



고려대학교 영자신문사

THE GRANITE TOWER

# 58대 1기 수습기자 모집

## 👤 지원대상

3학기 이상 활동 가능한 1, 2학년 재학생

## 📅 지원일정

3월 4일 - 3월 10일 지원서 제출

3월 12일 필기 시험

3월 15일 - 3월 16일 개별 면접

## ✉️ 지원방법

www.thegranitetower.com에서 지원서 작성 후  
thegranitetower@gmail.com으로 제출

## ☎️ 지원문의

대외협력부장 이동현 010-2410-9643



THE GRANITE TOWER

# THE GRANITE TOWER

THE KOREA UNIVERSITY ENGLISH MAGAZINE

MARCH  
2021  
VOL. 507



Projection

## COVER STORY

### The Death of Jeong In Sparks a National Outcry

## FEATURE

- 16 Delivering Problematic Situations  
- Delivery Applications Accumulate Conundrums
- 18 Stock Price Index Surge Focuses National Attention
- 20 The Castigation of the Prosecutor General

# 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.

**EDITORIAL OFFICE** *The Granite Tower*, 145, Anam-ro, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul, Korea (02481)

**TELEPHONE NUMBER** 02-3290-1685 / 82-2-3290-1685

**E-MAIL** thegranitetower@gmail.com

**WEBSITE** <http://www.thegranitetower.com>

**UNIVERSITY SWITCHBOARD** 02-3290-1114 / 82-2-3290-1114

## PUBLISHER

Chung Jin Taek

## FACULTY EDITOR

Kim Sung Eun

## ENGLISH ADVISERS

Alex Vos, Gil Coombe, Michael Blackwood

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kie Hae Seung

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Kweon Seoyoung, Lee Donghyun, Nam Eun Seo

## SENIOR REPORTERS

Choi Chan Woo, Choi Minji, Jung Eun Chong, Kang Min Seo, Kang Sungmin, Kang Yun Yeong, Kim Sur Hyun, Park Sumin, Yoon Seok Jun

## JUNIOR REPORTERS

Goh Jino, Kim Seo Hyun, Lee Do Kyung, Lim Yury, Oh Ji Su

## COVER ART

Jo Yunseo

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.** If you are a subscribed reader of *The Granite Tower*, please send all changes of address to *The Granite Tower*, Anam-dong 5Ga, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul, Korea (136-701) or thegranitetower@gmail.com along with a daytime telephone or cell phone number.

**LETTERS.** *The Granite Tower* welcomes letters from all readers. Submit opinions, essays, or general correspondence to thegranitetower@gmail.com. We will do our utmost to ensure that your contributions are reflected in the content and quality of our magazine.

**JOINING GT.** If you are a Korea University freshman or a sophomore, you are eligible to apply for reporter status at *The Granite Tower*. All members of *The Granite Tower* must complete three semesters at the magazine before they can receive their certificate of service. *The Granite Tower* recruits new reporters twice each spring and fall semester.

Designed and printed

by NANOOM communication (Tel. 02-333-7136).



## EDITOR'S LETTER

# Projection

*Projection* is a word with a multitude of meanings: an estimate of the future, a physical thrust forward, the attribution of one's emotions, the display of image or video on a screen, and so on. At the same time, these diverse meanings seem to share a trait. Whether it be from a projector onto a blank screen or from now to later on, all definitions of *projection* imply a direction in which it occurs. The March issue of *The Granite Tower* (GT) attempts to explore this theme of *projection* and its myriad connotations.

This issue includes many articles that suggest much-needed direction for our society's problems. Examining the recent and unfortunate child abuse case of Jeong In, the Cover Story analyzes the systematic and legal loopholes that allowed such a tragedy to unfold. The article will hopefully urge readers to consider not only the provided expert opinions but also their own experiences to imagine a safer future for children. In addition, our Feature section dives into topical subjects such as stock price trends, delivery apps, and political conflict to paint an accurate outlook of them and perhaps propose ideal resolutions the society could strive towards.

*Projection* implies direction, but to where? The answer is undecided – which means that it is still malleable. On that note, the reporters and editors here at GT present our articles written with the goal of being informative, but more importantly, encouraging: Encouraging enough for readers to become interested and involve themselves. We dearly hope that reading this March issue will be inspiring as well as thought-provoking for all GT readers.



By Kie Hae Seung

(hayleyyy1215@korea.ac.kr)

Editor-in-Chief, *The Granite Tower* (GT)

# Contents

MARCH 2021 VOL. 507

THE KOREA UNIVERSITY ENGLISH MAGAZINE



## COVER STORY

The Death of Jeong In Sparks a National Outcry

## NEWS

- 04 Korea University and Yonsei University Collaborate on Second Educational Forum
- 04 Korea University's Conference on East Asia's Past and History of Literature
- 05 The First Liberty Justice Truth Lead Week
- 05 Crimson Startup Support Foundation Holds KU Technology Entrepreneurship Competition

## IN KU

- 06 [VOICE ON CAMPUS] Projection 2020 & 2021
- 07 The Repeated Absence of a President – Will KUSU Make It Through?
- 08 Recy-KU's Recycling Map – A Step Towards a Greener KU
- 10 A Stepping Stone Toward a New Normal in Education
- 12 [SURVEY] Predicting the Future: Awaiting a New Academic Year
- 14 [STUDENT LIFE] KUBIG: The Essential Gateway to Big Data

## FEATURE

- 16 Delivering Problematic Situations – Delivery Applications Accumulate Conundrums
- 18 Stock Price Index Surge Focuses National Attention
- 20 The Castigation of the Prosecutor General

## PHOTO ESSAY

- 30 *Projection*

## INTERVIEW

- 34 [KU PEOPLE] Devoted to the Well-Being of Mothers – Dr. Cho Geum Joon

## FOREIGN REPORT

- 36 Capitol Attack Defines the Last Legs of Trump's Presidency
- 38 Brexit, a Looming Disaster or Success Story?
- 40 Beyond the Horizon of an Integrated Sinosphere – On Chinese Cultural Appropriation and Assimilation

## ARTS&CULTURE

- 42 [BOOK] An Imperfect God
- 43 [ARTIST] Pioneering a New Trend, Leenalchi
- 44 [FILM] Behind All That Glitter – *This Is Paris*
- 46 [EXHIBITION] *The Last Bookstore* – Going Back to Paper Books

## OPINION

- 48 Sayuri Fujita – An Inspiration for Single Mothers
- 49 Caging the Freedom of Speech
- 50 Controversies Over the Netflix Law

# Korea University and Yonsei University Collaborate on Second Educational Forum

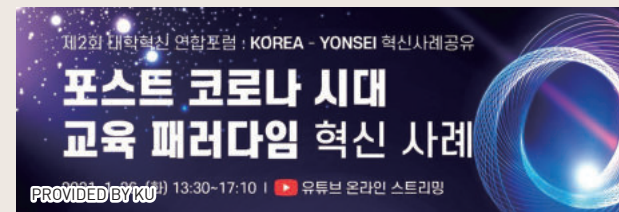
By Goh Jinoo [siewierszczyzna@korea.ac.kr](mailto:siewierszczyzna@korea.ac.kr)

January 26 saw the four respective campuses of Korea University (KU) and Yonsei University (YU) hold their second collaborative forum on revolutionizing university education. The forum was explained by KU Communications Team member Moon Seok-hwan to be a response to "the fast changing environment of education influenced by the fourth industrial revolution, the dawn of information-based society, and the threat of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)."

The forum, in an effort to acknowledge the danger of COVID-19, was held online, with participants viewing the presentations through YouTube. This tied in with the starting section on "Winning strategies of the digital revolution leading the new normal" by Naver Managing Director Kim Hong-jin. Subsequent sections were prepared by members of the faculty and student

body of both colleges, showcasing novel examples such as the XR Frontier in EduTech and the KU Artificial Intelligence Advisor.

The Innovation Support Projects of both universities expressed their hopes that the forum would help "construct a sustainable education environment and facilitate networking betwixt universities by discovering revolutionary educational paradigms based on collaborative governance and diversity."



| Online poster promoting the forum

# Korea University's Conference on East Asia's Past and History of Literature

By Kang Yun Yeong [dramatizationpersonality@korea.ac.kr](mailto:dramatizationpersonality@korea.ac.kr)

Well-known professors and various institutions from six countries participated in an online conference held by the Korea University (KU) Institute for Sinographic Literatures and Philology on January 22. The conference's agenda was studying the state exams of the Joseon Dynasty and its implications in the lives of the dynasty's citizens. The overall theme of the conference was to incite discussion on "East Asia's Past and History of Literature." Prominent questions that were discussed in the conference - held on both Zoom and YouTube - included what people studied for the exam and how these systems were developed.

Through this online meeting, professors compared the similarities and differences between Joseon's state exam and that of Chinese dynasties such as the Ming and Qing. They also discussed the texts studied to prepare for Joseon's state exam, redefining the necessity of dissecting state exams from both

academic and cultural points of view. The methods used to decide the roles of future generations have important contexts for modern society, and through these conferences, a fruitful discussion in certain aspects of our ancestors' livelihoods will hopefully unfold.



| Participants of the Zoom conference

# The First Liberty Justice Truth Lead Week

By Kang Min Seo [rkdalstj001@korea.ac.kr](mailto:rkdalstj001@korea.ac.kr)

From February 2 to February 4, the Korea University (KU) Institute for General Education held its very first Liberty Justice Truth Lead Week at the Media Hall. The event was held to share the achievements of Liberty Justice Truth, a general studies course distinctive at KU, and to seek the direction in which future-oriented education of liberal arts must head. In the presentation section, Team Baby Tiger discussed the restrictive standards of beauty and criticized the society and media for reproducing them.

"The most important factor in the presentation is interactivity. Persuasion is not a mere one-sided transmission of information. Attempting to deliver one's thoughts to the audience is the most important part," stated Professor Yang Yun-Eui (Institute for

General Education) in her welcome speech. As such, the event was a great opportunity for students to practice genuine communication, an essential skill for a leader. The KU Institute for General Education expects that the event, which will be held every semester, will provide innovation that leads to critical, creative, and convergent liberal arts education, in accordance with the founding ideology of KU.



| The poster for the Liberty Justice Truth Lead Week

# Crimson Startup Support Foundation Holds KU Technology Entrepreneurship Competition

By Jung Eun Chong [jecdavid@korea.ac.kr](mailto:jecdavid@korea.ac.kr)

On January 28, Korea University (KU) held an award ceremony for the KU Technology Entrepreneurship Competition at the CJ Food Safety Research Building. The competition was organized by the Crimson Startup Support Foundation to discover new startup founders with innovative technology and promising business ideas. Founded in May 2018, the foundation has established a systematic process in fostering and assisting startup founders within KU.

With its total prize amounting to 10 million won, anyone with less than three years of experience in running a startup could apply. Out of 18 teams that passed the application phase and competed against one another through online presentations, seven teams were awarded a prize.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kang Jisoo ('14, College of Business Administration) won the grand prize for her user experience (UX) research startup dbd Lab, which specializes in systemically analyzing user feedback by adding realistic

contexts. Kang remarked, "dbd Lab was able to grow thanks to diverse programs including entrepreneurship courses provided by KU. In the near future, many companies regardless of their size will use dbd Lab's service as a team collaboration tool."



| The winners of the competition

# Projection 2020 & 2021

By Kang Yun Yeong [dramatizationpersonality@korea.ac.kr](mailto:dramatizationpersonality@korea.ac.kr)

All ends come with new beginnings. With the end of 2020 has come 2021, and so has the yearly contemplation into the past - how would we assess the years that came before and the year 2020 specifically? How would you spend this year productively? Will you approach this year differently from the last? These are common questions with wildly varying answers, and one that we all must ponder about. *The Granite Tower* (GT) asked four Korea University (KU) students about their reflections on 2020, and their future plans for 2021.

## The interviewees were asked to answer these questions:

- How did you perceive yourself in 2020?
- Do you have any New Year's resolutions to implement in 2021?
- What changes do you expect to see in 2021?

