported the hologram demonstration as a "cultural activity."



Hologram protest takes place at Gwanghwamun Square. Provided by Amnesty International Korea.

## The Response by Police

To the report by Amnesty International of the “cultural activity,” the Seoul Metropolitan Police warned that their projection could violate the law. Lee Sang Won, the Seoul police commissioner claimed on the day before the planned date that the rally could be illegal if the event includes chanting of collective opinion, for that would be an unreported demonstration.

To this, Kim the director of Amnesty International Korea had expressed her pity. “Having the police forejudge our project and announce the possibility of strong retaliation is tantamount to arbitrary restriction at the police’s discretion; however, the freedom of assembly is a fundamental right of citizens,” she claimed.

When the hologram demonstration finally took place at Gwanghwamun Square, the response by police was a pressing matter. In the midst of controversies, the police concluded that the hologram demonstration “had the characteristics of a demonstration.” Kang Shin-myung, chief of the National Police Agency, claimed that the hologram protest clearly resembled a normal demonstration, and yet also further claimed the difficulties in judging its legality due to the complexity of the features of demonstration in that it did not have actual *flesh* at the site.

With the February’s hologram demonstration as the starting point, Amnesty International Korea announced their plans to establish an “institutional framework” to fight against the “abuse of police force.” Furthermore, Amnesty International Korea made its stance clear that the latest “ghost protest” must be the last one, and that the rights of real people to freely demonstrate must be protected. “Assembly is a human right,”



120 participants take part in the hologram film on February 12. Provided by Amnesty International Korea.

Amnesty said in the hologram digital film.


## Maina Kiai’s Vist to South Korea

The history of democracy in Korea is impressive considering such a short period of time the nation needed to achieve democracy, but there are also critics that worry about the regression of South Korea’s democracy project. In response to a request for investigation on the rights to freedom of assembly and of association made by a group of civic organizations to Maina Kia, the lawyer and Kenyan human rights activist who currently serves as the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of assembly and of association, made a trip to Korea from January 21 to January 29.

After the investigation, Kiai praised South Korea for the “impressive achievements” the democracy project has made in a short period of time, and yet unambiguously pointed out the existence of “a trend of gradual regression on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association—not a dramatic shutdown of these rights, but a slow, creeping inclination towards degrading them.”

Kiai specifically stated that, “the

organizers’ failure to notify an assembly beforehand does not make an assembly illegal, nor should the notification process be used to preemptively ban assemblies.” He also emphasized the need for eradication of aggressive police tactics that were frequently used in Korea during assemblies, such as but not limited to the use of bus barricades and water cannons that often cause serious physical injuries to the protesters. Simultaneously, Kiai also left messages for the citizens of South Korea to have peaceful assemblies in order to reduce tension and enhance delivery.

All in all, Korea still has a long way to go in its democratic quest. Though many foreign experts consider Korea’s case to be impressive, various signals indicate the latest status to be disappointing. The hologram protest, however, as ironic as it is, indicates a piece of hope in the dull era in that the citizens are capable of making their point clear, peacefully. Still, many hope that the latest hologram demonstration in Korea will be the first and last hologram demonstration in the country. 



# Mental Disorder:

## Mirror of Modern Society



1



Last winter, one of the most favored South Korean comedians all of a sudden declared that he would resign from all television programs; his reason was that he had been suffering from some type of anxiety disorder. Though the general public was taken aback by the unexpected leave, this happening is not solely a problem of a single individual. In fact, the number of people suffering from such mental disorders is increasing at a speed that cannot be overlooked.

**By Kim Hye Ri** (dnflehtod3@korea.ac.kr), **Lee Yun Mi** (leeymi678@korea.ac.kr)

It is not an exaggeration to refer to the modern society as an era of anxiety and fatigue. The contemporary world is overwhelmed with fast, fluctuating, uncertain, competitive, and therefore restless components. As a matter of fact, according to an epidemiologic study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO), the yearly prevalence rate of mental illness, on average, has been about 10.2 percent of the whole population since 2011. This number is equal to an average of 3.68 million people diagnosed with a psychological disorder every year, a number all the worse because it is increasing day by day. “One out of every five people living in the contemporary world suffers from some kind of mental illness during their lives, regardless of the seriousness of the disease,” explained Dr. Ham Byung Joo (College of Medicine).

The situation of this rapid increase in the number of people with mental disorders is not to be denied, particularly in the case of South Korea. To be specific, the number of suicide deaths within this country added up to 13,836 people as of 2014, or a suicide rate of 27.3 people, which ranks number one out of all Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. “The situation has become highly serious within the country; in fact, it has been estimated that an average of 40 people commit suicide in a day, which adds up to about 20,000 people annually,” Dr. Ham added.

## Psychological Disorders: Solely the Problem of an Individual?

Some people argue that people who suffer from these mental diseases should discover the cause of their illness within themselves. Of course, it is true that the significance of individuals themselves should not be denied with regards to the factors that result in psychological disorders.



This is because it has been proven that even little efforts of individuals themselves are highly effective in preventing, as well as curing these illnesses, and genetic factors do predispose some people to certain types of mental disorders.

To elaborate upon this point, according to a study conducted by *Time* in February 2014, the fundamental peace of the human mind can easily be discovered when people put much effort into understanding their identity and their talents. The conductors called this discovery within oneself as Mindful Revolution, a psychological practice of finding and realizing one’s potential.

Along the same line, positive thinking activates the left dorsal prefrontal cortex. This cortex is the part of the brain that manages people’s emotions, especially those related to euphoria, happiness, and satisfaction. The same research has proven that through about seven to eight weeks of meditation and positive thinking, the structure of this prefrontal cortex alters, which leads to a decrease in the level of anxiety and stress within an individual.

In addition, it has been proven that there exist a few kinds of hereditary psychological disorders, such as bipolar disorders, obsessive compulsive neurosis, and schizophrenia. “The main causes with regards to these types of diseases lie on individuals themselves, since around 70 to 80 percent of the risk for these diseases is due to genetic factors,” explained Ham. Here, observing from this percentage, genetic reasons behind psychological illnesses should also not be passed unnoticed.

## Any Social Causes to be Blamed?

Despite this, many people have also been doubtful about whether the patient with a mental disorder can solely be blamed for his or her illness; rather, they have reasonably argued that social causes are the fundamental element that led to this undeniably rapid increase in psychological diseases. “The occurrence of a disease, however, cannot solely be blamed upon hereditary reasons, since social factors aggravate, intensify, and even create a notable number of disease incidences,” asserted Ham.

“Observing from my experiences of treating the patients, I have noticed an explicit differentiation with concerns to the aspects of mental disorders, depending on the situation and bearings of that time period,” said Ham.

To speak of South Korea, in particular, there exist two predominant social factors as follows: first is social prejudice and barriers upon patients who suffer from mental illnesses, and second, the socio-structural cause that leads to anger and pessimism in its people.



## Antipathy Toward Mental Disorders: Putting the Cart Before the Horse

To start with, the fact that Korean society places severe social stigma on people who suffer from, or had been suffering from psychological disorders is a critical, even fatal cause that leads to the increase of the diseases within modern society. Due to this precise reason, Dr. Ham affirmed that one third of the patients diagnosed with mental illness in this country decide upon receiving adequate medical treatment.

“Compared to Australia, for instance, the number of South Koreans afflicted with any type of mental disorder is twice as great as that of Australia,” said Dr. Ham. “On the other side of the coin, however, the prescription rate of antidepressants is ten times lower in Korea,” he added. As a matter of fact, South Korea ranked in the lowest category regarding the medication rate with antidepressants relative to its population, clearly proving that the treatment measures are strikingly low.

Not only that, but within South Korean society, unfavorable dispositions and disadvantages put burden on those who have undergone treatment for a mental disorder. To explain, a significant number of corporations put penalties on applicants with records of receiving medical treatments in psychiatric clinics. In addition, these patients are denied of insurance for three years when proven to suffer from psychological disorders. “It is definitely a shameful irony that people refuse to receive cure for their illness, just to take out an insurance policy on their lives,” Dr. Ham worriedly added.

### Socio-structural Causes: Invisible, yet Immensely Influential

On a broader scale, the current society, frequently described as the age of limitless competition and excessive capitalism, has been contended to spread pessimism and self-mockery, and thereby arising as the authentic cause of this upsurge in mental illnesses. “It is a matter of fact that the modern society is bulging with instability, whether it is with relation to economic reasons such as unemployment, or a matter of social relations within an individual’s family, friends, or fellow employees,” claimed Professor Kim Jinyoung (Department of Sociology).

Modern society is faced with countless social and economic disputes, all the way from poverty issues and the ceaseless gap between the rich and the poor, to gender and race discrimination. The status quo is particularly critical within South Korea; struck with severe economic crisis, the unemployment rate is now 10.2 percent, the highest

rate since the year 2000. These social dilemmas considered, South Korea has been questioned on the fundamental social structure of its current society as well.

“Of course, due to the fact that South Korea had undergone enormous economic success in such a short period of time, it is true that the rate of people living in absolute poverty is profoundly low,” explained Kim. “On the other hand, however, the economic growth has occurred in such a form that concentrated wealth on a small number of the privileged people. This has increased the sense of comparative deprivation, which in turn, is striking a blow on people’s mental well-being,” he said.

Adding on, the current economic crisis within the country has brought about hopelessness and psychological pessimism in its people, especially those in the lower ranks of the socio-economic status. “Had the aggregation of economic as well as social inequality and bipolarization been framed on a fair and justifiable scale, the situation would not have been this severe,” Kim said. The crucial problem, however, lies in the fact that in recent times, a considerable amount of disparity resides from the fundamentally discriminatory social structure itself.

### *Hell Joseon* and the Spoon Theory: How Severe is it?

In a similar way, numerous neologisms have also been coined in Korea, most satirizing the depressing socio-economic stance of the young generation which, in their eyes, seem to show no signs of improvement at all. To be specific, the social structural problems have become so severe that newly-coined phrases have come to the fore, including the terms *Hell Joseon* and the Spoon Theory.



The Spoon Theory, a newly-coined phrase utilized to explain the South Korean fad of classifying the modern-day socio-economic strata within this society, is an explicit example of the burlesque neologism, accompanying the rapid increase in pessimistic attitudes among its citizens. Coined from the Anglo-American idiom “born with a silver spoon in his mouth,” the spoon theory asserts that the gap between the rich and the poor has severely widened, to the extent that the classification of social status on the basis of wealth and income is feudal, and tantamount to entering hell; put short, *Hell Joseon*.

### From a Golden Spoon to a Dirt Spoon

To explain further, the Spoon Theory categorizes the South Koreans into four main classes; first are the golden spoons, people born from prestigious and affluent families, and therefore preoccupying the most dominant and prominent position within the structure of competition in the free market system. Next are the silver spoons, which are not as wealthy as the golden ones, but still much better off compared to the average public. Then come the bronze spoons, alluding to people from the average, common background. Last are the dirt spoons; those whose parents are unable to provide any significant financial benefits, and are forced to confront every hardship and suffering on their own.