### Noh Chae Yeon ('19, School of Life Sciences)

2020 was the year that made me feel more lethargic than usual. My youth felt like a waste because I could not go out even though I like to meet people. In 2021, I feel more hopeful for the end of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic than the previous year, but no one truly knows when we can hang out with people as much as we want. I am planning to overcome my lethargy by reading various books and waiting calmly for when I can freely meet my fellow schoolmates.


### Choi Yoon Ji ('21, Materials Science and Engineering)

All I cared about in my senior year of high school was earning good grades and getting accepted into a good college. My parents had planned out a path for me to walk to achieve this goal, and all I had to do was follow it. However, my 2020 experience consisted of many rejections after each hopeful application - this made me fall into deep despair, as this was not the future that I had envisioned for myself. Now, I will be the one to plan my future. I do not have a set plan, but I am willing to take things slowly to find my aptitudes.

### Jeong Ju Ho ('20, Economics)

I could not experience various enjoyable festivals and events as a freshman due to COVID-19. However, I remember that it was a year where everyone had a hard time. Therefore, I was proud to overcome the sorrow and spend a great year with my own small goals! I think I will be able to spend an even more meaningful time and work toward them in 2021. I want to develop a healthier lifestyle by reading at least one book a week and exercising regularly. I would also like to participate in various activities and experience whatever I can, as much as I can.

### Lee Hyeon ('20, Architecture)

To be honest, 2020 was not as bad as I thought it would be. Although I spent a lot of sleepless nights due to school, I believe those are the moments that I will remember and cherish the most in the future. Although the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over, I believe that I can continue to be positive about the future. For 2021, I would like to have a more organized and a healthier lifestyle as last year was very hectic for me. My ultimate goal is to be happier and to discover a new hobby that will aid in relieving stress. 

# The Repeated Absence of a President

## — Will KUSU Make It Through?

By Yoon Seok Jun [tom13@korea.ac.kr](mailto:tom13@korea.ac.kr)

Last semester was yet another half-year without a formal president for the Korea University Student Union (KUSU) as the second reelection met a dead end due to its insufficient poll rate. Perhaps remembering the previous muddy elections, filled with issues from infeasible pledges to a disqualification of a candidate, voters, during the last elections, were upset to face another blank space. Due to the absence of a student union, the Emergency Central Steering Committee (ECSC) became responsible for all school issues from virtual classes to other ongoing school activities.

The KU Central Election Commission (KUCEC) plans to hold the third reelection for the 52nd student union in March, in accordance with the fresh start of a new semester. The 52nd poll, which was supposed to be concluded on December 6, 2019, was the starting point for the upcoming reelection. The two candidates, *Baro* and *RE:FLY*, failed to appeal to voters because they addressed unachievable pledges. *Baro*, for instance, promised to alter the currently mandatory Liberty Justice Truth II class into an elective course, but the General Studies Institute pointed out that such an alteration takes up to a year to review, stretching beyond their term in office.


The following first reelection exposed a critical flaw of the candidates, proving their ignorance. The one and only candidate, *Sisun*, meaning "vision," was critically questioned by the student body about their pledges being too unrealistic and broad. For instance, they claimed that they would make sure all Anam housings receive pest control from the Seongbuk-

gu office, but not a single specific term was written regarding the ways to achieve the mission.

Moreover, *Sisun* stained the election with faulty election campaigns which violated the Electoral Enforcement Regulations. The team campaigned so that non-KU people would encourage KU students to vote through online links sent through KakaoTalk chat rooms, which is in violation of Article 44. In addition, *Sisun* was reported to have engaged in direct conversation to alter voting results. Such actions were enough to eliminate them from the candidate list.

The upcoming year continues to be murky regarding this issue, as the student body may once again spend a semester without a functioning student union to advocate their interests. According to a Facebook post of KUCEC's official account, uploaded in November 2020, the third reelection is scheduled to occur this March. However, recognizing the fact that the last election did not yield a fruitful

result for *Moment*, potential candidates may hesitate to apply for the possibility of another voter turnout shortage and the absence of spring school events. Moreover, potential candidates could perceive the limitations of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as too severe; online voting and being required to raise awareness only virtually exacerbates the situation.

Previous KUSUs and elections have frustrated students to a point where they would rather not have a president, and the sentiment has continued for more than a year. Their absence has been forgotten by students, but this might be the only time KUSU can *project* a new solution to bring them back in action. Whoever seeks to fill the current vacancy should accept the hard time with gratitude and utilize the situation as preparation for the next projection, rather than a retreat. Beyond simply establishing a position in school, the next KUSU should become a real troubleshooter that validly solves even the smallest problems faced by students. 

# Recy-KU's Recycling Map

## — A Step Towards a Greener KU



By Lee Do Kyung rae00@korea.ac.kr

The concept of recycling is not foreign. The 3Rs - *Reuse, Reduce, Recycle* - have been repeatedly drilled into young minds, with the purpose of achieving a *greener* future. Although the benefits of recycling seem to outweigh the costs, if any, not many people are putting it into action. The lagging numbers largely have to do with accessibility; according to *The Huffington Post*, the most common reason as to why people do not recycle is because of low accessibility and convenience. In order to tackle this problem head-on, the project group Recy-KU decided to focus on creating a *greener* Anam, by putting forward a recycling map specifically designed for Korea University (KU) students who live near campus.

Recy-KU's recycling map was first introduced to KU students on January 6 through a common university application called Everytime and a KU-specific application called Koreapas.

Red icons can be seen on the map, pointing out where students can find recycling bins for clothes and fluorescent lamps. It also points out places where they can purchase standard plastic garbage bags and food waste bags, with one icon for standard size and another for bags with one-liter capacity. The five different icons are shown in the top left corner of the map, allowing users to click on each one to easily locate what they need. As the map was created for KU students, the icons are spread out in major areas of student residency and hangouts.



Recy-KU's recycling map with red icons

Recy-KU, the group that created the map, consists of four undergraduate KU students - Kim Du-ha ('18, Sociology), Song Min-seo ('19, Health Policy and Management), Jang Jeong-hyeon ('19, Economics), and Jeong Hyo-rin ('20, Political Science and International Relations). Among the four bright

teammates, Song Min-seo stated, "While roaming near campus, we came to notice that recycling was not done properly in studio flat areas where many KU students reside. We believed this was because it is hard for students to recycle when living alone, as they have to handle everything by themselves. In fact, even one of our members who lives alone near campus faced difficulties recycling. This brought to our attention the lack of education and systems associated with recycling; thus, we began our research to help alleviate the issue."

### The Start of Recy-KU

A combination of the word *recycle* and *KU*, Recy-KU was formed when the four students took part in KU's 12th Creative Challenger Program (CCP) together. Run by KU's Center for Teaching and Learning, CCP is a program that fosters creative mindsets by supporting a research environment in which groups of undergraduate students are encouraged to solve



Recy-KU members Jeong Hyo-rin, Jang Jeong-hyeon, and Song Min-seo

problems in their areas of interest. Recy-KU's fundamental goal is to collect data and analyze how well the students, who live alone, do recycling. The prime target of research is KU students.

Recy-KU has led two projects in total so far, the latest being the creation of the recycling map. Released on September 30, 2020, the first project was a recycling manual, with the purpose of providing essential information on how to recycle properly. After the release of the manual, the team decided to work on a second project. Recy-KU initially set up a plan to create an artificial intelligence (AI) model designed to predict the recycling rate in the Anam district, but the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) blocked them from collecting data that required in-person examinations. To cover the weak points of an AI model, Recy-KU settled upon creating a program that could be accessed online.

### The Ups and Downs of Development

The essential element in creating a recycling map was the collection of data. In order to obtain up-to-date, quality data from KU students, the team conducted

online surveys. The team used a statistical analysis program called *Statistical Package for the Social Sciences* (SPSS) to derive results from the surveys, putting together analysis reports for their research. As there were limitations on gathering necessary data due to COVID-19, the most pressing concern was the map's credibility. Recy-KU overcame this obstacle by accessing data offered by Seoul Open Data Plaza run by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and Public Data Portal run by the Ministry of Public Administration and Security.

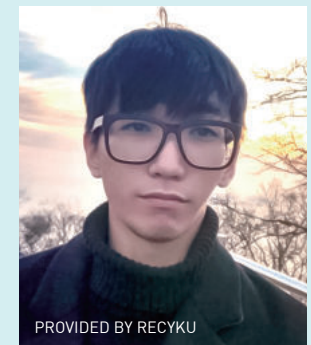
The obtained data was strung together through coding. Jeong Hyo-rin, one of the members, described coding as "a method of turning dreams into reality." As coding is considered a necessity in this day and age of digitalization, Recy-KU successfully absorbed this and used it to adapt to the pandemic situation. In other words, Recy-KU used the tools of coding to move their abstract ideas into a virtual space accessible to anyone.

The reaction that Recy-KU received was positive, with many students voicing how hard it is to recycle while living

alone. Many actively participated in improving the map by sending locations of collection bins the team failed to include. With the help of KU students, Recy-KU continues to modify the recycling map to keep it up to date.

The positive effects that recycling brings to the environment are undeniably evident. However, individuals do not recycle on a daily basis as the rewards are not immediate. As the beneficial effects of recycling are not quick to surface, many see recycling as a hassle and a waste of time. Recy-KU's map will undoubtedly silence those who use the lack of recycling knowledge and inaccessibility of recycling bins as an excuse.

Recy-KU's recycling map is not only a step towards a greener KU, but also a step towards a greener future for the world. Although its focus is on the area near the KU campus, the features and functions of the map can be applied to regions outside of Anam or even to places outside of Korea. With further improvement, the map developed by the four KU students will provide reliable recycling information to students who live near the campus, pushing them to move recycling into action.



Recy-KU member Kim Du-ha



# A Stepping Stone Toward a New Normal in Education

By Choi Minji qdana511@korea.ac.kr

**W**ith the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the education sector has experienced an unprecedented upheaval in terms of its operation and management. Particularly in higher education, students have experienced a number of changes to traditional education norms and been faced with many restrictions. For example, COVID-19 has forced classes to be conducted online and has limited in-person interactions. However, one of the biggest restrictions had been on the opportunity for students to go on exchange programs overseas.

The prolonged influence of COVID-19 has led to rapid and widespread digitalization in education. It has been argued that this change in the education sector would have occurred sooner or later and that COVID-19 has simply been a catalyst for the emergence of a new era in education. In this situation, students have experienced limitations in their exchange experiences. However, Korea University (KU), alongside other prestigious universities around the world, has adopted an appealing new alternative for study-abroad exchange programs: The Virtual Student Exchange (VSE) program.

## A Virtual Exchange Experience at Home

The Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) is a network of 55 prestigious universities in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its establishment in 1997, it has been conducting various projects under the mission of “[bringing] together

thought leaders, researchers, and policy-makers to exchange ideas and collaborate on effective solutions to the challenges of the 21st century.” In 2020, when COVID-19 led to many significant changes in the education sector, the APRU came up with the VSE program.

The VSE program has been established under the purpose of “[making] international education accessible by allowing students to take academic courses and participate in co-curricular programs without the need to leave home.” According to the APRU, the VSE program allows students around the world to not only earn credits by attending classes offered at other universities online, but also reach out to students and educators in other educational institutions. Before officially launching the VSE program, the APRU conducted a trial semester in the second half of 2020.

According to Kim Jung Ho, the former Vice President for International Affairs,

“KU joined the APRU in 2008 under the purpose of expanding its ability to achieve globalization and develop innovative research programs.” Kim explains that since KU became a part of the association, the school has been actively involved and KU’s President Chung Jin Taek has assumed the role of Commissioner of its Steering Committee since June 2020. By doing so, Kim explains that KU aims to overcome the obstacles of COVID-19 and take the lead in international exchange programs.

## KU’s Involvement in the VSE Program

Kim explains that “due to COVID-19’s unprecedented impact on society, there has been active discussion on implementing the VSE program as an alternative to overseas exchange programs.” He mentions that “an online exchange program allows the exchange of educational content between different schools around the world

without restrictions of time and space.” KU was the only university in South Korea to take part in the program during the second term of 2020. According to Kim, KU decided to join the VSE program in order to be a leader in a new form of international exchange that is expected to continue and expand in the post-pandemic era.

In the VSE program, KU offered various courses to students from other universities, such as Marketing Strategy, Introduction to Korean and East Asian History, and Introduction to Media. Kim states that the courses offered were centered on studies of South Korea and have been selected based on the interests of potential students. According to KU, of the approximately 200 students who participated in the trial semester, 63 enrolled in and attended lectures offered by KU. Kim adds that the school also offered international students an opportunity for the non-academic experience of South Korea and KU by taking them on a virtual tour around the campus and providing special lectures on the history of Korean pop (K-pop).

Kim reveals that KU students were not able to participate in the trial semester of the VSE program because the regulations for online credit transfers were not established at the time. However, KU’s participation in the trial semester was successful, and it is expected that the official implementation of this program will attract the attention of the students. Therefore, KU has decided to officially provide its students with the opportunity to take part in the VSE program under the newly established

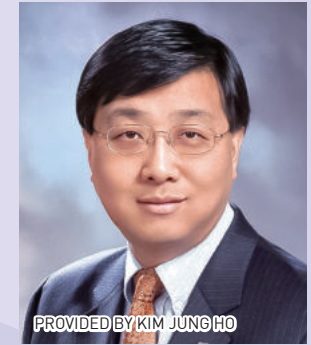
policy called Virtual Student Exchange.

## KU’s Position in a New Educational Environment

Virtual Student Exchange will go into effect starting from the first semester this year. With the official establishment of this policy, KU will allow students to take online courses offered by other universities around the world and earn credits at the same time. Students who wish to attend the VSE program can visit the APRU website and enroll in one of the courses offered during the designated course registration period.

An appealing feature of the program is that no additional fees are charged for participation. More detailed information is provided by the KU International Mobility & Cooperation Team on the official KU website. Kim explains that KU plans to offer eight different courses for the first semester of the official implementation of the policy, which include Korean History and Mass Media and Popular Culture in Korea. He states that “currently, about 40 students from 10 different universities have enrolled and it is projected that KU will see the number increase every semester.”

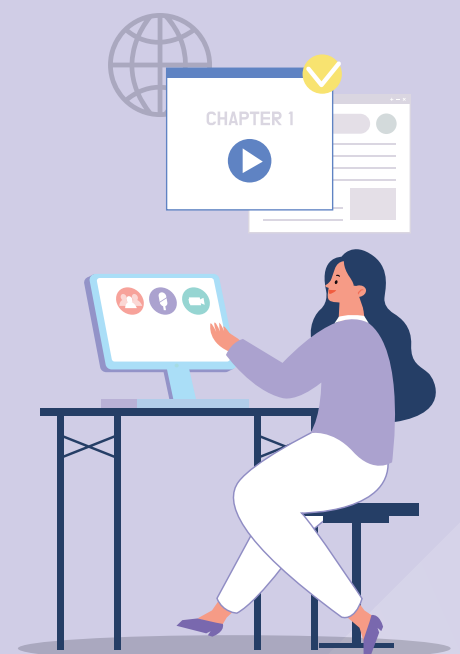
Kim believes that the demand for online education will further expand in the post-pandemic era, which he believes is a good reason to develop the Virtual Student Exchange further. “The Office for International Affairs is not planning to settle for the positive outcomes it has achieved so far. Rather, it plans to continuously pursue an appropriate form of education for the current shift in society and be a leader in the new paradigm of e-educational



PROVIDED BY KIM JUNG HO  
Former Vice President for International Affairs, Kim Jung Ho

globalization,” he says.

Participation in the VSE program is not the only form of action that KU has taken. The 2020 KU International Winter Camp (IWC), which accommodated approximately 550 students, was also successfully held online. As such, KU has been taking the initiative to prepare its students for the era of digitalized education as the new normal. In this sense, KU has demonstrated that COVID-19 offers new opportunities for students to develop a more diversified and globalized perspective. 

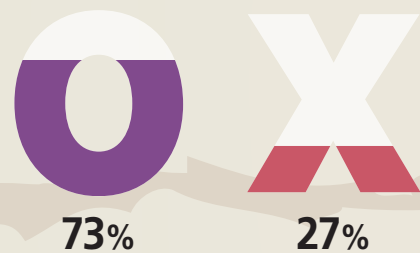


# Predicting the Future: Awaiting a New Academic Year

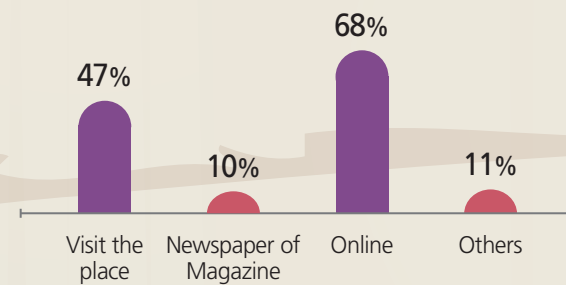
By Oh Ji Su | jjol@korea.ac.kr

As a new year begins, many become curious about how the year will unfold. To resolve this curiosity, people resort to different types of fortune-telling activities such as Chinese horoscopes and tarot card reading. Although these activities are characterized as pseudoscience, it does provide people with a projection of the uncertain future in an interesting and entertaining way. As a new academic year begins, *The Granite Tower* (GT) asked 119 Korea University (KU) students about their unique experiences with fortune-telling.

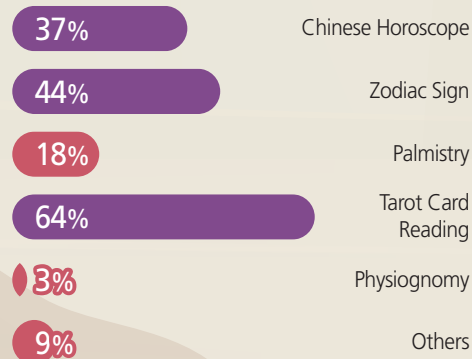
Have you ever participated in fortune-telling?



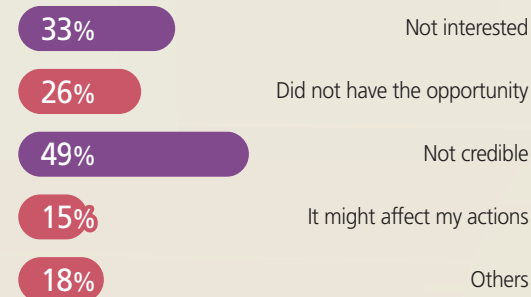
What medium have you used? (multiple answers allowed)



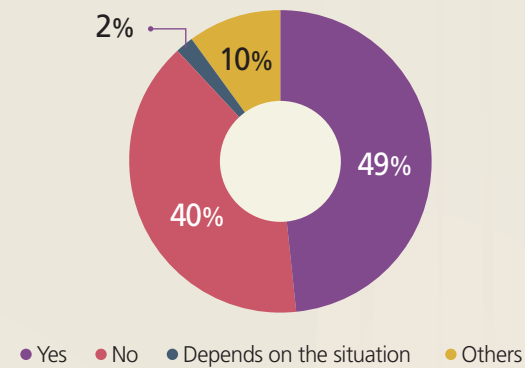
If you did, what type of fortune-telling activity was it? (multiple answers allowed)



If you have not participated in fortune-telling, what was the reason? (multiple answers allowed)



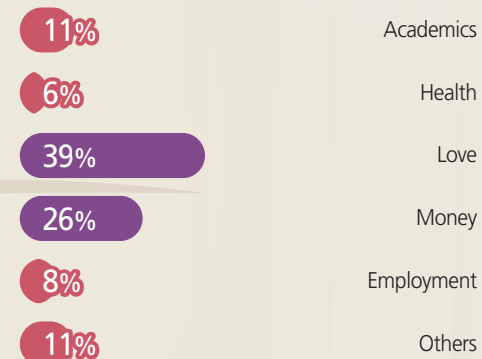
Do you believe fortune-telling is credible?



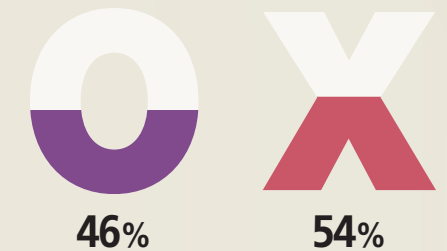
What is the main reason you participated in fortune-telling? (multiple answers allowed)



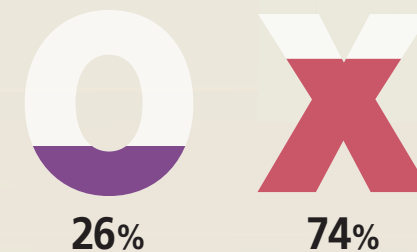
If you participate in fortune-telling, what topics are you most interested in? (multiple answers allowed)



Did the results of your fortune-telling even come true in real life?



Did the fortune-telling have any influence on how you behave?



# KUBIG: The Essential Gateway to Big Data

By Yoon Seok Jun | tom13@korea.ac.kr

**B**ill Gates was a smart yet playful boy who often hacked his school's server to have attractive girls assigned to his class. On the other hand, Margaret Hamilton, a significant contributor to National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) initial stages of manufacturing spacecraft software, devoted herself to academics. Despite their stark differences, what they had in common was their interest in exploring computer programs, building codes, and producing user-friendly software interface. They ultimately created useful products from nothing but puzzles of words, which is what KUBIG aims to do.

Learning a new language is a challenge to everyone, especially when it is based on a completely different culture. The same goes for coding, or writing a programming language, since it originates from nowhere and does not derive from a certain culture. What makes it more challenging is that coding does not tolerate mistakes regardless of the learner's level, meaning that a single mistake could corrupt the whole process. However, in terms of production and utility, no other language system beats it. When coding is fused with enough data, it can create diverse productions, from programs as mediocre as an automatic window shutter to those as great as autopilot software in a spaceship.

KUBIG, the exclusive big data analytics club at Korea University (KU), is an academic organization established to learn contemporary knowledge about handling statistics as well as machine and deep learning through computer



PROVIDED BY KUBIG FACEBOOK

| KUBIG's logo

programming. The club has been certified by the Department of Statistics as an official data analytics academic organization. Moreover, it has an advantage over other clubs in that KUBIG is in partnership with MakinaRocks, a machine intelligence product building company, meaning students in the community are highly exposed to a real-time job environment.

## From Zero to Hero

One of KUBIG's main projects in 2020 was named the COVID-19 Face Mask

Detection. The self-explanatory project incorporated more than four thousand sample pictures of three categories: masks correctly worn, masks incorrectly worn, or no mask – with 1400 samples. The program they produced uses machine learning to detect whether or not a person is wearing a mask. The project was created with programming tools such as Mobilenet V2 and SSD-ResNet based face detectors. The group then suggested the use of the software in buildings to detect incomers and confirm whether or not they were wearing masks.

Another project, the Natural Language Processing (NLP) Based Artificial Intelligence Lawyer, reads an input sentence regarding any law-related case and suggests appropriate legal provisions to solve the issue. Many tool studies including Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) and long/short term memory (LSTM) have been conducted to fully operate and understand the system while

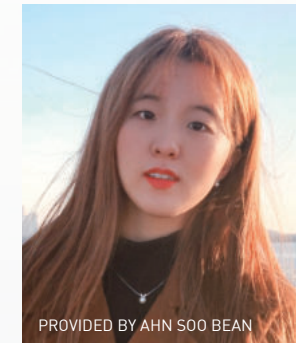
official lines from the National Tax Law Information System were extracted to meet credibility. Further suggestions were made to make sure the program is fully applicable in lawsuits to search for the respective clause.