Here, the main emphasis is placed on the lucid distinction between the golden spoons and the dirt spoons, or in other words, the growing distinction between the rich and the poor from birth. This structure seems even more ironic within this nation, infamous for its excessive competition in every aspect. To put it another way, the Spoon Theory sheds light on the fact that the younger generation of South Korea is, ironically, forced through this vicious competitive system out of no reason at all, since advancement within this market system is hopelessly impossible.

Observing these social phenomena, it is clearly identifiable that the factors of psychological disorders do not solely lie within the patients themselves. Rather, the society that hinders anger and pessimistic behavior in the overall public is one of the crucial causes. Here, the most common kinds of psychological disorders are depression, obsessive compulsive neurosis, and anger control disorder.

### Depression: Sensation of Solitude Within a Crowded World

One of the most common psychological illnesses is depression, which is a type of a mood disorder that results in a state of low mood and aversion to any kind of activities. “While some may refer to the term solely as downswings in one’s mood to life struggles and setbacks, depression precisely differs from mere ups and downs in feelings,” Ham said. In fact, according to Dr. Ham, in medical terms, a patient is diagnosed with depression when he or she suffers from severe cases of gloomy mood for a prolonged period of time, and when that feeling engulfs the everyday life of the individual.

The symptoms and signs of depression vary from one person to another; however, there exist a number of indicators that hint at its possibility. To explain further, a victim of depression shows sudden and abrupt changes both physically and mentally. In terms of physical variation, a probable patient undergoes significant weight loss or weight gain; normally a change of more than five percent of one’s body weight within a month. They also experience changes in sleep patterns, including insomnia, especially waking up in the early hours of the morning, and hypersomnia, or in other words, oversleeping.

Mental alterations with regards to symptoms of depression include feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. To be specific, people suffering from this disease generally confess that they sense a bleak outlook, where nothing could ever get better. In other words, they acknowledge no hope that their situation would improve from there on. Another common sign is loss of interest in daily activities; they lose the ability to feel joy and pleasure, thereby leading to a decline in interest concerning their former hobbies, pastimes, social activities, and sex. “For some, most often in the case of the older generations within South Korea, depression appears through physical symptoms, such as unreasonable aches or anger, as well as indigestion problems,” Dr. Ham added.



## Depression: Why So Serious?

As common as depression may seem in modern society, it should be acknowledged that the disease is highly fatal, and thereby should be carefully treated. This is especially crucial due to the fact that this illness is the most influential factor that leads to increases in suicides. Symptoms of depression, such as deep despair and hopelessness, lead patients to believe that suicide might just be the only way to escape and ease the pain that had so harshly been chocking them all along.

Some of the common factors of depression include prolonged existence of stresses, whether they be mild or severe. These stresses include frequent feelings of loneliness, lack of social support, alcohol or drug abuse, unemployment or underemployment, and financial strains. To add on, personal issues, such as recent stressful life experiences, family history of depression, marital or relationship problems, early childhood trauma or abuse, health problems and chronic pain also play as prevailing causes.

“In Korea, a typical patient suffering from depression is the middle-aged women, especially those who have excessively dedicated themselves to their children, caring less for the well-being of themselves,” said Dr. Ham. To be specific, due to the social phenomenon of parents sacrificing their lives too much for their children, the parents go through sentiments of vacantness when their child grows up and no longer requires their help.

The remedies for curing depression consist of mainly two methods, which are drug treatments and psychical cures. “Here, if the symptoms of the disease are quite moderate, it may as well be recovered completely only through counseling and psychotherapies. When the state of the patient becomes much more severe, it is necessary that he or she be simultaneously treated with medication,” Dr. Ham explained. He also added that regular exercise and workouts are highly effective in preventing depression, since doing so would relieve stress, as well as activating the function of the brain which may have been deteriorated from excessive anxiety.



4

## Obsessive Compulsive Neurosis: Anxiety Reflected in Behaviors

People diagnosed with obsessive compulsive neurosis (OCN) go through repeated, unintended thoughts and acts of compulsion. Behaviors such as overly frequent hand washing, counting, checking, and cleaning can be the implications of OCN. “One of my colleagues always had to close every door three times each. He had to make sure that it was completely locked or closed,” Dr. Ham remarked. “People who suffer from OCN want to check something constantly because they are anxious. They spend significant amounts of time checking if the door is closed properly, or if they had counted the numbers correctly,” he added.

The number of patients diagnosed with OCN is less than the number of those with depression, but OCN is much more difficult to cure. This is because the impact that OCN has on the brain nerves is much more significant than depression. Regardless of the patient’s will to stop the compulsive behavior, it is hard to resist and the patient will be more stressed by the pressure. Although mainly the disorder is triggered by a biological factor, genes, what worsens the ailment is a social factor, the stress that comes from their lives. The symptoms are likely to aggravate if the patient gets stressed, and it is seriously problematic since efficiency is harmed in his daily life.

Getting rid of obsession from the patient’s mind may be much more laborious than depression, but what is important is that it is possible for the patients to be cured completely. “The treatment would mainly consist of medication since the disorder is mostly related to biology, and in order to prevent OCN, people should learn their ways to manage stress well,” Dr. Ham suggested. In addition to medication, another method the patient can work on is Exposure and Response Prevention. By making the patient exposed to such anxious circumstances and banning the compulsive behavior for a designated amount of time, the patient learns the anxiety



5



can lessen without compulsion. With continuous medication and the endeavors of the patient, OCN is surely a curable disorder.

## Anger Control Disorder: Time Bomb in Our Minds

Anger is one of the fundamental emotions that humans go through. A desirable reaction to anger is to retrieve inner peace without harming others or oneself. Anger Control Disorder keeps people from reacting decently toward the feeling of madness. Fury erupts out of nowhere, and it drives people to act in two different ways. The impulsive type of anger control disorder causes the patient to act furiously occasionally, and the habitual type of patients are likely to think that expressing anger in a violent way is effective, which increases the frequency of such behavior.

Anger Control Disorder, without any official medical term, is prevalent in the age group of fourteen to nineteen. “The disorder usually is caused by conflicts with their mothers. In Korean society, mothers are overly eager to provide the best education for their children since they believe that they are the ones closest to their children. They make the students go to excessive academies and always be ahead of other students,” Dr. Ham pointed out. “Society forces mothers to become the villains in the family who harshly pressure their children to study. Teenagers feel stressed and it develops into anger, and the fury is directed toward their moms. A lot of students act violently, yell at their mothers or even hit them.”

There is a similar type of mental illness called *Hwabyeong*. It only exists in Korea, and is triggered by the nation’s cultural background. *Hwa* means anger in Korean, and *Byeong* means illness. The term stands for the mental illness caused by anger that cannot be relieved and thus that is accumulated in mind. “*Hwabyeong* mostly is diagnosed in Korean women,” Dr. Ham pointed out. “In the past, Korean women had to suffer from severe patriarchal system. After they got married, the problem got worse usually because of the maltreatment from their mothers-in-law. According to patriarchal conception, the new bride ranked the bottom in the family. They could not resist or protest against their mother-in-law’s ruthless persecution.”

The stress and anger would stay inside the heart for a long time, and the outcome appeared physically. The new brides were not allowed to complain about what the elderly did or said in the past, and such cultural factors caused mental illness in Korean women. The cure for *Hwabyeong* would be similar according to Dr. Ham, prescription of antidepressants

and counseling. “*Hwabyeong* might have become one of the major illnesses in Korea, but thanks to the changing atmosphere of the society, the number of patients diagnosed with *Hwabyeong* is on the decrease. Actually, there are virtually no new brides that go through oppression of their mothers-in-law. It happens vice versa these days.” Ham commented.

According to Dr. Ham, antidepressants are prescribed to those who suffer from anger controlling disorder. It is effective for alleviating the symptoms of not only depression but also excessive anger. Other than medication, it is vital that the patient realizes the problem inside oneself and finds methods that can help ameliorate fury inside one’s heart. One of the viable solutions is to exercise regularly and maintain healthy diet. It might seem like a way to improve physical health, but it actually will improve mental health too since bio rhythm is closely linked to the brain.



## Social Barriers Patients Go Through

As mentioned above, societal problems brought about fatigue and pessimism, and they resulted in the rise of mental disorders. Thus, the prevention and solution to the problems of the society should be taken into serious consideration. In order to prevent further ramifications of anger and pessimism that are prevalent in Korea, the fundamental method is to ameliorate conflicts that generate from social structure. In addition to preventing, endeavoring to solve the current situation is also crucial.

Koreans tend to have prejudice toward or put a stigma on people who had or have mental illness. Such a point of view makes people fear visiting psychiatrists and being provided with proper treatment. Apparently, such a perspective should change through education. “Psychologists have made a lot of effort to solve the problem. Education, publicizing, and the press are the three important keywords

to the solution. Things are improving in Korea, but we still have a long way to go. Raising people's awareness regarding mental disorder is the most fundamental quest," Dr. Ham stressed.

Speaking of the reality of mental treatment, many people find it a burden to visit a clinic because of the expense. In fact, according to Dr. Ham, the medical fee is not a significant burden. The problem in reality is that psychiatric patients among beneficiaries of Medical Care Assistant Act (MCAA) are being discriminated against. The financial support regarding psychological treatment is substantially insufficient, which makes it hard for them to get medical care in university hospitals. "The poorer people are, the more likely they are to be diagnosed with mental disorders," Ham commented. "The problem is that they cannot be provided with abundant monetary support from the government due to the increasing number of patients. This leads to a vicious cycle."

### Steps Can Be Taken for Betterment

Despite the pessimism that seems to encroach on our society, we can still endeavor to improve the situation. In a macroscopic perspective, the overall inequality among citizens should be diminished. "The problems of excessive economic inequality and unfair societal structure that

foster discrimination against academic background and temporary workers need immediate solving. Employment stabilization should be realized through social welfare such as unemployment insurance," Professor Kim suggested. "Especially, financial support for low-income households, single parent families, and senior citizens needs expansion. The government should play its role as a safety net for the underdogs."

Not only society, but individuals can make efforts in order to break from fatigue and pessimism. They should bear in mind that they should not be fettered by standardized values. "Rather than comparing themselves with others, people should pay more attention to themselves. They should build their own field of interest by trying out activities that they are genuinely interested in and can acquire satisfaction from. Also, balancing pluralistic values is vital," Professor Kim emphasized. "Whenever people feel they need help, they should pluck up their courage to speak up about the problem and ask friends and experts for aid."

With exertion of both society and individuals, dark clouds that go by the name of fatigue and pessimism can be skimmed off, paving the way for the bright future. Policies that support the underdogs combined with individuals' self-encouragement will surely shed light on betterment of the society. ❏

- 1 Illustration of a brain. Provided by tipofdivorce.com.
- 2 Professor Ham Byung Joo. Photographed by Lee Hye Min.
- 3 Professor Kim Jinyeong. Photographed by Lee Hye Min.
- 4 Depression. Provided by dualdiagnosis.org.
- 5 Obsessive Compulsive Neurosis. Provided by newsweek.com.
- 6 Anger Control Disorder. Provided by tistory.com.

# ANGER

ANGER IS WHAT TRIGGERS AN ACTION.  
ANGER IS WHAT CAUSES AN UPROAR.  
UPROAR IS WHAT BEGERS A PROTEST.  
PROTEST IS WHAT PRODUCES CHANGE.

HERE, WITNESS INDIRECTLY THE ANGER,  
THE ACTION, THE UPROAR, THE PROTEST,  
AND THE OVERALL CHAIN REACTION.

THE PHOTO DIVISION





“대리시장”

다음은 퀵시장?

꽃배달

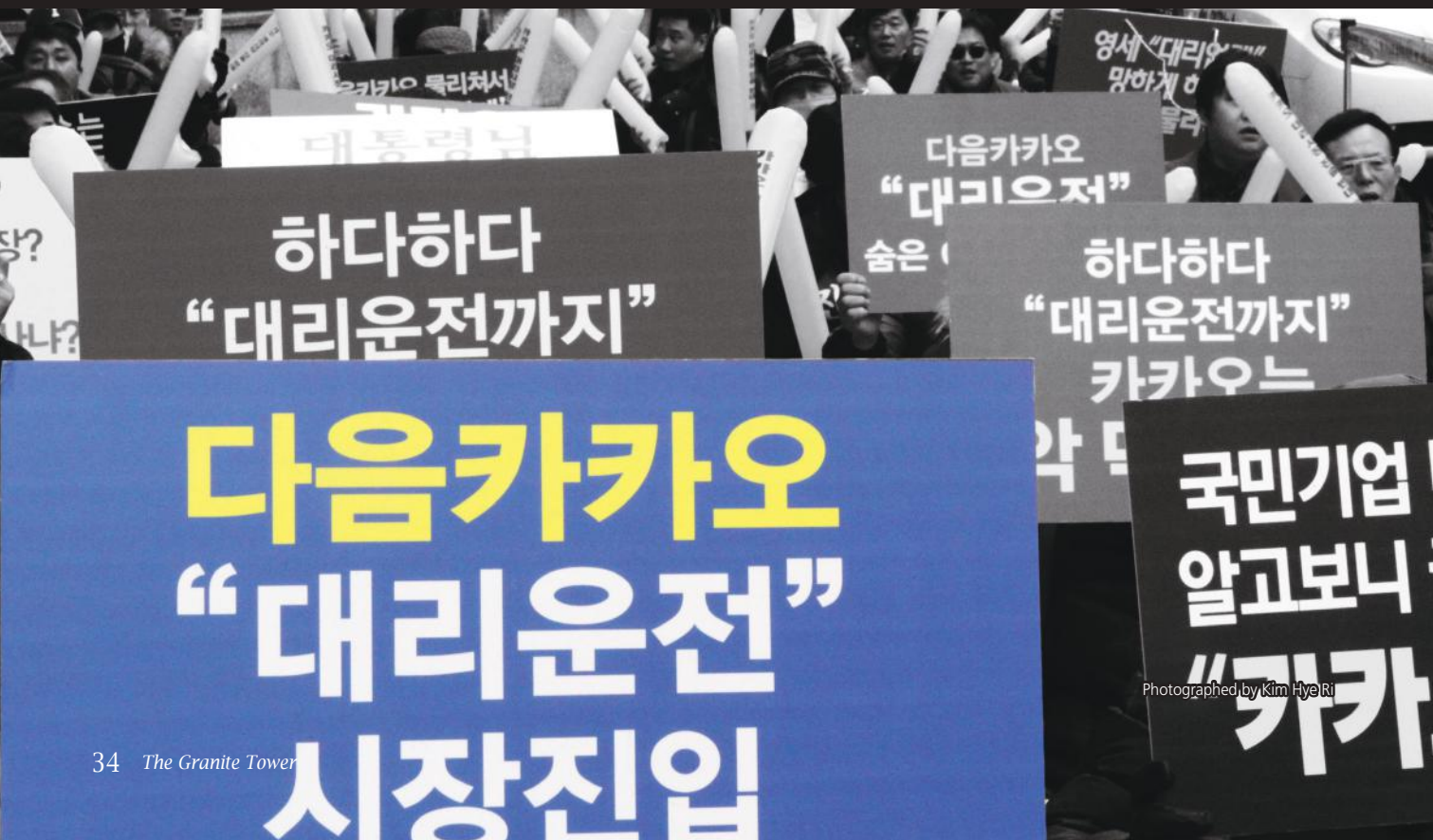
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Photographed by Lee Hye Min



Photographed by Lee Hye Min

"ONE HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY



Photographed by Kim Hye Ri





Photographed by Lee Hye Min

TO DISOBEY UNJUST LAWS."

-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

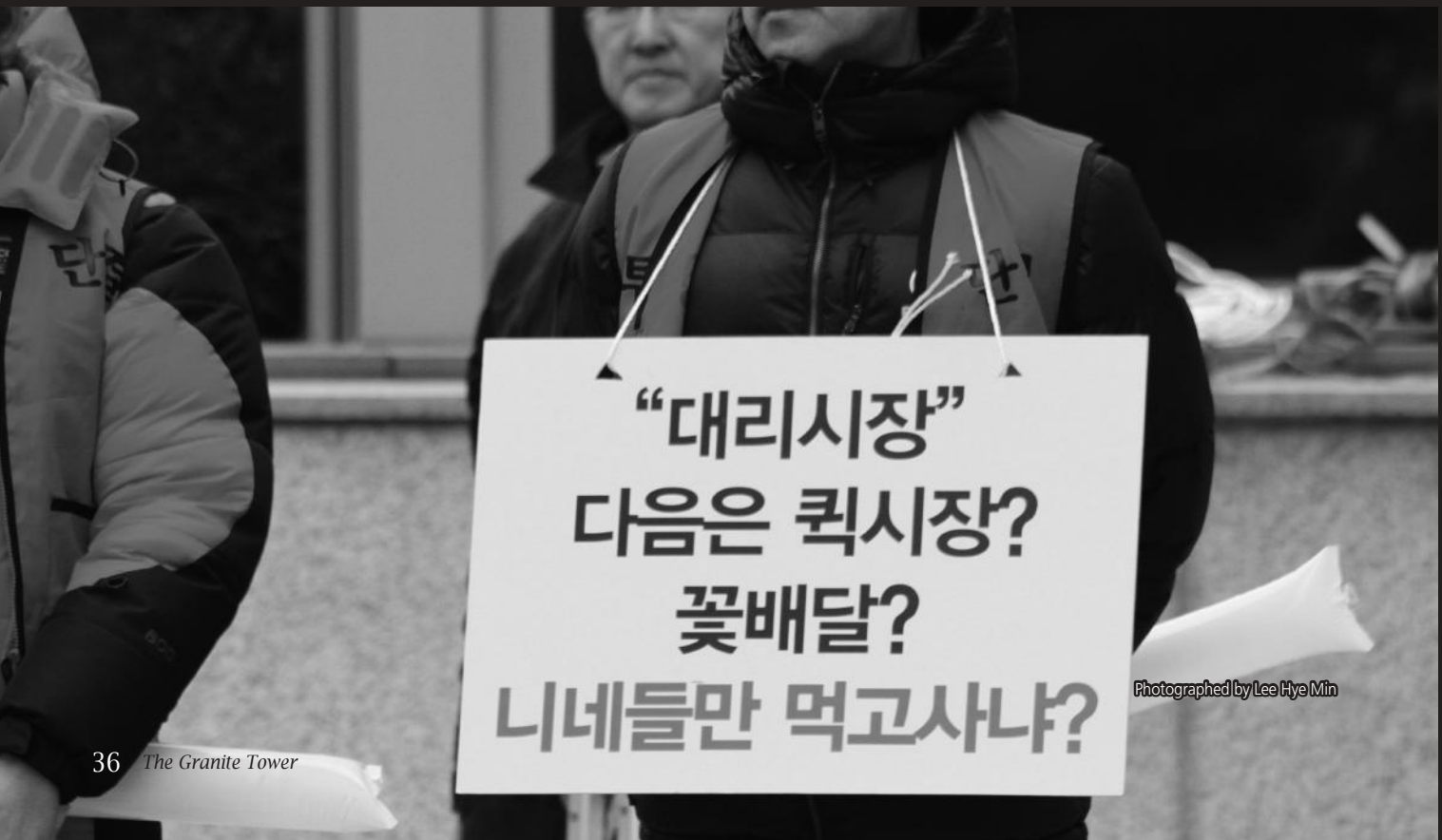


Photographed by Lee So Young





Photographed by Lee Hye Min



Photographed by Lee Hye Min



"INJUSTICE  
IN THE END  
PRODUCES  
INDEPENDENCE."  
-VOLTAIRE

# Professor JANG HA SUNG

Professor Jang Ha Sung ('74, Business) discusses Korea, change, and rage.

By Lee Jeong Min (cosmos0330@korea.ac.kr)

**Will a just society in which everyone lives happily in harmony ever come to Korea?**

Society is something made by its constituents, not by itself. Thus, it really depends on how the public sets goals in creating the society, and what efforts they show to pursue it. Nothing can currently be said for sure. However, taking into regard that an effective leader in Korea that brings about change and people expressing their rage is rarely seen, it would not be so easy.

**Starting from the academic world, you have participated in the society as far as the public community and politics. Is there a reason you have started participating actively?**

Social science exists as an engagement of some relationship one has with society. In Korea many of the social sciences are *imported*. We expropriate the controversies of the subjects from abroad and fit Korea into a general scheme. However, the theories

should fit Korea, rather than Korea fitting into the theories. Those who study social sciences barely look into the complexities of our society and, thus, hardly know Korea; I disliked that. I, as well, have studied in the United States and learnt about the US studies. However, contemplating upon how the things I learnt there could be applied to Korean society was necessary. Not every academician must intervene and attempt to solve all the social problems. In my case, because I deal with so many issues that are closely related to our real world, I wanted to bring about change.

**What is the most important thing in maintaining hope and walking forth?**

Knowing about what is going on in Korea is important. You see, everyone knows that the youth are having a hard time; that is why they are called “remainders” and “three give ups.” People should be questioning *why* it is hard for them, but currently people tend to individualize



the problem. They think, “It is because I did not try hard enough,” or conversely, “If only I overcome this problem it will be okay.”

However, because the problem is deep within the Korean societal system, the problems are not going to be resolved unless the system itself changes. Some individuals may overcome the problems with great effort, but still a majority of others will have to suffer from them. The lack of perception is not the fault of the youth though. The older generation refuses to talk about these issues. Universities are not talking about them, schools are not teaching them, and the press is not dealing with them. All they try to teach the youth is “positivity studies” that deem individuality important. “It is all *your* fault. If *you* try hard and if *you* think positively, any problems in the world can be resolved,” is what they are saying. That makes no sense at all.

**Can “raging” and “being happy” coexist?**

Those two are entirely

Professor Jang Ha Sung. Photographed by Kim Hye Ri.



different things from a different context. They are not mutually exclusive or do not go against each other. The rage I talk about is when we *rage* against things that are not just. Like when we cry when seeing something sad, it is that natural. If the world is wrong, we should be furious. In other words, I am not urging people to emotionally rage but *rationaly rage*.