The most fascinating project of all is the Movie Suggestion Algorithm project. It recommends movies based on ratings, synopsis, and details data, while suggesting up-to-date content by constantly gathering movie information from various sites. The program was tested several times to yield the most accurate model by comparing suggestions provided by Movielens and IMDB, popular film information provider websites. Similar to the algorithm used on the video streaming platform YouTube, such developments can contribute to a more automatic lifestyle.

Likewise, KUBIG strives to achieve comfort in our daily lives by coming up with solutions to small but troublesome issues. The club not only monitors each member's learning session, pursuing in-depth learning, but also seeks to find great opportunities in learning from real industries and companies, may it be MakinaRocks or Hyundai Mobis. As such, it is presumable that KUBIG is the troubleshooter that *projects* solution and provides the direction of an individual's *projection*.

The Granite Tower (GT) has interviewed the head of the KUBIG community, Ahn Soo Bean ('18, Statistics), for an inside look.

**GT: How would you describe the club in a single phrase?**



PROVIDED BY AHN SOO BEAN

| Ahn Soo Bean ('18, Statistics)

**Ahn:** I would say KUBIG is a passionate group that wants to add value to data. Gathering scattered data to create new value makes our hearts beat. That is why we do not work alone; each member contributes to the team with their skills and everything in the club happens under the motto *teamwork*. KUBIG has a driving force to develop because the members embrace, learn, and improve their shortcomings by learning from each other while participating passionately in the process.


**GT: Please tell us three advantages that KUBIG has over other clubs.**

**Ahn:** First of all, KUBIG is the only club at KU that solely focuses on data analytics. Other clubs, for instance, relate data to various fields such as business or computer science. Moreover, we plan programs tailored to demand by conducting surveys and receiving feedback every semester. By planning and implementing programs according to the demands of the members, we make sure to increase their feeling of satisfaction and achievement. Lastly, the ambience is our biggest pride. We establish an atmosphere where teammates learn and teach each other, not thrive alone.

**GT: Do you have any memorable experiences from activities in the club?**

**Ahn:** My first moment as a newcomer to KUBIG was the most special and impressive. After completing my second year at KU, I entered the club. Back then, I had no idea what big data was and was clueless regarding cooperation and projects. Modeling with data and building an original program or system seemed like a story from a far-away land to me. However, when I successfully worked on a project with my team members after the first semester's training session, I felt great pride and joy with the first achievement. More experienced members helped me out whenever I was stuck, and that experience probably led me to study, to give back that help the next semester.

**GT: Please promote KUBIG in relation to the club's various events and activities.**

**Ahn:** KUBIG is an officially authorized club which recruits newcomers every semester and conducts a two-month learning session with another four months for a project. Members make various attempts not only to educate themselves, but also to build a sense of reality by participating in various contests, and holding a data analysis competition. We also host Q&A sessions and homecoming events with KUBIG graduates. KUBIG focuses on promoting academic-to-industry programs while constantly supporting cooperation projects and hearing news about internships and recruitment from seniors. Therefore, if you become one of us, you will earn *knowledge, experience, and relationship*. 



# Delivering Problematic Situations

## — Delivery Applications Accumulate Conundrums

By Kang Sungmin [sungminpw2001@korea.ac.kr](mailto:sungminpw2001@korea.ac.kr)

Food delivery is undeniably a significant modern urban culture of South Korea. With advances in technology, delivery is now mostly requested through delivery apps. Most Koreans would have ordered food through these apps at least once, and speeding motorcycles with delivery bins are commonly seen on the road. Amid an intensification of the war between delivery apps due to the surge of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), related problems in economic, social, and environmental spheres have also increased.



PROVIDED BY THE SCOOP

Delivery service applications

Currently, delivery app services are engaged in an all-out war to secure riders – workers who deliver orders to customers – and attract customers. South Korea's top two delivery apps, Baemin and Yogiyo, are aggressively strategizing and promoting ahead of their upcoming merger; latecomers such as Coupang seem to be in a hurry to catch up. According to *The Korea Times*, the domestic delivery market, which has been growing steadily, has become more competitive as social

distancing in the Seoul metropolitan area was recently upgraded to Level 2. With increasingly high demands for delivery, delivery app services are eager to secure their own riders.

### ✔ A Ride and Die Situation

Despite the importance of securing riders, proper treatment towards these workers seem contrastingly lacking. Attention from social media platforms

and the press regarding the poor treatment of riders has recently been on the rise. Some argue that platform laborers such as riders belong to a gray area in labor law, yet a social consensus has formed that the labor law should be applied to riders as well. The food delivery market in Korea is unique in many ways compared to other countries; since motorcycle delivery accounts for most orders, safety problems related to motorcycles are overlapped.

Countless accidents occur in the delivery process. From the consumer's point of view, due to the nature of the food, a successful delivery would be a quick one during which the food stays warm. For the riders, several deliveries must be made within a limited amount of time due to low delivery fees. These various factors make it difficult for riders to comply with traffic regulations. In addition, in the competition to be allotted a good delivery order first, drivers will constantly look into the app while driving. This inclination also plays a role in the high number of delivery accidents.

Even when an accident occurs, it is difficult for riders to receive proper treatment or compensation. This is because small business owners do not subscribe to industrial insurance for the lack of provisions, and because riders are often excluded from industrial insurance. The latter is often due to the employer's conciliatory treatment and the burden of industrial insurance premiums. Even if one gives up insurance for industrial accidents due to the low vacation pay, it is often not approved due to poor communication with the Korea Workers' Compensation and Welfare Service.

### ✔ Economic Perils

Alas, this is not the end for problems related to the delivery applications. In addition to the riders' problems, issues have also been brought up in terms of financial profit and the industry, especially for independent businesses. The delivery app market has seen rapid growth in recent years, being one of the few industries to benefit from the pandemic. This has led to a rise in negative opinions pointing out the excessive fees, advertising costs, and unreasonable private bidding methods of the industry.

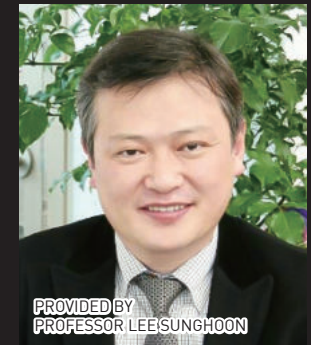
In particular, on April 1, 2020, Baemin changed their flat-rate advertising system, which was mainly used by self-employed people, to open advertising system, claiming it was "to solve the monopoly phenomenon of advertisements in some businesses," according to *Chosun Ilbo*. Gyeonggi-do Governor Lee Jae-myung sparked controversy by pointing out on his social media account that delivery app companies are "pushing self-employed people to the abyss."

The biggest problem in the delivery app market, however, is commission and advertising fees. "It is the excessive fee-charging system about which small businesses express the most difficulties," said Governor Lee. "Delivery app companies and small business owners should come up with a reasonable fee system such as a cap on commission." The main contention in this situation is that the fees for delivery apps are still burdensome for owners who use delivery apps to provide food services.

This contrasts with the headquarters of the popular delivery app, which has been steadily growing in sales and operating profit. Brokerage, payment, advertising fees, and delivery costs paid by small business owners to delivery apps alone account for 30 percent of the food price. This is an enormous loss for businesses that run stores using delivery apps. As the issue of delivery app fees continues to emerge, local governments are busily moving to increase utilization by introducing public delivery apps that have lowered delivery fees.

### ✔ Bringing Solutions to the Door

Despite the challenging situations, several solutions have been proposed. Gyeonggi-do announced on April 6, 2020 that it will promote the development of public delivery apps for deliverymen, restaurant owners, and platform developers to coexist. According to *Chosun Ilbo*, Governor Lee mentioned on Twitter that Gyeonggi-do will form a task force with private experts, departments related to affiliated organizations, and public officials in charge of social and economic affairs to start a full-fledged development.



PROVIDED BY PROFESSOR LEE SUNGHOON

Professor Lee Sunghoon

As for the delivery driver problem, Professor Lee Sunghoon (Graduate School of Business, Sejong University) has suggested a possible solution. Professor Lee stated that the root cause of such a happening lies in the fact that "delivery workers are a result of a newly formed gig economy. Delivery service is extremely unstable because structurally ultra-short-term employment occurs when demand arises as compared to employment." He further states that in order to mitigate such a situation, "the protection of short-term employee's delivery workers should be solved in the market area. The best possible solution is to protect workers through special employment, utilizing national consensus in the social security system."

The current situation regarding delivery service applications seems dismal; but at the end of this long tunnel, a bright future does exist. Nonetheless, this can only happen when the government, society, and corporations exert plans for their effort and practice them. The work of every interested party can cast a projection of a bright future, ending the delivery problem deeply rooted in our society. **K**

# Stock Price Index Surge Focuses National Attention

By Kim Seo Hyun jamie0511@korea.ac.kr

The Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), which indicates the overall trend of stocks, surpassed the 2,500-point mark on October 30, 2017. However, it soon dropped as the national economy fell into recession. From 2010 to 2020, KOSPI has always resided either closely above or below the 2,000 mark. On January 6, KOSPI surpassed the 3,000-point mark for the first time in history. It had been about 13 years and five months since KOSPI surpassed 2,000 points on July 25, 2007. It seems that the KOSPI 3000 era, which was only dreamt about until now, has finally arrived.



PROVIDED BY HANKYUNG | KOSPI 3000 Breakthrough

KOSPI's surpassing of the 3,000-point mark showed a significant rise in the stock price index in the beginning of the year. The most important factor for the KOSPI surge appears to be the participation of Korean individual investors, nicknamed *Donghak Ants*. *Donghak Ants* developed by predicting and exchanging valuable information in the flood of information brought upon by the digital age. Interestingly, age statistics on Korean search engines

demonstrate that individual investors in their 20s and 30s are interested in stocks, and that the proportion of new individual investors entering the stock market is significant.

### Factors Propelling the Surge

The most representative factor that has led to the continuous rise of the stock index in recent years is liquidity. To alleviate the economic recession caused

by COVID-19, the government distributed the emergency relief grant, and the central bank implemented a low-interest rate policy to provide an environment of close to zero interest rates. Therefore, household and corporate loans mounted, and this surge in the supply of money led to a substantial increase in liquidity. This, in turn, created an influx of money into the stock market.

Moreover, active investment is being focused in the stock market rather than in real estate. This phenomenon is occurring because of regulations on the real estate market, such as acquisition taxes and residential mortgage loans, and soaring real estate prices. Because of such restrictions, individuals with funding power are crowding into the stock market, resulting in an abnormally high stock index. Furthermore, expectations for growth in new industries such as semiconductors, secondary batteries, electric vehicles, and bio industries are increasing the stock price of Korean companies.

The progress of vaccinations has also had an impact. Vaccination began in several countries late last year and Korea is also catching up with this trend. As the stock market moves ahead of the current economy and reflects the future, expectations for economic recovery beginning with vaccinations have raised the stock index.

Finally, the Fear of Missing Out (FOMO) phenomenon is also pushing the buyout phenomenon. Individual investors who have experienced a wider asset gap without investment in stocks are belatedly participating in the market. Their reckless purchases seem to be occurring due to the apprehension about being alienated from the current upward rally.

### The Future of the Stock Market

Although the rise in the stock index seems to indicate a hopeful future, controversy continues over the risks posed by the real economy's failure to support the rise in the financial market. Inactive consumption will make the stock price valuation meaningless even in business areas currently being mentioned as the spotlight in 2021. If such a tardy economic renewal is achieved in consumption, investment, and employment in contrast to the hot asset market, a sharp adjustment in stock prices could pose a major risk to the economy.