The youth in Korea depict a high level of happiness in their lives. It could be said that they ignore problems in society and remain content with what they have. Of course happiness does not always have to be defined as something big, but it is worth questioning whether their happiness is true happiness. A human being does not exist solely, but as a member of society. Thus, when people say that they are happy even though the future is gloomy, that cannot be said to be real happiness.

**Flooded by information, we sometimes cannot identify the problems in society. How can we see the world correctly?**

That is also the responsibility of the old generation. The first thing I said to students in my Core Elective Class this semester was, "I will provide you with objective facts. However, the judgement and interpretation of them will be my personal opinion. I do not teach with a general theory. You may dislike my views and think differently from me. However, *someone* has

to be judging values so that a controversy can be generated. I do it my way."

Because investigations on problems that are specific to Korea are so shallow and unexplored, the youth cannot help but feel lost. They have to dig in to their own problems because the older generation is not providing them with answers. Not to brag, but there should be more people like me. I am treated as a maverick because there are not a lot of people like me, when in fact I am not. Opinions about how people have judged Korean society with their own values and goals through diverse ways should be the norm; however, because there are so few, this remains a serious problem.

**Some judge your books as a form of propaganda that sways youth. What do you think about this opinion?**

That is great! The youth should rage. If that person is using "sway" to mean arousing with a foul intent, he or she is seeing it wrong. If, however, he or she uses the word to mean catalyzing the youth to see the world clearly, then that is correct. If people do not rage at unjust things, their society is dead.

**Many people are afraid to speak their opinions because they want to "fit in." What is the source of your courage to voice your personal views?**

I do not know if you could say that I have courage.... Well, there are several reasons why

people do not speak up. First, the Korean academic world somehow wrongly perceives "neutrality" as more scholarly. However, eventually academicians should delineate their values within the context of their studies, or else the study will merely be a "loyal study." Second, many people are entwined with interests. Korean society can be described as a place where speaking a different opinion from the frame of society or interest tends to exclude those who dissent. This is why for the last 20 years I have never taken a seat in a corporate project or governmental committee. I did not want to create that relationship of interests in the first place.

**The fact that you are cousins with Jang Ha Joon, also a renowned economist, has been an issue. Were you two perhaps rivals when you were young?**

(Laughs) Ha Joon is 10 years younger than me, so we could never be rivals. I have always adored him. (Laughs)

**With such a prestigious personal history, you must have gotten many scout offers. Why did you choose**



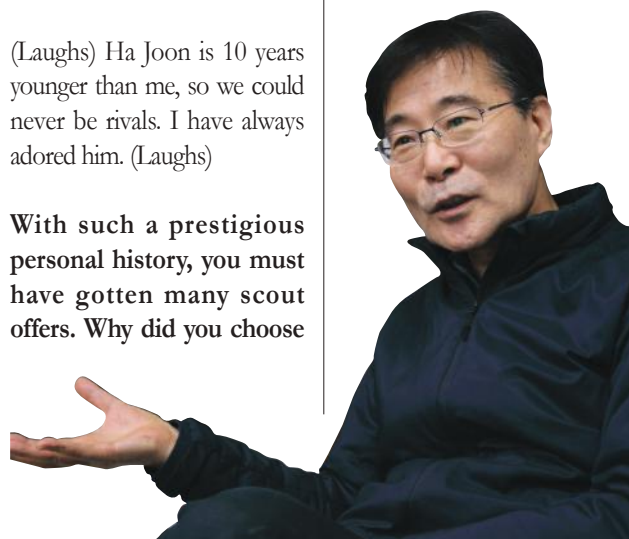
Professor Jang's bestseller books about Korean capitalism and society. Provided by Newsen.

**teaching?**

I became a professor to study more; there is nothing else I want to do. In the past and even today, I have been given many offers in politics or a governmental position. However, I refused all of that because I studied to become a *professor*, not a politician.

**It was very impressive to see you wear sneakers with a suit in your classes and special lectures. Is there a special reason why you put on sneakers?**

Because they are comfortable. (Chuckles) Very comfortable. ☑



Professor Jang discussing the future of Korea in an interview with GT. Photographed by Kim Hye Ri.

# Crisis Manager, the Relief Pitcher

People go to doctors when they are ill. When a company gets ill, it needs a crisis manager. When a crisis strikes, the executive board takes the case to a crisis manager to minimize the losses. While the term *crisis manager* is not an official term in Korea, there is a man who has lived a life as a crisis manager. Kim Dae Hyun ('85, Law), a former relief pitcher in leading companies, shared his life story to introduce the occupation, crisis manager, to his juniors at Korea University (KU).

By Chae Jisu (michaela1004@korea.ac.kr)

## **GT** What is a crisis manager?

**Kim** There are two types of crises. One is external, and the other is internal. External crises are visible while internal crises cannot be seen by the naked eye; it needs an expert. Mostly, internal crises lead firms to huge losses. That is what makes firms need people who can interpret the state of crises, draw out all the possible scenarios, and establish strategies to deal with unpredictable variables. That is what a crisis manager basically does.

## **GT** How do crises form in a company?

**Kim** When an affiliate company manages to take control of all the information, or gets lost among its list of priorities, it leads the company into the condition of “safety ignorance” due to its members’ arrogance. That arrogance then nudges the affiliate company to block channels of communication with the outer world, refusing new information. Lack of information and safety ignorance in such a tight corporate schedule leads the firm to lose future outlook and make mistakes that lead to huge losses. That is how a typical crisis forms.

## **GT** Since when did you consider having this occupation?

**Kim** It is hard for me to tell exactly when, because it was never my decision to become a crisis manager. I always received endless requests from desperate owners of companies in their devastating situations. Companies wanted me as their relief pitcher, and I responded to their need.

## **GT** Could you introduce one of the most memorable crises you dealt with?

**Kim** If I had to pick the most memorable one, it was my experience in KHvatec. I was employed in KHvatec as the director of the headquarters in the sensor production department. The sensor department was one of two affiliate companies of KHvatec, and it always ended up with deficits. The owner of the company himself had even prohibited the members of the sensor production department from having get-togethers, because of their annual deficits. When I first got there, the rate of production was 75 percent, and 50 percent of the completed sensors were faulty. I could see why the company could not but end up with deficits. In order to bring a change to the environment I started to study about the production line. It was a completely new field of area for me, whom have only studied law at KU, and yet I did not have a choice. At first, I had no idea what the 4M (Material, Men, Machine, and Method) stood for in the production line. I had to look up books and spent day and night in the factory to figure out a way to decrease the rate of faulty products. After nine months, the rate of production increased to 97 percent, and the rate of faulty products decreased to 0.5 percent. Since then, the sensor department of KHvatec turned into an

independent company and KHvatec now holds 12 affiliate companies.

This is the most memorable crisis that I can introduce. I would like to share more, but unfortunately, most part of my work is confidential.

**GT** What did you like about being a crisis manager of a firm?

**Kim** What is fascinating about being a crisis manager is that once I am assigned to manage a crisis in a company, the life and death of the whole company suddenly comes to depend on me. I still cannot forget the change I made in KHvatec. It is hard to explain the thrill of saving a company through the interpretations and decisions I make.

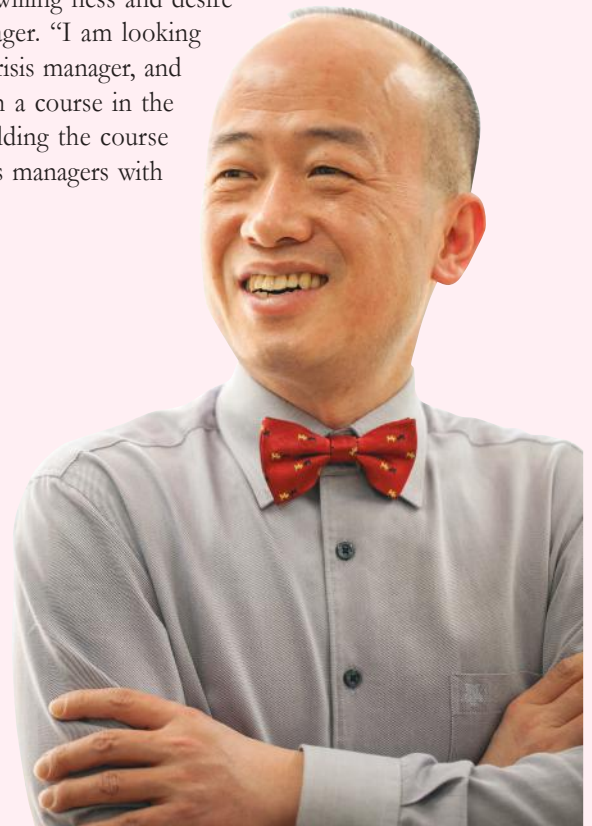
**GT** What advice would you give to the potential juniors who wish to become a crisis manager like you? What kind of academic path would you like to advise them to take?

**Kim** I graduated with a major in law at KU, and it is true that it led me to the path of a crisis manager at some aspects, but I do not believe the career path as a crisis manager has a lot to do with the major one chooses. Being an expert is important, but in order to become a good crisis manager, having a large spectrum of knowledge is much more important.

In order to have a wide range of knowledge, it is best to have a lot of experience. However, as it is impossible to experience everything in real life, Indirect experience—reading—is important. I would advise those who wish to become a crisis manager to read a lot of books. I have read approximately twenty thousand books thus far—that means an average of one book per day.

Having said all that, Kim commented that the future of the job is very bright. He said that the firms will continue to confront various crises which most of the executive members tend not know how to deal with.

“The future of this job is bright because, the firms need such a resource in order to keep their companies running,” he said. He furthermore expressed his willingness and desire to establish a course for those who wish to become a crisis manager. “I am looking forward to establishing a course for those who wish to become a crisis manager, and I wish I could do that at KU,” he continued, “If establishing such a course in the undergraduate program is impossible, I also have plans to try building the course at Lyceum. I wish I could provide those who wish to become crisis managers with quality education.”







Flag of China. Provided by commons.wikimedia.org.  
Flag of Hong Kong SAR. Provided by en.wikipedia.org.

# Why David and Goliath Is Only a Myth

Recently, a Youtube video of an official apology from a Taiwanese member of a K-Pop idol group has stirred a heated controversy all across Asia. Brushing all the details aside, at the very core of this issue was the firm grip that the Chinese government held on Taiwan. However, there is another region within China's sphere of influence that is even more politically sensitive, trying to tiptoe around confronting its own Goliath: Hong Kong.

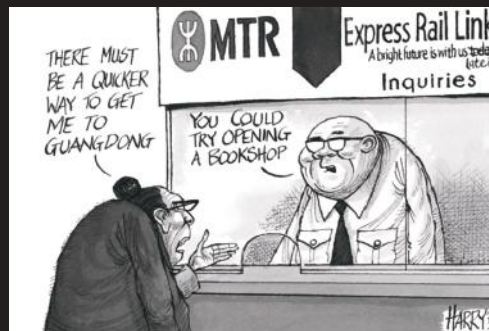
By Maeng Jun Ho (juneau0317@korea.ac.kr)

Despite its reputation as a shopping paradise and a financial hub of Asia, the streets of Hong Kong have been smeared with a series of brutal violence lately. The latest incident involved a clash between street vendors and the police during the Lunar New Year holiday. Not long ago, a mysterious disappearance of several booksellers in Hong Kong who were critical of the Chinese government sparked a widespread uproar. So, what is behind all of these commotions in this otherwise prosperous city?

## Is Hong Kong a Country?

Before delving further into the dynamics of Hong Kong's struggle, let us take a closer look at Hong Kong itself. An island city off the southern coast of China, Hong Kong was officially handed over to the Chinese government by the British in 1997, after centuries of colonization. Ever since then, it has grown to assert

its dominance in the financial realm, along with a fascinating mix of Eastern and Western cultures.



A cartoon satirizing the Chinese government's abduction of Hong Kong booksellers. Provided by washingtonpost.com.

To clarify Hong Kong's status, it is officially under the jurisdiction of the Chinese government and is not acknowledged as a sovereign state, in accordance with the principle of "one country, two systems." In essence, the city retains a capitalist economy as well as a certain degree of political autonomy in the form of its own legislature, while being a part of China.

Yet, its government is structured in a way that it cannot wrestle free from Beijing's thumb. The most

telling evidence of this is the fact that the Chief Executive, the head of Hong Kong's government, is implicitly screened by the Chinese Communist Party. This is facilitated by limiting the voting rights to a 1200-member Election Committee instead of

a direct election in which every citizen would cast a vote for a candidate of their choosing. Moreover, Hong Kong's police force has become synonymous with puppets doing the biddings of Mainland China.

## The Battle of David and Goliath?

Nevertheless, Hong Kong's yearning for a legitimate democracy has always existed in the back of its people's minds, intensifying with the ever-tightening chokehold China has imposed on its autonomy. Such longing turned into an outright frustration and rage in 2014, evidenced by the most publicized and significant pro-democracy movement that the city has ever witnessed.

Dubbed the Umbrella Movement, this large-scale demonstration centered on college students who were fed up with the status quo and demanded a full-blown democracy. Coupled with another civil disobedience movement titled "Occupy Central", the movement lasted for several months, paralyzing the city's business flow and turning the eyes of the world towards Hong Kong.

Despite such efforts and media attention, the Umbrella Movement eventually fizzled out in the face of China's hardline stance, without any major consequences. Perhaps Hong Kong's struggle for freedom might appear as simple as an underdog defying the giant. Deep down, however, the story is much more complicated with far-reaching consequences.

## A Generational Divide

For one, although there is a growing sense of discontent among the public, one should not automatically assume that the entire population of Hong Kong is on the same side. In fact, a large segment of the population, mostly older generations, favors the status quo. In contrast, younger generations, with their independence-leaning liberal mindset, are the ones calling for a complete democracy.

Simply looking at the numbers, those who are opposed to radical pro-democracy movements far outnumber the vocal group of student activists. For instance, 1.5 million Hong Kong



A protester denouncing the Chinese government for its crackdown on Hong Kong. Photographed by Jerome Favre. Provided by theguardian.com.

citizens of the so-called "silent majority" petitioned against the Umbrella Movement when it was at its full swing.

## The All-Powerful Big Brother: China

China's remarkable ascendance on the global stage is no longer a surprise, but the juggernaut's political pressure across its borders seems to have no limit as well. Regarding the recent abduction of Hong Kong booksellers, both the United States (U.S.) and the United Kingdom (UK) have strongly condemned the Chinese government. In response, Beijing simply

told them to "mind their own business."

In an interview with *The Irish Times*, Kerry Brown, a professor of Chinese studies at King's College in London, shed some light on the power dynamics among major players involved in the issue. "The abduction of the booksellers and the strong language in the six monthly reports produced by the UK show in effect that the joint agreement between the UK and China on Hong Kong is dying, perhaps even dead," he explained.

From Beijing's perspective, the mere gesture of giving Hong Kong some room to breathe sets a dangerous precedent as China's other satellite states that are also on the lookout for independence, namely Taiwan and Tibet, would want to follow suit. This, in turn, will severely undermine China's authority and territorial claims in the surrounding geopolitical arena.

Thus, Beijing finds Hong Kong's desire for a greater degree of independence unacceptable, whose view is mirrored by its people. According to Wang Hui (12', Media and Communications), most

Chinese feel "betrayed and hurt that Hong Kong wants to break away from its motherland."

Unfortunately for Hong Kong, experts are not optimistic about its future. "Things will get bleaker for Hong Kong," Alvin Cheung, a local politician, warned. What complicates this issue even further is the economic implication stemming from the city's dependence on China for its economy. It remains to be seen whether China will loosen or tighten its grip on Hong Kong in the foreseeable future. One thing seems certain enough, though. Their fight will not be as simple and swift as the battle of David and Goliath. ❏



Caught in the middle. Provided by nytimes.com

## Caught in the Middle

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continues its way as a pariah state. Its recent nuclear experiment as well as the missile launch has certainly agitated the international society. South Korea and the United States (U.S.) were the two most sensitive nations, with China inevitably being involved. However, this time the U.S.-China relationship is quite different than usual. They are cooperating to manipulate this nuclear experiment to their advantage, and are passing it to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) table. As a result, South Korea is caught in the middle—it failed both party politics and the acquirement of THAAD missiles. New actions are expected to take place.

By **Kim Ha Young** (emily0923@korea.ac.kr)



The DPRK, otherwise known as North Korea, has been attempting nuclear tests from the past. With the most recent 2016 experiment being the fourth, they again displayed their military potential to the international community. Although past nuclear tests of 2006 and 2009 were of small sizes, and the current test is more similar to a powerful hydrogen bomb than a proper nuclear bomb with uranium, U.S. intelligence is hinting that the DPRK would be able to gather enough plutonium and start making a long-range missile system. Thus, the recent nuclear experiment carries heavy meaning for the rest of the international community.

The attitude of the DPRK, which is clearly shown by launching missiles after the nuclear experiment, is turning the international community more hostile towards the event. Mainly there are four countries interested in the incident—South Korea, the U.S., China, and Russia. The fourth UNSC resolution that those countries worked on aims to impose harsher sanctions than any past ones on North Korea, which can be seen as an expansion from the recently passed secondary boycott law by the U.S. The U.S. government, although it already has no diplomatic relationship with North Korea, has decided to even sanction some other directly related nations.

### How South Korea Reacted

The shutdown of the *Gaesung* Industrial Complex was the main response from the South Korean government. Criticized highly within and outside the nation, the shutdown was indeed an abrupt decision taken solely by Korean authorities. However, although it is true that the shutdown brought economic issues to the South Korean economy, some say that it was an inevitable decision. Professor Lee Shin Wha (Political Science) says, “In any case it would have been a hard decision by the government to produce a symbolic yet economically effective solution.” She believes that it was a solution that succeeded to lessen the impacts on North Korean civilians while displaying strong negative assertions against the North Korean regime—regime and civilians must be differentiated.

Nonetheless, the downside of the shutdown cannot be disregarded. It is undeniable that South Korea has benefited from the industrial complex’s existence, from its symbolic meaning of peace for the overall Korean peninsula, to the relatively cheap and Korean-speaking labor force in *Gaesung*, North Korea. Hence, many minor enterprisers have invested in the *Gaesung* Industrial Complex under government recommendation—all of whom lost their source of living after the abrupt shutdown. It seems that *Gaesung*, for some people, was more than just “a channel for DPRK



Source: USGS

BIC

North Korean nuclear experiment. Provided by bbc.co.uk.

military funds” unlike the government announcement. If the shutdown was inevitable, there could have been better explanations and better after-service for those who were involved.

### THAAD the Bargaining Chip

The South Korean government’s inflexible decisions regarding North Korea’s nuclear experiment were mostly based on the premise that the U.S. would hand over the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missiles to South Korea, as interpreted by the mass media. The only solution that the South Korean government announced as a defense method for growing threats by North Korea was THAAD. This system, developed by the U.S. army, uses hit-to-kill technology to ambush an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) by the enemy.

The U.S. and South Korea had agreed to cooperate for the launch of THAAD. This was to make up for South Korea’s inability to attack enemy missiles. Although South Korea owns the Aegis Combat System (ACS) that is able to detect enemy attacks through three-dimensional radar, it lacks the SM-3 missile that plays a key role in the attacking system. In short, currently South Korea has the ability to detect the missiles coming, although it is unable to destroy it. Hence, it is crucial for the South Korean government to get hold of THAAD. The problem here is that the so-called promise made with the U.S. government has turned out shallow.



### High-Altitude Power Play by the U.S. and China

After secured talks with the Chinese government, the U.S. withdrew its intention to launch THAAD missiles, leaving the nation without proper military capabilities against the North Korean ICBM. The groundless trust in the U.S. has led to a misinterpretation of the U.S.-China relationship by the South Korean government—which has continued for a long time, including issues with wartime operational control rights. China has used THAAD as a bargaining chip with the U.S. in the North Korean crisis, since it considered the launch as an obstacle. Chinese Prime Minister Wang Yi stated in February that the THAAD system could jeopardize China's legitimate national security interests.

Professor Kim Sung Han (International Studies) argues that, “This is a calculation by the Chinese government that there would be more loss than good if North Korean nuclear experiments are left to continue.” Furthermore, Kim states that China is reluctant to expanding the arena of U.S.-China competition into the Korean peninsula, just like the THAAD launch would. On the other hand, Professor Lee argues that, “China's main calculation lies in preventing a nuclear domino effect rather than the THAAD launch; North Korea's nuclear experiment can affect Taiwan and Japan to attempt development of nuclear weaponry as well.” Considering the fact that there have been discussions on nuclear militarization even in South Korea, China's concerns have grounds.

Regardless of the exact intention of the Chinese government, it is confirmed that China and the U.S. have dealt with issues regarding the UNSC resolutions on DPRK sanctions. However, due to this high-altitude power play by these strong nations, South Korea has lost its position to stand and voice its concerns; most of the decisions were

made by the two countries, with “some consultations” with South Korea. Professor Lee stated that the South Korean government is caught in the middle without being able neither to properly participate nor to abstain from acting in the current status quo.

### Resolution and China

The UNSC resolution uses a catch-all strategy, and is the harshest among the four that targeted the DPRK solely. It includes sanctions on every part of trade with North Korea, even luxury goods to irritate the North Korean elite. Active participation of the U.S. is prearranged—it is a national election season. It is said by Professor Kim that, “While the U.S. has shown strategic patience by ignoring DPRK, from this fourth nuclear experiment the U.S. is trying to establish a very specific denuclearization through strategic coercion, a strong sanction.” He added that, “If North Korea takes a stance of verifiable nuclear freezing, it is most likely that a discussion towards a peaceful regime including both Koreas, China, and the U.S. would be started.”