Furthermore, the current overheating of the stock market is the largest debt investment ever, with the debt-to-income ratio steepest for those in their 30s and under among all age groups. The problem is that if stock prices in the asset market suddenly fall, liquidation occurs,

or young people become credit delinquents in an instant. If a multitude of individuals go bankrupt, their personal problems can soon aggregate and expand into national problems, leading to a financial crisis such as widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

Thus, individual investors cannot be merely excited about KOSPI breaking the 3,000-point mark. Households and businesses will have to understand that low interest rates, a weak dollar trend, and guarantee of liquidity cannot be sustained and consider them when making financial decisions. Moreover, it is crucial to keep in mind that stock investment itself is not a production activity. It is important to reserve surplus funds that do not have to be paid back immediately, along with paying close attention to changes in global economic patterns.

According to Professor Eo Yun Jong (Department of Economics), in a low interest rate environment like now, the macroprudential regulation – management of the financial ecosystem – and policy of the central bank are especially crucial. For example, the central bank should continuously monitor financial institutions' management stability and the financial solidity of



PHOTOGRAPHED BY YOON SEOK JUN

| Professor Eo Yun Jong



| KOSPI Development

households and businesses. He added that the government's aggressive fiscal policy for households and businesses directly affected by COVID-19 is currently required. Since there is a limit to the effectiveness of conventional monetary policy such as zero lower bound (ZLB), the government is already implementing unconventional monetary policies such as quantitative easing and forward guidance.

It is truly desirable for university students to start investing in the stock market in small amounts, since it is a chance to become more aware of the Korean economy, the global economy, and changes in the industry. Professor Eo advises, however, that since it is very difficult to predict short-term stock prices, the pursuit of revenue from short-term sales should be avoided. Also, he emphasizes the necessity of a surplus fund to prepare for the uncertainty of an entity's future earnings and future interest rates.

The magic of compound interest and continuous investment can result in the accumulation of assets, but one should still be aware of one's personal capacity and unexpected variables. The upward journey of KOSPI is continuing, and to accompany it, one should be prepared to undertake the responsibility. **K**

# The Castigation of the Prosecutor General

By Kang Min Seo rkdalstj001@korea.ac.kr

The figure with the most appearances on media headlines in 2020 may perhaps be Yoon Seok-yeol, the Prosecutor General of South Korea. Even the most subtle moves of Yoon were carefully observed, regardless of whether his actions were a countenance or a statement. In December 2020, the disciplinary committee at the Ministry of Justice approved the disciplinary action of Yoon. However, the Administrative Court of Seoul adjudged the invalidity of the castigation. As such, since the Cho Gook incident, Yoon and the ruling party have undergone a political conflict, exhausting the public.

On November 16, 2020, the former Minister of Justice, Choo Mi-ae, claimed castigation of Yoon, asserting that signs of corruption were discovered during an inspection. A disciplinary committee was convoked and on December 16, the committee approved of four allegations deserving disciplinary action: inspecting the Department of Justice, interfering with the investigations of the Channel A case and the case of former minister Han Myeong-sook, and not remaining as politically neutral as he should. The committee decided upon suspension of Yoon, without pay, for two months.



Professor Jung after the resolution of the disciplinary committee

In response to opinions that the measure was political retaliation directed at Yoon, Professor Jung Han-joong (Department of Law, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), who served as the chairman of Yoon's disciplinary committee, maintained that the decision to penalize was based on facts and evidence. However, Yoon objected to the decision, calling it illegal and politically motivated with the intention to remove him from office. He filed a lawsuit, claiming that the political neutrality and independence of the prosecution are being seriously damaged, ultimately violating the constitution. The Administrative Court of Seoul granted the claim of Yoon, ordering the revocation of the castigation.

## Discord Between Yoon and the Ruling Party

The discord was initiated by the Cho Gook incident in 2019 when the

independent counsel organized by Yoon investigated accusations related to Cho, the former Minister of Justice. Cho was charged with association with illegal funds and the fabrication of his daughter's career experiences while at the core of President Moon Jae In's government. At the time, Cho was preparing to spearhead the installation of the Senior Government Official Corruption Investigation Division, the existence of which will diminish the prosecution's power. Therefore, the independent counsel was criticized by the ruling party which claimed that the investigation was overly severe and politically motivated to unseat Cho from his position as the Minister of Justice.

The subsequent conflict between Cho's successor, Choo, the former representative of the ruling party, and Yoon continued for a year. They openly criticized each other, accusing each other's family of being involved in

corruption. The conflict was at its zenith when Choo called for the castigation of Yoon. President Moon approved of the requisition, and so a disciplinary committee was held. After the court's decision that the disciplinary action is illegal, Choo resigned from her position and Park Bum-kye was chosen as her successor as Minister of Justice. Since Park, as Choo, is one of the core members of the ruling party, the possibility of the conflict persists, such as issues pertaining to personnel affairs of Yoon's advisors.

The issue is whether or not the castigation of Yoon is a political reprisal or an obligatory move for the prosecution reform. "The purpose of the Act of Discipline on Prosecutors, by presenting the Minister of Justice who is a neutral third party as arbiter of castigation, is to prevent power abuse when the prosecutor general takes disciplinary action against prosecutors. However, the minister used the system to give castigation to Yoon, which is not against the law because prosecutor general himself is one of the prosecutors, but which is against the purpose that one cannot cast disciplinary action arbitrarily," stated Professor Jang Young-soo (School of Law). According to Professor Jang, it is hinted that the former Minister of Justice may have had political intentions.

## Politics – Its Meaning and Ultimate Purpose

By definition, politics indicates the activity of mediating the dissension and conflicts that emerge in a community and solving communal problems which influence various people. On the other



Professor Jang Young-soo

hand, Max Weber, socio-political scientist of early twentieth century, asserts that politics can be defined as dynamics to dominate and distribute power. Both explanations are in part true. Solving collective issues requires power; at the same time, however, politics must also work to ensure the welfare of the people and sustain order in society. It should be noted that politics not only means attaining power but also using that power for communal welfare.

However, the political circles of South Korea may currently be overemphasizing the significance of political power struggles rather than pending issues related to citizens. Through the prolonged conflict, it can be seen that the original purpose has disappeared and the conduct of merely criticizing has taken its place. To illustrate, the National Assembly, The Legislation and Judiciary Committee of National Assembly held on December 2, 2020 for example, bypassed various crucial bills that concerned public welfare.

The opposition party concentrated on criticizing Choo rather than tending to the livelihood of the people. Only deputies from the ruling party attended the public hearing to discuss the Act of Fatal Accident. As a result, the act, ratified on

January 8, has several loopholes. As such, the legislation of bills closely related to public welfare remain neglected as the National Assembly has been in a swamp of conflict. The focus of politicians was on political strife, failing to grasp the voices of the people.

Prosecution reform is a goal that the government promised to achieve in order to prevent coercive investigation and corruption of the institution; however, the slogan seems to deteriorate. It is disputable whether the establishment Senior Government Official Corruption Investigation Division is congruent with the reform. "This new division lacks preventive measures to separate it from the government power," mentioned Professor Jang. Politicians have to look for ways to achieve genuine prosecution reform to guarantee fundamental human rights and augment general welfare, excluding political calculations.

The persistent dispute between Yoon and the ruling party that has begun since the investigation of Cho and reached its peak with Choo has caused exhaustion to the people. During the political conflict, people were neglected and there were only individuals striving for power. Politics signifies solving communal problems. When politics only means gaining power through competition and reprisal against an opposing party, society cannot endure nor progress. The government and the National Assembly should be sure to acknowledge this and direct the attention to primary issues regarding its people and public welfare. Listening attentively to people and *projecting* their needs into actual policies is what the politicians may need to keep in mind. **K**

# The Death of Jeong In Sparks a National Outcry

By Park Sumin [smpark1030@korea.ac.kr](mailto:smpark1030@korea.ac.kr)

By Lim Yury [yurylim01@korea.ac.kr](mailto:yurylim01@korea.ac.kr)

The brutal death of 16-month-old adopted toddler Jeong In due to child abuse has once again tested the public's faith in humanity. On January 2, the investigative TV program *Unanswered Questions* exposed the horrifying truth behind Jeong In's death. This show subsequently provoked national outrage against the alleged killers, her adoptive parents. The immediate causes of Jeong In's death were initially announced as hepatic hemorrhage and the rupture of the intestine, colon, and pancreas - damage similar to that received in a car accident. Since then, deeper analysis has revealed that the injuries were the result of several months of abuse.

In October 2020, eight months after being adopted, 16-month-old girl Jeong In was rushed to hospital by her mother, where she died of a suspected heart attack. After her death, however, it was discovered that her internal organs had ruptured, and computed tomography (CT) scans revealed that her abdominal cavity was filled with blood and air had leaked from her damaged intestine. Further analysis of her body indicated that her internal organs had ruptured due to severe external shock and there were traces of at least ten past fractures, clear signs that she had been repeatedly assaulted over a long period of time. Taking this evidence into account, medical personnel ultimately determined that Jeong In had been a victim of severe child abuse.

### Jeong In's Story Goes Public

After *Unanswered Questions* broadcasted Jeong In's story, many of the public were enraged and felt guilty for Jeong In's death. An online petition was filed on the Cheong Wa Dae website titled "Establish a precedent for the punishment of child abuse by charging adoptive parents and disclosing adoptive parents' personal information," which asked for a stronger punishment of Jeong In's adoptive parents. The petition

received significant attention, with 230,000 people signing on by December 20, 2020. In response to the petition, the government apologized for the initial response to and investigation of Jeong In's case and guaranteed the reformation of its approach to the prevention and punishment of child abuse.

The "I'm Sorry, Jeong In" campaign on social media started by Gong Hye Jeong, a representative from the Korea Child Abuse Prevention Association, kept the spotlight on Jeong In, with people from all walks of life participating in the challenge and expressing their regret for allowing this tragedy to occur. In response to the controversy, Moon Jae In, the President of South Korea, ordered measures to prevent a recurrence, while Police Commissioner Kim Chang-ryong apologized for the system's mishandling of such cases. Politicians from both the ruling and the opposition parties responded



| A photo of Jeong In

sympathetically, with both parties proposing bills for the immediate removal of abused children from their families.

### The Death of an Isolated Girl

On May 25, 2020, a daycare center staff member filed the first report of child abuse after observing multiple bruises on Jeong In's stomach and thighs. However, it was dismissed by the Child Protection Agency and the police when the adoptive parents explained that the bruises were caused by "bow leg correction massages." A second report was filed to the Child Protection Agency a month later on June 29, 2020, when a citizen witnessed Jeong In left alone in a car. Again, the adoptive mother justified it as "American-style sleep education," while the investigation on this was delayed for a month.

On September 23, 2020, a daycare center staff member noticed weight loss and evidence of abuse on Jeong In and took her to a pediatrician. After a brief examination, the doctor filed a report of child abuse. The police requested that Jeong In's parents submit a more extensive medical examination of their daughter. However, the parents once again escaped punishment by acquiring a

medical examination report from a doctor that they knew. This doctor diagnosed Jeong In's injuries to be the result of stomatitis and, based on this examination, the police disregarded the report of child abuse, which was essentially the last chance to save Jeong In. The second doctor later claimed that he was unaware of any previous reports of child abuse.

The day before Jeong In's death, on October 13, 2020, a daycare center staff member pleaded with her parents to take her to the hospital after witnessing the child's inability to swallow or drink. Not only did her parents deliberately ignore this request, but Jeong In's mother later admitted to abusing her the next morning for more than an hour simply because she did not eat her food. When Jeong In's condition became critical, the mother nonchalantly took a taxi and had to be persuaded by the taxi driver to call an ambulance. Later that day, Jeong In was hospitalized for cardiac arrest, but she did not survive her severe injuries.

This situation was a complete surprise for those who knew the adoptive parents. In the past, they had expressed a strong desire and determination to adopt a child, even stating that they hoped for an adopted child more than they did a biological one. After the adoption, they appeared with Jeong In on the



PROVIDED BY DONG-A ILBO

| Enraged citizens knocking on the bus carrying the adoptive parents

documentary show *An Ordinary Family* on the Educational Broadcasting System (EBS), which introduced adoptive and foster families. It seems as if the seemingly perfect image that the parents had created successfully concealed their true attitude toward Jeong In.