Even Russia is demonstrating keen interests. Russia declared its position on the resolution the day before it was passed, to reduce the impact that Russia would receive with past trades with the DPRK. On this, Professor Lee interprets that Russia's role is not to be disregarded, although it mostly shares China's position: Russia is building foundations for future intervention in this political topography of U.S.-China competition. South Korea, in this case, has minor influence—it has been a high-altitude power play among the bigger nations. Ousted by the U.S., and being at odds with China by handling the THAAD issue, the South Korean government has no bold shoulders to rest upon.



- 1 China foreign minister urges U.S. caution on missile system. Provided by news.xinhuanet.com
- 2 Russian, Chinese Diplomats Discuss Draft UNSC Resolution on North Korea. Provided by sputniknews.com
- 3 Missile launch. Provided by news-images.vice.com.

This is why the role of China in this resolution is important for South Korea. According to Professor Kim, if it is practiced properly by the international society including China, it would give a huge impact to the North Korean economy. However, whether China would actually follow the resolution contents is unclear. On the past sanctions, China has acted in a lukewarm manner since China was in the position of importing natural resources from North Korea. Although currently private Chinese banks are already discontinuing several financial services in some parts of the DPRK, nothing is yet sure. Such movements in the private sectors of China would increase when the secondary boycott legislation by the U.S. solidifies. If proper sanctions are possible against North Korea, their military threats would certainly lose their strength.

Yet the UNSC resolution is only a starting point for the South Korean government. The South Korean government's clear statement and ultimate goal lie in peaceful reunification. Their aim is not to destroy the North Korean regime nor to forcefully absorb North Korea under South Korean control—although Chinese intervention seems inevitable. Their aim is to meet an independent peaceful agreement without making the Korean peninsula another scapegoat for a power play by stronger nations. Incidents like the tragic 6.25 war must be prevented—it is time for a wise action. Just like China, the most strategic player, South Korea should not hesitate to take a real part in this issue. 🇰🇷

### Excerpts from the official UNSC Resolution S/RES/2270 (2016)

40. *Calls upon* all States to report to the Security Council within ninety days of the adoption of this resolution, and thereafter upon request by the Committee, on concrete measures they have taken in order to implement effectively the provisions of this resolution, requests the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 (2009), in cooperation with other UN sanctions monitoring groups, to continue its efforts to assist States in preparing and submitting such reports in a timely manner, and directs the Committee to prioritize outreach to those Member States who have never submitted implementation reports as requested by the Security Council;

48. *Underlines* that measures imposed by resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), 2094 (2013) and this resolution are not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population of the DPRK or to affect negatively those activities, including economic activities and cooperation, that are not prohibited by resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), 2094 (2013) or this resolution, and the work of international organizations and non-governmental organization carrying out assistance and relief activities in the DPRK for the benefit of the civilian population of the DPRK;



# The Perks of Being a Pessimist



Illustration by Anna Parini. Provided by well.blogs.nytimes.com.

Phrases such as “think positive” and “look at the bright side” are used so frequently nowadays that they have become clichés without any substance. Bookstores are teeming with self-help books that worship the wonders of positive thinking, while preaching the poison of negative thinking. Tired of reading those books that all repeat the mantra of optimism? Try *The Positive Power of Negative Thinking* (2001).

By Maeng Jun Ho (juneau0317@korea.ac.kr)

Julie K. Norem, the author of *The Positive Power of Negative Thinking*, challenges this predominant black-and-white mentality and embraces the hidden benefits of pessimism and negativity. She then goes on to underscore the merits of coming to terms with the reality instead of having one’s head in the clouds by shattering the illusion of optimism based on extensive research.

One of Norem’s central arguments is the flaw in the deep-rooted dichotomy that classifies optimism as absolutely good and pessimism as absolutely evil. Rather, she expounds on how each and every individual is predisposed to either optimism or pessimism, but still is able to adopt a so-called “defensive pessimism” as *strategies*, depending on situations.

One way to achieve this is through a process called “mental rehearsal.” Pessimists are generally prone to cook up all sorts of worst-case scenarios in their heads, worrying themselves to death. Although such excessive worrying might seem unnecessary and pointless to some, defensive pessimists take a step further and come up with plans to handle any

problems that might arise in each of their scenarios.

This way, defensive pessimists are better able to deal with a crisis in an effective and efficient manner, while optimists who convinced themselves that “everything will be fine” are caught off guard and left utterly unprepared. In other words, defensive pessimism is different from stereotypical pessimism in that it enables people to break away from a bubble of despair and put their worries into action.

For instance, ahead of an important speech in a room full of people, one might be concerned about blanking out or tripping over on the stage. Under such circumstances, regular pessimists would just sit there while trembling with fear and anxiety. However, defensive pessimists do a rehearsal of every possible mishap that could happen in their heads, and devise contingency plans for each scenario, like preparing a joke that could turn an embarrassing mistake into a humorous story.

This book seems to introduce just the right amount of complicated

psychological theories to elaborate the main arguments. Still, the author weaves in plenty of personal anecdotes so that her readers can get a sense of how such theories could be applied to their everyday lives.

Another thing that stands out in this book is that the author does not force her ideas down the readers’ throats, unlike so many other books of a similar kind. Instead, she stresses the importance of the flexibility in adopting different mindsets, like strategic optimism and defensive pessimism, despite one’s innate predisposition. By doing so, this book gives readers room to breathe and digest it with a sense of liberation.

In a nutshell, *The Positive Power of Negative Thinking* is like taking a college-level psychology class that could actually come in handy for once. Particularly for those who failed to reap the benefits of blind optimism, this book might be exactly their cup of tea. Lastly, do not feel guilty about being a pessimist at times because that could turn out to be your biggest asset with a bit of tweaking. 🍵

# Perk Up with Coffee Boy's Java Jive

“Cheer up even when you are tired, when your head hurts, just get through today. Cheer up no matter how difficult things are, even if your eyes tear up and fog up, never give up.” Listening to these mellow tunes and tooth-achingly sweet lyrics from *Cheer Up* (2015), Coffee Boy's third regular album, will help you get through difficult days.

By Kim DaHyun (byejen@korea.ac.kr)

Coffee Boy's *Cheer Up* is his third full-length album and is stocked full with brighten your day songs. Following Coffee Boy's first full-length album *Waiting* (2012), on which he sang about waiting for the love of his life and his sophomore full-length album *Born a Man* (2013) which was about a man who decided to become stronger in order to protect the love of his life, Coffee Boy has returned with his third album, *Cheer Up*.

Let's take a listen to the tracks on the album. The first track is very appropriately titled, “Morning Vitamin (Acoustic ver.),” and like its name, the song has a bright, fruity tone to it. The song is like a pleasant jolt of electricity; it gets listeners up and running for their day. It would be a good tune for early morning commutes or early school days.

One of the most hummable tracks on the album is “Spell of Happiness,” the fourth track on this album. This track is relatively well known for being the theme song of Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) Cool FM Radio's show, “Let's Raise the Volume with Yoo In-na.” The first part of this song sounds as though Coffee Boy is putting a magical spell on his listeners. Feeling like it is going to take a miracle to get through a particularly hellish week? Then this song is for you.



Another track *The Granite Tower* (GT) readers should not miss out on is “*Darimi* (Iron).” “*Darimi* (Iron)” is one of the wittiest songs on this track. The lyrics are about ironing a crumpled heart. The female vocalist sadly sings, “*Darimi, darimi*, my heart has been rumples, worn out, ripped apart, it used to be strong but now it's all ripped.” One cannot help but identify with the image of ironing a rumples heart that has been hurt by life. This song will resonate with people who have gone through a time when they were desperate

for their own iron to smooth out the rumples in their hearts.

Overall, for those who are suffering from low self-esteem, those commuting their dreadful way to work, those trudging on their way home from work, those working long extra hours, those studying hard to realize their dreams, those suffering from intermittent blues that blindsides them without warning, from empty bank accounts, from going hungry to bed because they're on a diet, and last but not least those 20-somethings suffering from the daily grind, this album should be their perfect go to refuge. ☑

Cover of *Cheer Up*. Provided by catmusic.co.kr.



# The Big Short: Pessimists Who Knew Too Much

An enthralling mix of quirky humor, flaming rage, and bitter lethargy, *The Big Short* is one of the best blockbusters of 2015. From the writers of *Anchorman* and *Anchorman 2*, *The Big Short*, the 88th Oscar winner for Best Adapted Screenplay and nominated in four other categories, delivers with solid irony and scalding humor a real life American tale. It tells the story of the terrible consequences of the housing bubble collapse as witnessed by a handful of extremely pessimistic outsiders in the high finance world with cameos from celebrities such as Selena Gomez and Margot Robbie.

By Kim DaHyun (byejen@korea.ac.kr)

The title of the film speaks for itself. A bunch of skeptics saw that the emperor had no clothes, that the housing market in the United States (U.S.) was a bubble that would soon collapse, made very large bets on that collapse by shorting the housing market, and those bets paid off very, very well. The film is based on a non-fiction book of the same name by Michael Lewis. It was directed by Adam McKay and its cinematography was overseen by Barry Ackroyd. The movie stars A-list actors including Christian Bale, Ryan Gosling, Steve Carell, and Brad Pitt.

Before watching the film, some may assume that since McKay's previous movies were comedies, often featuring his pal Will Farrell, that he wouldn't be able to handle the serious subject matter of *The Big Short*. They were mistaken. *The Big Short* is like a sharp blow to the abdomen, the kind of movie that leaves moviegoers deep in thought by the time the credits roll in. Most likely, those thoughts won't be pleasant ones.

*The Big Short* opens like many of McKay's other previous big screen works—with a quotation, an acerbic remark by Mark Twain: "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into





trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so." That just about sums up what is really behind this Oscar winner. *The Big Short* does not shy away from pointing fingers at who was really behind the American financial crisis precipitated by the end of the housing boom.

Christian Bale stars as Michael Burry, the first person to see the problems with the housing market and the first to short it, actually creating a market for such shorts. Burry, who has Asperger's syndrome, is a one-eyed hedge fund manager who walks around his office barefoot, casually dressed in shorts and an old t-shirt. He cranks speed metal rock in his office to cope with his dark thoughts. He also, due to his Asperger's, has a way of putting people off without meaning to by saying things like, "Nice haircut, did you do it yourself?"

Mark Baum (Steve Carrell) has a severe case of anger management issues and a fervid and vocal hatred for big financial institutions, along with a sad



history of losing his brother to a tragic suicide. Underneath his hard, angry shell, there is a soft, mushy core that cannot stop caring about others and reacting to social injustices in a loud, vociferous way. Jamie (Finn Wittrock) and Charlie (John Magaro) are financial newbies, yet something about them—their passion and well-meant recklessness—makes viewers hope they fulfill their ambition of making it big on Wall Street.

Despite its gloomy subject matter, *The Big Short* is filled with deliciously witty humor. One very funny moment is

during the scene where the investment analysts checking out the housing market in South Florida come upon an abandoned home now inhabited by an alligator. Banker Jared Vennett's (Ryan Gosling) hilariously cruel treatment of his assistants is also a source of laughs.