### The Negligence of Related Institutions

Although the ultimate cause of Jeong In's death was child abuse, those institutions supposedly established to prevent this type of tragedy certainly contributed to it. The police were the first to surrender their line of defense against child abuse, reacting indifferently to each of the reports of Jeong In's abuse. The initial report was quickly dismissed even

though the daycare center provided images illustrating the physical abuse. For the second report, police officials only started analyzing security cameras near the reported vehicle one month after the complaint was submitted. Lastly, despite the pediatric doctor's firm belief that the child needed to be separated from her clearly abusive parents, the police still did not intervene after the third report.

However, the police officers' reluctance to launch a fully-fledged investigation may be indicative of a serious systemic issue. If the officers had decided to separate the child from her parents, the parents may have filed complaints in return, citing the excessive use of authority, which could have threatened the jobs of the police officers involved. According to the daily newspaper *Dong-a Ilbo*, an anonymous officer



PROVIDED BY  
PROFESSOR KIM MEE JEAN

Professor Kim Mee Jean

confirmed this general concern among most police and added that “it is realistically difficult for police officers to separate a child from their parents without any guaranteed authority.” The limitations of this system may explain the police officers’ dismissal of the judgement of a medical professional.

While the police were at fault for their lack of immediate action after evidence of the abuse emerged, it could be argued that it was the adoption agency, Holt Children’s Services (Holt), that may have initially put Jeong In in danger. Several steps in Holt’s adoption process have been shown to have been hastily carried out. For instance, Holt allowed the adoptive parents to adopt Jeong In on the first day they met her.

In addition, Holt’s records reveal the disturbing fact that they were aware of the abuse as early as May 2020, when the adoptive parents failed to explain certain bruises on

Jeong In. However, instead of taking the necessary action, Holt ignored the signs of child abuse and continued to grant the parents’ requests, such as delaying the date of a mandatory home visit. Had they recognized the severity of the situation, they may have been able to save Jeong In, who died two days prior to the rescheduled home visit.

While Holt has a history of haphazard inspections, as proven by an investigation by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in 2014, it is important to realize that adoption in South Korea is controlled by private institutions. As Professor Kim Mee Jean (Department of Home Economics Education) pointed out, “Korea has not yet been able to join the Hague Abduction Convention due to the lack of government involvement in the adoption process.” Professor Kim believes that, in order for safe adoptions to occur, the government should conduct both a document-based and psychological examination of the adoptive parents to determine whether they are qualified and monitor international adoptions as well.

The Child Protection Institution, which was managed by nonprofit organizations such as Good Neighbors, was the third party responsible for allowing Jeong In’s situation to slip through the cracks.

The evidence for child abuse seemed clear but the institution did not recognize Jeong In as an abused child, even with representatives accompanying the police on field investigations for each of the child abuse reports. Their child abuse risk evaluation, conducted with the purpose of protecting the child, also proved to be substandard. For example, the evaluation includes two items that children as young as Jeong In are unable to verbally answer. In these cases, the institution simply assumes the child does not have any opinions – which is what they did with Jeong In – rather than finding an alternative way for those children to express their feelings.

The problems at the Child Protection Institution do not end there. Each worker is responsible for an average of 41 children; as a comparison, in Europe, a caseworker is only responsible for 12 children. In order to resolve these issues, from October 2020, the child abuse investigation office was transferred from the Child Protection Institution to the local government. The government anticipated that public officials would more quickly request cooperation when investigating child abuse cases and more effectively resolve child abuse problems. However, with no visible improvement, the impact of this change so far appears trivial.



Child abuse cases surge by 18 percent in South Korea

#### Current Child Abuse Laws

In all child abuse cases, relevant laws can be of help – but they can also be an obstacle to the protection of victims, as was the case for Jeong In. For example, the Children’s Welfare Law was created to guarantee that children had a healthy birth and a happy childhood. However, due to ambiguous clauses in this law, even child experts are often confused when judging child abuse cases. In 2013, public fury over the Chilgok child abuse case, in which a girl was beaten to death by her stepmother, led to the enactment of the Child Abuse Punishment Act, which was intended to protect children from the loopholes in the Children’s Welfare Law. Nonetheless, vague clauses were

also a problem with the Child Abuse Punishment Act.

For example, there is a clause that prioritizes the testimony of the abused child when investigating child abuse cases. However, it does not take into consideration the situations in which the child is too young to explain what happened. This clause has been specifically criticized as a reason for the failure to protect abused children such as Jeong In. Moreover, the laws regarding child abuse are merely limited to punishment and separation while the laws of other countries include follow-up management, including the medical treatment of abused children.

The charges and the degree of

punishment perpetrators face in child abuse cases are also controversial. With only 12 percent of abuse cases leading to imprisonment, murder convictions are even more uncommon. Documents from the Supreme Court show that, from 2001 to 2006, only five accused child abusers were convicted of murder of the 31 child abuse cases in which the child died. The current law makes it so that, for the prosecution to succeed in charging someone with murder, it has to prove intentionality.

Unlike the Ulsan child abuse case, in which the accused was convicted of murder, the perpetrator of the Chilgok child abuse case, which also resulted in the death of a young child, was not charged with murder because the prosecution believed that there was no intent behind the death. For those child abuse cases in which murder charges were laid, relatively clear proof of intent, such as gripping the child’s throat or drugging the child, was submitted. However, many child abuse cases occur within a family, thus it is difficult to prove intent.

One of these blind spots that put children in danger of abuse is the fact that the current law lacks a legal basis for the immediate separation of a child from their potential abuser. The law should guarantee the unconditional separation of an abused child when the suspicion of child abuse is uncovered.



In response to Jeong In's case, numerous bills for the prevention of child abuse were introduced to the National Assembly. This included increasing the responsibility of the local government or investigation agencies to investigate child abuse cases immediately after a report is received. In addition, the immediate separation of a child from their alleged abuser was mandated when child abuse was reported for the second time.

In fact, a bill that called for the strengthening of the punishment for child abuse was introduced in June 2020 after the reporting of the Changnyeong and Cheonan child abuse cases. Nevertheless, the bill remained stuck in committee for more than seven months. More than 40 bills regarding child abuse had been pending in the 21st National Assembly, but the National Assembly started to examine those bills together in a rush after the public outcry about Jeong In. In Korea, when severe child abuse cases that generate social controversy occur, the



PROVIDED BY  
PROFESSOR LIM JUNG HA

Professor Lim Jung Ha

government and politicians suddenly start to take action, leading to the passing of weak bills that cannot solve the fundamental problems.

In Korea, child abuse policies typically focus on actions that are taken after the fact. However, in child abuse cases, precautionary approaches should be pursued. Professor Lim Jung Ha (Department of Home Economics Education) emphasized the necessity of a precautionary approach because "it is undeniable that the actions of the related institutions aggravated Jeong In's situation; instead, professionals and appropriate funding for the prevention of child abuse are needed rather than merely strengthening the power of these institutions."

#### Proposals for Legal and Institutional Change

Korean society is waiting for major changes that will create a safer environment for children. The laws against child abuse, the institutions that investigate child abuse, and regulations that monitor these institutions all require revolutionary changes in order to generate a meaningful difference. Because construction of management system to protect children from abuse is needed rather than rushed proposals for new laws, the revised law should guarantee a systematic child protection system. Moreover, with

institutional strategies, the professionalism of the system should be assured by law for further child protection as well.

The way relevant institutions are regulated in the United States (U.S.) may serve as a model for South Korea. For instance, the U.S. makes it mandatory for all police stations to include counselors from public institutions and police officers specialized in child protection. In New York City, retired police officers are hired as child abuse investigators and child protection agents are expected to meet higher standards to qualify for the job. As a consequence, institutions gain more officials with the expertise required to identify abnormal situations and react accordingly.

However, Professor Kim Mee Jean believes that "child abuse incidents such as the Jeong In case can never be solved if people assume that the problem lies only within the three aforementioned institutions." Professor Kim suggested that South Korea, like other countries, should move towards preventing child abuse before it happens. Criticizing how the institutions responded in the Jeong In case limits the discussion to this specific incident; instead, it is more important to discuss future directions that can effectively prevent more child abuse incidents.

Professor Lim gave Sweden as a model example, which has legally

prohibited physical punishment for disciplinary purposes since the 1970s. Not only did they impose strict sanctions in which someone convicted of child abuse may be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison, they also educate all children and parents to change the perception of child abuse. As a result of this practical approach, the proportion of parents who physically punish their children dropped from 90 to 10 percent within 50 years.

According to Professor Lim, another practice of Sweden's that Korea can mirror is providing public education regarding the definition of child abuse so that people "properly recognize the dignity and rights of children as human beings." She suggests that many of the older generation have an antiquated perception when it comes to the rights of children. This, in turn, leads some parents to treat their children poorly in the name of family. Therefore, she proposes that each member of the society should be educated "in order for children to know and protect their own rights and for adults to understand and respect children." Agreeing with this, Professor Kim Minjung (Department of Child Development and Guidance, Hannam University) added that sustained education is particularly crucial for those obligated to report child abuse.

The U.S. is a prime example of a country that has increased child



PROVIDED BY  
PROFESSOR KIM MINJUNG

Professor Kim Minjung

abuse awareness at schools. Professor Kim Minjung relayed her personal experience as a volunteer mom in California to provide insight into how children could be educated about child abuse starting at a young age. She explained that homeroom teachers in public schools in Los Angeles provide regular child abuse prevention classes for kindergarten students. As a volunteer on Fridays, she recalled that "teachers taught children to say, 'No, that is not nice' and call 911 if their parents or anyone hits them at home or outside." They would also practice role-playing to teach children how to defend themselves in abusive situations. Preventative education for young children thus helps them to seek help when they suffer abuse.

To prevent child abuse, compulsory education regarding the severity and effects of child abuse is also required for parents. Professor Kim Mee Jean explained that "although there were attempts to provide parents with child abuse prevention education [in Korea], due to opposition from



parents who were outraged at being treated as potential child abusers, this proposal went nowhere." Along with a new law that prohibits corporal punishment by parents, educating parents to prevent child abuse is also essential.

The unparalleled case of child abuse leading to the death of 16-month-old Jeong In has drawn significant attention from all sectors of society to the mistreatment of children. The public was particularly enraged by the lack of efficient cooperation between the police, adoption agency, and Child Protection Institution, which eventually led to critical evidence being overlooked. The following judicial process will also shed light on South Korea's legal limitations in regard to preventing and punishing child abuse.

The case of Jeong In has exposed the limits of the law and the loopholes in law-related institutions. In addition to a revision of the law that protects children from abuse, a stronger child protection system with better-educated officials and a change in the social perception of child abuse are necessary. South Korea needs to learn from the effective systems employed in other countries and apply them to successfully prevent future child abuse cases and move forward as a community. It is anticipated that these changes will help to avoid a second Jeong In case from occurring. **K**

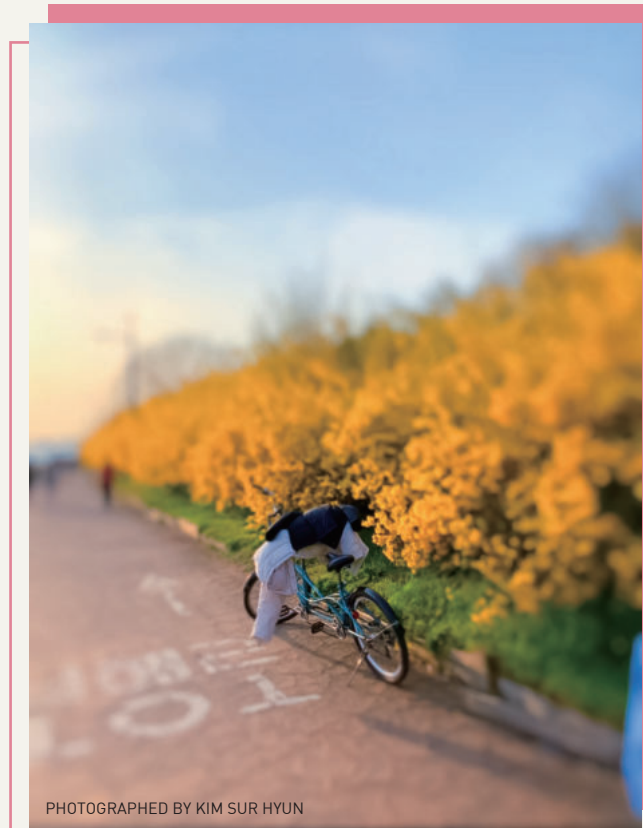
# Projection




PHOTOGRAPHED BY KIM SUR HYUN



PHOTOGRAPHED BY LIM YURY



PHOTOGRAPHED BY KIM SUR HYUN

Sometimes you need to take a step back in order to gain perspective. Only then will it become possible to view what is in front of you a bit more clearly, allowing you to be more coolheaded, not shaken by every little high or low. For this March issue, *The Granite Tower* (GT) Photo Division *projected* this very idea onto photos by applying the “miniature faking” effect, turning real-world scenes into what seem like miniature scale models. Perhaps these photos will be a reminder to untangle yourself from your issues and see things from a broader perspective. 