For those who need a good laugh and also secretly enjoy becoming angry over the frustrating reality of how today's economy is being run, *The Big Short* is a must watch. For those who want to learn in an extremely entertaining way how America's housing market came crashing down in 2008, this is also a must watch. All in all, it is easy to recommend *The Big Short*. 🍷



### Movie Information

**Title:** *The Big Short* (2015)

**Rating:** R for mature language and some sexuality/nudity

**Genre:** Drama

**Runtime:** 2 hours 10 minutes

**Director:** Adam McKay

**Writers:** Adam McKay and Charles Randolph

- 1 A scene from *The Big Short*. Provided by post-gazette.com.
- 2 Money. Provided by windows10thetop10.blogspot.com.
- 3 A scene from the movie. Provided by elle.com
- 4 A scene from the film. Provided by vanityfair.com

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3



## WASHING AWAY

# WORRIES TOGETHER

By Lee So Young (bcs11118@korea.ac.kr)

Doing the laundry definitely is one of the most bothering chores. Just seeing the piles of clothes that need to be sorted out, washed, and dried out give stress to the already burdensome everyday life. However, it would be even more annoying to wear unwashed clothes all throughout the day, feeling uncomfortable about the wrinkles or even the smell. The healing musical *Washing* exactly grabs onto this concept, as it washes away all the troubles of daily life with friendly people and great songs.

*W*ashing is an original musical that has been staged in Korea more than 1,000 times since its official debut in 2005. As a long-time running musical it has been loved for over 10 years, and has even been performed in Japan in 2012 and 2015. From January, *Washing* has even debuted in China, showing its potential as an international musical that can successfully move the hearts of the global audience. While everything from the characters to the setting are as normal as they could be, this is exactly what makes this 160 minute-long musical special.

The story of *Washing* centers on a 27-year-old bookstore clerk, Nayoung, and her neighbor, Solongo, a Mongolian immigrant. Although these two are the main characters, the many other characters all have their own unique charms that appeal to the viewers. However, this does not mean that the characters have anything special about their occupation or even their appearance. Before the musical starts, an actor

from the musical even humorously warns that the audience should "not wait for handsome people."

Rather, it is that normality of the characters that makes the characters and the entire musical attractive. Specifically, the audience of the musical would find themselves comparing themselves to at least one of the characters, sympathizing with their pain in life in Korea. For example, *Washing* features an employee getting stressed out everyday because of her boss, a man being pressured about his rent, youngsters yearning for love, and many more that are far from uncommon. Since the characters and the audience share similar pains, the actors and viewers can cooperate to wash them away.

In addition, in many parts of the musical, the unfairness of Korean society is implicitly pointed out, and they show how the problem can spoil a person's entire life. For example, a grim problem about the discrimination toward immigrants





can be seen when the salary of a factory worker from the Philippines is delayed for three months. The criticism adds when the boss threatens to report about the immigrant's illegal stay if he continues to complain. Although *Washing* deals with such serious social issues, it does not remain gloomy and depressing. In other words, while pointing out grave but important issues, the musical succeeds in carrying its warm and lighthearted manner, thanks to the witty lines and cheerful music.

The setting is also an interesting and crucial part of the musical. The incidents of *Washing* all occur within places in Seoul, switching from an old bookstore to a shabby residential area that Koreans would normally call a "moon village". However, rather than evoking the image of poor commoners, the setting is full of simplicity that brings the audience even closer to the musical. Pieces of clothes and bedclothes are pinned to the laundry line, worn-out doors of tiny rooms, and a house built close to the sky make up the entire picture of a tiny but warmhearted town.

The key, and the great merit of this production that made the long run staging of *Washing* possible, has to be the fact that there is no wall between the audience and the actors. At first it is extremely startling to see an actual actor from the performance to come up to the stage ten minutes before the start of the musical just to have a chat with the viewers.

"I act as the owner of the supermarket over there," says the actor while pointing to a small mom-and-pop store on stage. While it must have been equally surprising to the spectators, the conversation perfectly helps in loosening up the tension of the atmosphere, and heightening the expectations.

In addition, one would be even more startled to notice each of the actors taking a bow to each and every person on the stairs of the exit. Just like its title as a "healing musical," the audience can feel as if they are special even if it lasts for just that single moment. The warmth that the actors give all throughout the musical before, during, and even after the performance is the beauty that no other audience of any other performance would experience. Even though the characters are definitely going through troubles, they do not stop in giving out love to other characters and the house crowd.

The point of doing the laundry is to get clean clothes, washing away the dirt and spots made from a hard day's work. Everyone knows that the cloth will get dirty once it is worn again. However, if it is not cleaned up at one point, the dust would pile up. Like the freshly washed clothes, life can be full of stains at one point, but it can also be cleaned up. This is exactly where the name of the musical *Washing* seems to come from and the lesson that it conveys. Therefore, come to this musical with the troubles that everyone holds every day, and leave with a new feeling of freshness and warmth. 🍷

## Performance Information

**Date:** March 10, 2016 - February 25, 2017

**Time:** Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 P.M.

Wednesday 4:00P.M., 8:00 P.M.

Saturday 3:00 P.M.

Sunday 4:00 P.M.

(Check for exact dates at [artcenterdyu.co.kr](http://artcenterdyu.co.kr))

**Location:** Dongyang Arts Center

**Ticket Price:** 50,000 Won

- 1 Background of a bright sky above the grass. Provided by [desktopwallpaperhd.net](http://desktopwallpaperhd.net)
- 2 Nayoung and Solongo singing a song to each other. Provided by [musical.tk.ac.kr](http://musical.tk.ac.kr)
- 3 All of the performers performing a number on *Washing*. Provided by [musical.tk.ac.kr](http://musical.tk.ac.kr)
- 4 An actor singing about his sorrows in Seoul. Provided by [musical.tk.ac.kr](http://musical.tk.ac.kr)
- 5 The male performers having a drink to forget their troubles. Provided by [musical.tk.ac.kr](http://musical.tk.ac.kr)



# The Man Who Redefined Beauty

No matter how attractive one may be, there is one place where even the most beautiful women and charismatic men might feel pressured—Hollywood. In order to remain popular, actors need to look their best. Some of that beauty is captured in photography. The *Herb Ritts: Work* photo exhibition epitomizes the artistry of photography and evinces how a single photo can instantly mesmerize someone.

By Jeon Sohyeon (jeon1995@korea.ac.kr)

Herbert “Herb” Ritts Jr. was an American fashion photographer whose specialty was black and white photography and portraits. His career as a photographer started later in his life as a hobby in 1976 until he gained prominence as a photographer in 1978. Soon Ritts was being asked by celebrities to take their photographs. In 1986, Ritts would take one of his most famous photos—Madonna's cover pose for her album *True Blue* (1986).

As soon as visitors step into the exhibition, they are greeted by a short biography of Ritts and some of his first photos in Hollywood. Starting from his early photos of Richard Gere that helped make Gere a star to the famous *True Blue* cover photo of Madonna, the exhibition captures a decorated era of Hollywood in

great fashion.

Visitors can also witness the influence Ritts had on Hollywood. In a time when women's sensuality was still emphasized more than that of men, Ritts broke the common practice in Hollywood by directly addressing a man's beauty. Ritts' photography redefined the beauty of men's bodies and highlighted sexuality of men which people back then thought were only visible in women.

The exhibition also includes photos of well-known figures in the political, athletic, and artistic fields. His models therefore included people such as Michael Jordan, Gorbachev, and Nelson Mandela, all of whom who had little to do with photography. Ritts' photography sensationally captures the unique features of different influential figures into photos that combine artistry and popularity.

Ritts is said to have redefined the nude, and one section of the show is dedicated to such works. Although Ritts was gay, he portrays the beauty of both men and women in his nudes. Mostly working outdoors, Ritts worked to relate the human body with natural surroundings. The resulting photos were vivid yet elegant.

His use of male models in his nude photography was somewhat controversial. A fully nude male model was just gaining acceptance in the worlds of photography and fashion, and nude men were rarely photographed without women in the frame. However, Ritts successfully captured the elegance of males' bodies by photographing them fully nude and without women.

Herb Ritts was also famous in the field of fashion. Some of his most famous photographs in fashion was *Jump*. Just like his photographs in other fields, this photo was a stepping stone in redefining the beauty and the sexuality of men. Some other works of his such as *Fred with Tires* and *Joshua Tree* altered the media's point of view toward body exposures. Most of his photos in the field of fashion contain a lot of nudity and body exposures, which the mass media frowned upon. His photos however played a role in defining the beauty of high body exposures.

However, Ritts did also make use of female models in the field of fashion. Instead of creating one common characteristic for all women, Ritts tried to emphasize the characteristic unique to each person. Through this technique, Ritts attempted to capture women's



different types of attraction points and beauty.

The exhibition also displays some of the covers he shot for famous magazine covers such as *Playboy* and the *Rolling Stone*. Each of the photo displayed in these sections emphasizes how influential Ritts was in highlighting the beauty of people's body. Some of the quotes taken from Ritts' actual models also underline how great a photographer he was.

Although visitors are mostly prohibited from taking photos inside the exhibition hall, they can take photos of some of Ritts' works. In addition, some of Ritts' most historical photographs are accompanied by auditory additional explanation of his achievements and the significance behind each photo. This is available for those who apply for a docent program and these will help visitors fully appreciate Ritts' achievements.

"I love a picture in which the reference of who is portrayed doesn't matter," Herb Ritts, said in an interview. "You can be a very famous man, or not a famous man."



The *Herb Ritts: Work* photo exhibition is a meaningful experience for anyone who seeks to appreciate the beauty in everyone. 📷

- 1 True Blue cover photo. Photographed by Lee So Young.
- 2 Magazine cover photos taken by Herb Ritts. Photographed by Lee So Young.
- 3 A cover photo of the exhibition. Photographed by Lee So Young.