By The Granite Tower Photo Division





PHOTOGRAPHED BY LIM YURY



PHOTOGRAPHED BY YOON SEOK JUN



PHOTOGRAPHED BY YOON SEOK JUN



PHOTOGRAPHED BY YOON SEOK JUN

# Devoted to the Well-Being of Mothers

## — Dr. Cho Geum Joon

By Jung Eun Chong | [jecdavid@korea.ac.kr](mailto:jecdavid@korea.ac.kr)

Pregnancy is without a doubt one of the most important phases of a woman's journey as a mother. It is a memorable period signaling an addition to the family and the emergence of a new life to be taken care of. Despite the significance it holds, pregnancy is noted for the physical and mental hardships it can impose on women. In particular, the delivery process leaves women vulnerable to pregnancy-related complications, such as high blood pressure and diabetes. At the Korea University (KU) Guro hospital, obstetrician-gynecologist (OB-GYN) Dr. Cho Geum Joon ('95, College of Medicine) is continuously toiling to reduce the pain and danger for pregnant women with his novel ideas and brilliant research.

### About Dr. Cho Geum Joon

Dr. Cho Geum Joon is currently an OB-GYN at KU's very own Guro Hospital. He obtained his Ph.D. degree at KU in obstetrics and gynecology, a field specializing in the care of women during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the female reproductive organs. In this field, Cho specializes in obstetrics and high-risk pregnancy cases; he currently works at the high-risk pregnancy clinic at the hospital. Moreover, he is renowned for insightful research into pregnancy-related diseases and practical inventions that reduce pregnant women's pain. In recognition of these academic achievements, Cho received an award from the Gender Equality and Family Committee in 2019 and the KU Best Research Award in 2019 and 2020.



PHOTOGRAPHED BY JUNG EUNCHONG

Dr. Cho Geum Joon

**GT:** What led you to become an OB-GYN?

**Cho:** When considering what field to specialize in as a doctor, I prioritized whether I could enjoy my work. My years as a resident taught me that the field of obstetrics was interesting and dynamic. In addition, compared to

other areas of medicine, it is not an area that only treats sick patients; pregnant women visit clinics not just to be treated but to seek assistance in the process of giving birth. In contrast with the treatment of cancer and other chronic diseases, aiding the process of giving birth leads to a jovial atmosphere

as words of congratulations fill the room. What fascinated me the most was that the process of giving birth is considered a somewhat holy process, with everyone in awe, offering congratulations. I wanted to be part of that atmosphere, so I became an OB-GYN.

**GT:** What do you think are the highs and lows of being an OB-GYN?

**Cho:** Being able to help someone give birth to a healthy baby gives me satisfaction. I feel even greater satisfaction when successfully overcoming adverse medical conditions because I can repay the trust that patients have in my skills. On the other hand, what distresses me the most is when I experience devastating results despite my best efforts, including unhealthy babies and maternal death. As an OB-GYN, my emotions are inevitably influenced by the outcomes of the mothers under my care. Therefore, when I am faced with undesirable outcomes, I strictly evaluate the overall process to see if something could have been done better. It seems to be an inherent dilemma for doctors regarding whether the patient could have been granted better treatment under another doctor. As such, even though the treatment process itself is not meaningless, this field of obstetrics seems to place constant pressure on the results, regardless of the process.

**GT:** Could you inform the readers about your academic research on pregnancy-related diseases?

**Cho:** One of the biggest obstacles as an OB-GYN is the lack of significant data on the prevalence of pregnancy-related diseases in South Korea. When conducting research about a certain disease, data needs to be collected on it, such as the number of reported cases. However, I often



Dr. Cho Geum Joon granted an award

encounter a lack of data for such basic information. Therefore, most of my recent research has focused on amassing data on cases of pregnancy-related diseases and drawing significant conclusions that can help pregnant women in a practical way. Lately, I have been largely assisted by big data technology in carrying out most of the research. The type of research vital to obstetrics right now is not high-end research on new medical breakthroughs, but research seeking to understand diseases by accumulating sufficient data.

For example, I have been able to draw statistical conclusions on gestational diabetes mellitus and gestational hypertension, the two most common complications during pregnancy. With big data technology, I have attempted to uncover the variables that lead to these complications. By analyzing the given data, I have been able to deduce the lifestyles or aggravating factors for pregnant women that lead to these diseases. This research is meaningful in that it directly results in concrete advice for averting pregnancy-related complications.

Apart from medical research designed to generate practical advice, I have aimed to develop useful tools to ease the discomfort of pregnant women. Most importantly, I devised and developed a silicon band that can tie the cervix without causing inflammation and infection in surrounding areas of the body in order to prevent preterm birth. Traditionally, doctors tied the sensitive cervix with a thread, leading to inflammation that could prove fatal. Recently, I have been working with virtual reality (VR) experts to reduce labor pain by displaying soothing images or videos to women in labor via VR technology. Because this is a path walked by few, it is difficult to swiftly adopt these inventions in the clinic, but I will keep striving.

As evident in his interview, Dr. Cho Geum Joon is indeed working diligently to practically and positively impact the patients he treats. "Be the one who has sufficient experiences in diverse spheres," he advises KU students, "because you often find answers to the most complicated riddles in unexpected places." His successful experiences of teaming with many experts in a diverse range of fields and borrowing their expertise confirm the value of his advice. Seeing the path he has treaded in his medical profession, it is obvious that Cho has chosen a fulfilling but difficult road. Thankfully, however, it seems Cho's innovative approach will keep surprising the nation as he brilliantly uses his talent to improve the future of medicine. **K**



PROVIDED BY POLITICO

# Capitol Attack Defines the Last Legs of Trump's Presidency

By Kang Yun Yeong [dramatizationpersonality@korea.ac.kr](mailto:dramatizationpersonality@korea.ac.kr)

The historic Capitol building of the United States (U.S.) had only been breached once in history, when the British stormed the building during the War of 1812 and damaged it severely. The second breach is modern news – an insurgent force that was endorsed by the then U.S. President Donald Trump broke into the Capitol building with assault weaponry and a clear desire to stop the confirmation of current President Joe Biden. This group was not present for any peaceful protest, but their act in storming through what should have been a bastion of the country's government proves an internal conflict at the point of mass violence.

Groups of Trump supporters from all around America went to Washington D.C. with a united idea, if different goals on January 6. Some just wanted to be a part of the Trump-supporting group while others had packed their firearms to conduct an entire takeover of the Capitol building in order to halt government proceedings. This action was taken due to the widespread belief among Trump supporters that the elections were rigged, and their favored president should have won his second term.

While the total count of rioters is unknown, there are currently more than 400 of them that have been identified by the authorities, with 182 criminally charged and held in custody. This attack highlighted the loose security protocols around the Capitol building, as the rioters were able to overwhelm the Capitol police, loot, riot, and vandalize the building and even erect gallows during the chaos.



PROVIDED BY ABC NEWS

A man carries the confederate flag in the Capitol building

The hours prior to the Capitol Attack, now being called such by major media outlets, had clear signs of a rally being formed; Trump's endorsement during the final days of his presidency clearly urged many to attempt a coup in his favor. The consequences of this attack still remain even days after the beginning of Biden's presidency, and will reflect on Trump's history in the office of presidency.

## Motivations of the Capitol Attack

As the day of the vote confirmation was due, U.S. Intelligence stated that there was little to worry about in regard to any possible security risk. After the Capitol Attack took place, they justified that belief by stating that there was no intelligence that suggested a possible attack on the U.S. Capitol. This statement was made in spite of the fact that there

were many public interactions that planned for "a call to action," or in blatant wording, "marching orders." Users of radical right-wing websites such as *TheDonald*, *MyMilitia.com* as well as certain Facebook groups and 4Chan were inspired by Trump's tweet on December 23, 2020, to take it as a rallying cry. Ultimately, they collaborated online to instigate at best a protest and at worst, an internal coup.

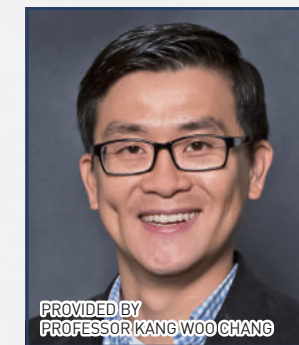
Due to his actions inciting a deadly rebellion against the current government, Donald Trump was impeached for the second time in his single four-year term in office. His first impeachment in December 2019 was due to abusing the power bestowed upon him by his office and obstructing the progress of Congress deliberately. However, due to the second impeachment itself requiring a length of time exceeding Trump's remaining time in office, he was allowed to continue his term. Senators pursuing impeachment continued to do so in order to bar Trump from acquiring any seat in public office.

The second impeachment was because of the Capitol Attack, in which former President Trump had a hand. The House of Representatives cited the Trump-Raffensperger phone call and his pro-radical tweets as the main motivators of these rebels. Many senators who have consistently supported Trump's policies have turned away in the light of the Capitol Attack. A surprising number of Republicans that made up the base of support for Trump's policies have publicly denounced him, including former Vice President Mike Pence, Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska, and Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

The mutual opinion of these representatives has been an outspoken demand for another impeachment of Trump. They are citing the damage he inflicted during his term as a reason for why he should never be allowed to hold public office ever again. The majority seems to believe that Trump is involved in serious charges, as shown by Trump's approval ratings, which has dropped to 29 percent. Unfortunately, this desire was not expressed as he was acquitted from his charges through the impeachment trial held on February 13, with the Congress falling short of the required two thirds majority necessary to impeach. Overall, there were 57 votes for impeachment and 43 against-falling short of the required 67 votes to impeach the president. Of the 57 votes, seven votes were Republican, two were Libertarian, and 48 votes were Democrat. The senators that voted against impeachment were all Republicans.

## The U.S. Democracy and the Failure of Law Enforcement

This outburst shows the vulnerability of the self-proclaimed "international police," putting the U.S. in a bad light with clear signs of radicalism and a dissatisfied public. This incident is arguably worse than the many radical changes the U.S. underwent during




PROVIDED BY PROFESSOR KANG WOO CHANG

Professor Kang Woo Chang

Trump's four-year administration, as it revealed critical, exploitable flaws in the defenses of the government building.

Aside from these governmental factors, Professor Kang Woo Chang (Department of Political Science and International Relations) stated that the attack proves that American democracy no longer meets the minimum definition of its system, which became a larger matter than institutional flaws in the system itself. Before this attack, it was generally perceived that there was little concern about American democracy itself compared to its European peers-but recent events clearly show that this assessment was made under false circumstances. Aside from this fundamental issue, the attack itself also caused discord in the administrative levels of government, especially officials and workers behind the scenes. Therefore, the aftermath of the Capitol attack saw a large loss of White House staff. However, Professor Kang has high hopes for the resilient nature of American democracy. The fraudulent election controversies and the methods in which Georgia's State elections function are signs that the processes of American democracy is still functioning.