### Exhibition Information

**Location:** Sejong Cultural Center Art Hall Floor 1

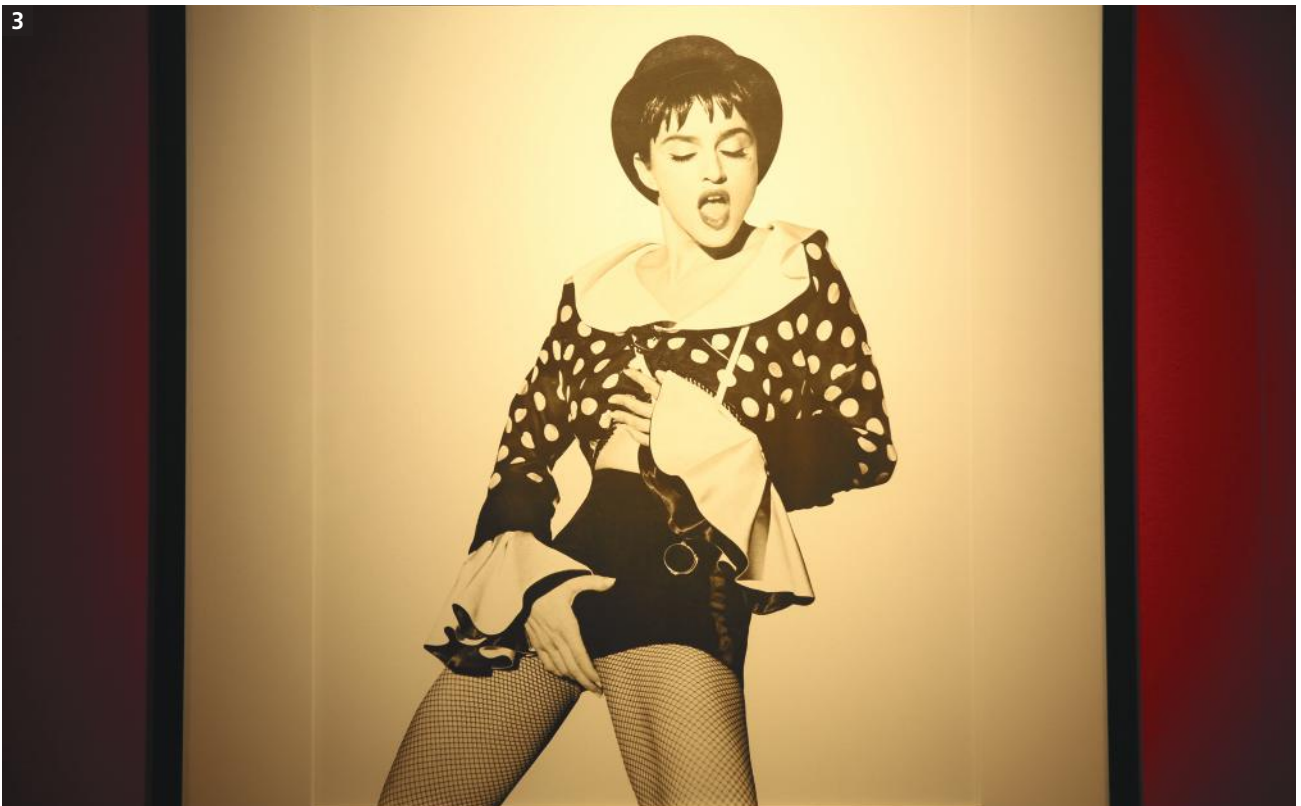
**Open Hours:** 10:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.  
(Tickets are sold until 8:30 P.M.)

**Period:** February 5 to May 2

#### Admission:

Adults (age 19-64): 13,000 Won  
University students (student identification needed): 10,000 Won  
Students (ages 7-18): 8,000 Won  
Infants (ages 5-6): 6,000 Won

3





# Are We All Prisoners of Language?

Welcome to the world of *Hell Joseon*; what kind of spoon are you? Most Koreans, especially the youth, would answer this question without haste or wonder. These newly coined phrases—*Hell Joseon*, *N-po* Generation, spoon theory and passion pay—are thought to reflect current Korean society and thus are frequently used in everyday life and in the mainstream media. However, is it really impossible for a dirt-spoon to ever win against a gold-spoon? Who sets these standards, and why can't we overcome them?

By Lee Hye Min (min4562@korea.ac.kr)

Recent booms in the newly-coined words share a similar characteristic. These phrases all contain a pessimistic and negative attitude towards life in South Korea. For example, *Hell Joseon* describes the hell-like environment of Korea for the youths. This new word mirrors the pessimism of people and even fixates it. The extent to how many times these words are used by youth seems to show how negatively they view their country and its current state. Moreover, it is used as means of justification and consolation of harsh reality that youths are in.

Such slang may be funny to laugh at, but it seems less humorous when one realizes how seriously these words are used. Linguistic domination refers to how the linguistics a person uses actually affects the speaker. In other words, what they say and how they say it defines themselves. In the same sense, the popularity of such lingo plays a part in creating the sad reality for the youth. Although times are tough for many young adults in Korea, they may be making it harder by trapping themselves in a linguistic jail. Even elementary students are using these terms without fully understanding the meaning—they are affecting the young minds fast and unconsciously.

The danger of linguistic domination comes from its slow and silent domination of the speaker. When people use the phrase *Hell Joseon*, they may be limiting their chances by laughing off their failure, “I never had a chance to succeed in this hell anyways,” and putting the blame on their current circumstances without trying to overcome

the essential problem. Such thinking can lead to a passive acceptance of their current position and to political apathy as well, which in the end could mean little or no progress in improving their chances.

Therefore, it is essential for South Koreans to break out of this jail of language. People need to get angry instead of wallowing in pessimism. They have to fight against the problematic structure of the current society rather than surrendering themselves up to a fate they mock. Furthermore, the media should refrain from using these terms and generalizing all crises in a few simple words. What they should talk about is the actual problems, such as youth unemployment, workplace discrimination, and fewer marriages. The phrases *Hell Joseon* and dirt spoon do not connote any solutions, only problems. Now is the time to look beyond the problems and to search for the solutions.

Every generation goes through times of harshness and pain, and some may be more than others. Nonetheless, it is up to that generation whether or not they can overcome their harsh reality. If people prison themselves in their own languages and self-mock their situation without resisting, then they will never overcome their pathetic selves. If, however, people try to face their harsh challenges and believe that they have a chance, an actual change will occur—every small changes accumulate up to become a bigger one—and fortune will definitely smile for those who try. ❏





# How Much Power Should Minority Political Parties Have?

They were some of the most clamorous days in the South Korean National Assembly as the filibuster against the controversial Anti-Terrorism Bill continued for more than 190 hours without a break. Although the participants of the filibuster received a lot of encouragement from the public, several political experts have censured the practice of giving so much power to minority political parties.

By Jeon Sohyeon (jeon1995@korea.ac.kr)

The filibuster, a legal parliamentary procedure in which a politician or group of politicians delays the passing of legislation by deliberately prolonging debate on the bill, has stirred a lot of controversy at both the public and political levels in South Korea lately. Several politicians have seen fit to question whether providing political minority parties with enough power to stop the majority party is halting all legislative actions.

The Congress Law, put into effect in 2012, “requires support from at least 60 percent of the quorum to pass legislation that causes severe debate from the conflicting political party.” Similar to the filibuster law, which gives the political minorities to speak out against the dominant party, the Congress Law was intended to give minority parties enough political advantage so that they can have their say in the National Assembly as well as ensuring a majority party does not take complete control of the government.

Although it is rational to consider that the dominant political party has had more votes from the people and therefore will better reflect what is best for the people and what people want, this does not happen in all situations. In fact, the presence of political minorities is crucial to alarm the public regarding issues that are necessary for the people but not for the political majorities.

For example, even if a political party has received a majority of the people's votes, this does not mean that such a party always represents the will and the need of the people. A case in point is the Anti-Terrorism Bill, which has been strongly criticized for placing limits on Koreans' human rights and for placing too much authority in the hands of the government. The legislation is neither wanted

by most Korean people nor is it going to work best for them, since the people's privacy will be severely damaged if the government has complete control of people's personal information.

Moreover, some political parties exist just to voice the concerns of minorities. Although the media generally focuses on the top two parties when it comes to political issues, minority political groups do hold a few seats on the National Assembly from which they work to voice the needs of their constituents. Without them, some important issues ignored by the political majorities will remain unnoticed.

Even if political minorities lack the power to embrace their opinions that produce enough influence in the National Assembly, their efforts can still create enough influence within the society as a whole. The recent filibuster that lasted for 192 hours turned out to be nothing in the National Assembly since the Anti-Terrorism Law passed despite the endeavors of the political outs. However, the filibuster did alarm the public and invite people into politics and gave an idea of what is going on in the Korean politics. This is a huge impact since the more the public knows about these current issues, the more its opinion will be reflected in politics.

It is somewhat rational to consider that the dominant political party should have more right in deciding what laws to pass and to not. However, people should admit that political majorities may not always make the best decisions for the people, and that the political minorities should exist to alert the public to some unheard issues and create a system that is best for the people, not just the members of a particular political party. ❏



# Facebook Creating Famous Criminals

It is impossible to go through pages of Facebook without facing the seemingly rich, who promise to give out cash or other tempting products in return for a simple click on the "Follow" button. However, no matter how many people press "Like" or "Follow," no one actually seems to get the promised products. These people who crave the attention of the public seem to have given up their conscience simply to get the title of a "Facebook Star."

By Lee So Young (bcs1118@korea.ac.kr)

Other than these kinds of false advertisements, there are many more on the Internet that even commit serious crimes. On February 25, a 20-year-old young man was arrested for spreading a video of another man raping a dog on Facebook. This video shook up the websites of Korea and thousands of Internet users watched the scene until it was finally erased. In another example, the massive Internet site roused assault and imprisonment. The Facebook star named Kim Hyun performed this serious crime on a minor simply because he had posted malicious comments on Kim's page.

Some might argue that these kinds of actions do not have much to do with the medium of the crime. However, the effects on the society as a whole are even more adverse because unlike normal offline crimes, such large Social Networking Services (SNS) sites such as Facebook and Twitter can easily reach anyone at any time. In other words, according to The Statistics Portal, Facebook has 1.55 billion active users every month, 400 million for Instagram, and 555 million users on Twitter. Therefore, the ripple effect of crime committed through these media is gigantic, and that is exactly why there should be measures taken before these sites turn into a party of criminals.

Punishment standards regarding crime committed through the Internet should be set to a higher level and have exact limits. The range of illegal acts should not only include serious offenses, but also seemingly minor acts such as deceptive advertisement of gambling or sharing of copyrights. False advertisements appear in practically every

comment section of a famous Facebook page, and while it disturbs millions of users, there is no real action that stops this annoying but apparent crime. Therefore, before the seemingly petty crime spreads like a virus that penetrates into practically every post, an exact measure must be set regarding Internet crime.

Another easy but fundamental solution is in the attitude of ordinary users. Those who post disturbing videos and pictures on the web do it simply because they crave the attention of others. If no one actually responds to their postings in the first place, these people would eventually give up on the excessive actions. For instance, as a promise in return for 15,000 likes, a famous Facebook star voluntarily had his leg ran over by a car. If the thousands of people had not clicked on the button, he would not have hurt his body. Likewise, the Internet has created an outlet for people who long for the love and attention of people that they do not even know. Since these are exactly what these "Social media whores" long for, it is the role of ordinary netizens to not give them what they want.

Crime is crime, and it cannot be beautified under the Internet. Crime committed through these pages of the "stars" created through major Internet sites is even more serious than those offline. There still is a long way to go until people realize that crimes and other reckless actions are not considered as socially acceptable under the shield of the Internet. However, millions or even billions can easily view and share the postings and that is why it must be stopped before it causes even more confusion to society. ❏

# WE LISTEN



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*The Granite Tower (GT)* values your opinion. Send us detailed feedback on GT's April issue—anything from what you liked or disliked reading to what you would like to see more of in our upcoming issues.

Your correspondence should include your name, year of entrance, major, and cell phone number.

Contact us at [thegrانيتower@gmail.com](mailto:thegrانيتower@gmail.com)

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