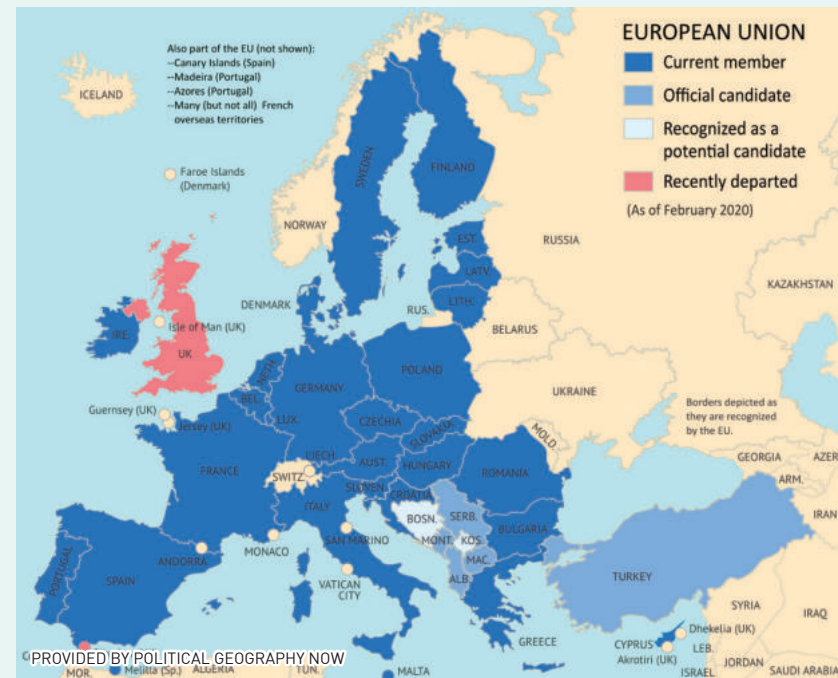
As Trump left the White House, he left behind a colorful history and a nation on the brink of civil war. With two notches of impeachment in his belt, it is very unlikely for the American public or the international community to ever see him in any political capacity. Nonetheless, the imprint he has left behind is undeniable. What will take place after Trump and his supporters revealed the U.S. standing on foundationally shaky ground will depend on the Biden presidency. 

# Brexit, a Looming Disaster or Success Story?



By Choi Chan woo [katachai@korea.ac.kr](mailto:katachai@korea.ac.kr)

Approximately 1600 years after the Roman Empire left Britain, mainland Europe and the United Kingdom (UK) are going through another divorce: Brexit. Brexit, a combination of Britain and exit, has been widely used to refer to Britain's departure from the European Union (EU). It has been four long years since the fateful decision was made in a national referendum, confirming Britain's decision to leave. Britain's exit does not necessarily signify the end of the EU but this event will impact both sides on a large scale.



The political map of the European Union

The EU was formed in 1992 with the idea that strength could be achieved through unity. The UK was always against further integration into Europe as they refused to adopt the union's shared

currency, the Euro, or become part of the Schengen Area, which essentially meant opening borders between member nations. After rejecting integration into Europe for decades, the UK has become

the first member state to make a full exit from the EU, the long process of which finally concluded on December 24, 2020, a year after the official leave was declared on January 31, 2020.

The process of Brexit finally ended four years after the UK parliament's vote in 2016 to withdraw the country from the EU. A deal finalizing Brexit was signed, and it came into effect on 23:00 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) on December 31, 2020. Brexit's transition period during which the UK remained part of both the EU's single market and customs union had officially ended.

### Massive Economic Losses or Growth?

Before the completion of Brexit in December 2020, European and British goods were flowing back and forth without any restrictions or taxes between the respective states. Open



EU officials solemnly take down the UK's flag

borders were another benefit which led to migrants coming to work in Britain, providing cheap labor for some fields such as agriculture. Britain had all these benefits while it remained a member of the European community.

The deal, however, could be extremely detrimental to the UK economy amidst the current global recession sparked by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). A possibility is that both the UK and the EU will now be regulating imported goods and taxing them, which will definitely reduce the number of goods flowing into both countries. In addition, immigration issues will emerge, as many migrants such as the East European seasonal migrants who used to work in the UK agricultural industry will now raise the costs of production.

People who are optimistic about Brexit argue that it will be extremely beneficial to Britain's overall economy, but this may not be the case. The UK had previously prospered under the EU mainly due to the Single European Market (SEM) as it loosened the domestic regulations between EU member states. Noteworthy reductions in transaction costs were seen from this but the new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the EU and Britain will not bring back similar conditions.

Therefore, it is hard to be optimistic about the economic future of the UK as regulations will be tightened.

### Projection for the UK and EU

Inevitably, a member nation leaving the EU poses a significant threat to unity between member states. More importantly, there is a high possibility that it will undermine the EU's global economic and political status. Professor Park Sunghoon (Graduate School and Division of International Studies), however, believes that this blow will not be as significant as one may believe it to be.

According to Professor Park, this blow may not be significant as the UK was traditionally a leading member of the EU which consistently challenged further integration of EU member states into the bloc. Challenges from the UK were seen through many instances such as their refusal to adopt the Euro and joining in 1973, far later compared to other members. Therefore, Brexit could, in fact, be extremely beneficial for the EU, as integration at the very least will be proceeding on far smoother levels.

Another problem that lies in the post-Brexit future is that the UK will face more issues as many interested parties including Scotland are voicing their opposition regarding this event, wishing to rejoin the EU. Potential issues such as the long-standing British-Spanish conflict over Gibraltar, the dispute over Northern Ireland, and fishing rights in the Channel and the North Sea are also resurfacing as the UK is now completely leaving the EU. Problems may further lead to deeper conflicts between the EU

and the UK as the imperfection of Brexit is being pointed out by countries with intertwined interests.

Professor Park believes that there are two possible scenarios for the near future. The first scenario is the weakening of the EU's economic and political weight due to the lack of British support in world affairs. The second is the improvement of the EU's economic and political profile as member states will now be in a better position to make decisions in a more congruent manner.

A positive scenario is made possible under the assumption that further integration into the EU will become easier without the UK which has consistently challenged the EU's efforts to unite Europe. Member states could even welcome that this barrier to unification is finally leaving the EU, but everything certainly depends on the EU's future course of action. A more negative scenario is one which could impact member states with far-right political leadership such as Hungary and Italy, the countries that may feel that the EU has not done as much as it should have for their respective countries and could therefore choose to follow the UK's example.

The UK made history by becoming the EU's first member to secede from the union. Whether this will benefit the EU and Britain is still unclear, but the current state of affairs does not reflect positively for the UK. Projections about the UK's future remain dim but as of right now anything can happen. As for the EU, whether this will lead to a reduction in its global influence or not will depend on its future course of action.

# Beyond the Horizon of an Integrated Sinosphere

## — On Chinese Cultural Appropriation and Assimilation

By Goh Jinoo [siewierszczyzna@korea.ac.kr](mailto:siewierszczyzna@korea.ac.kr)

The term *Sinosphere*, consisting of the Latin roots of *Sino* and *sphere*, generally refers to the four countries of China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. Whilst some also include the countries of mainland Southeast Asia and Mongolia, the concept of the Sinosphere, as can be seen from its name, tends to only encompass the cultural area historically influenced *mainly* by China. Recently, the execution of this idea seems to have accelerated. China under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), instead of recognizing its neighbors as cultural contemporaries influenced by the same source, may be making moves to incorporate them as its own.

This move seems to stem from the established fact that Korea, Japan and Vietnam were all indeed influenced heavily by China throughout history. Chinese characters were used as the main method of written communication throughout the Sinosphere, and Confucianism was an influential ideology in several of the member countries' dynasties. However, the recent maneuvers of the CCP veer away from this historical concept, instead leaning towards cultural assimilation.

### ● Kimchi and Paocai

The most recent incident of such seems to be Chinese claims to the origins of *kimchi*, widely considered to be a traditional Korean dish. The feud started when *The Global Times*, a tabloid operating under the CCP's direction, published a series of articles

claiming that the vast majority of Korea's *kimchi* supply is provided by Chinese sources. Further claims that China was thus setting the international standard for *kimchi* incurred the wrath of many Koreans, who called the statement a blatant attempt at cultural theft.

Later clarification from the Chinese side explained that they had only claimed the standard for *paocai*, which while primarily used as the Chinese translation for *kimchi*, is also used as a name for a similar Chinese dish involving pickled vegetables. Whether such ambiguity from the initial statement was truly a mistaken choice of wording is doubtful though, especially considering the CCP's history on cultural appropriation. The *kimchi* incident is, as aforementioned, merely one of many involving various other neighboring cultures.

### ● On Minorities and Han Immigrants

In fact, the CCP is notorious for having used methods far more sinister than it did with the Kimchi incident, especially in its highly controversial *re-education camps* in Xinjiang. Instituted for the supposed purpose of "countering extremism and terrorism and promoting social integration," these re-education camps are known to target the indigenous Muslim minorities of the region. Whilst the fine details of these camps are unknown to most of the world, their purpose seems to be little more than a method of pacifying the inhabitants of Xinjiang.

The Muslim Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities of the region only came under full Chinese control after almost a century of war between the Qing dynasty and the Dzungar Khanate - the region has yet to be fully integrated into China properly

since. More importantly, the CCP has maintained a steady inflow of Han Chinese immigrants into Xinjiang, most likely in an attempt to completely assimilate the region. During the first census taken in the region back in 1955, Uyghurs accounted for almost 75 percent of the region's population, with the rest being other Turkic minorities such as the Kazakhs and the Kirghiz. A more recent census taken in 2000, however, revealed that Uyghurs constituted only 44 percent of the population, with the Han Chinese almost overtaking them at 41 percent.

Although the CCP has kept a tight lid on media reports from within Xinjiang, their methods and the following ramifications have still found a way to make themselves known to the world. A team of researchers at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute led by Nathan Ruser released a report on the matters within Xinjiang, stating that "evidence suggests that many extrajudicial detainees in Xinjiang's vast 're-education' network are now being formally charged and locked up in higher security facilities, including newly built or expanded prisons."

The discovery of such worrying prospects undermines the official stance of the Chinese government, which dismisses foreign claims that they are maltreating the native population. On top of this, while development certainly has also been one of the effects of Chinese control over the Tarim basin area, it is questionable exactly *who* the development is for. Ürümqi, the capital of Xinjiang, has grown into a major hub in Central Asia boasting the region's largest population by far - a significant portion of the city's populace, however, now



Map of China with the regions of Xinjiang and Tibet highlighted in red

consists instead of the aforementioned Han Chinese immigrants.

### ● China Aims for the Roof of the World

Immediately south of Xinjiang lies the region of Tibet, often referred to as the roof of the world. The cold, mountainous plateaus of Tibet have also seen their fair share of Chinese influence. While it is certain that Tibet only fell under indisputable Chinese jurisdiction in 1950 after a half-year-long invasion, the history of Sino-Tibetan relations has been subject to several heated debates for a fairly long time. This is why Tibet, while technically only having been under direct Chinese suzerainty for about half a century, has had the misfortune of being both a site for intense Chinese cultural assimilation and foreign intervention.

On top of that, as can be seen from how the CCP named the invasion of Tibet "The Peaceful Liberation of Tibet," the CCP asserts that they were bringing cultured civilization to a region that was previously

an untended backwater, only being extracted as a source of cheap labor by the theocratic Tibetan elite. Whilst the Tibetan administration previously did have an integrated serfdom, whether Tibetans agree to China's claims that their rule brought cultured civilization is an entirely different matter.

As mentioned before, the fact that the Sinosphere was influenced in various ways by China is indisputable. Nonetheless, historic influence does not automatically give permission to claim their neighbor's cultures as their own, or forcefully assimilate others into their fold - such methods merely serve to antagonize China's neighbors in a world where a single nation cannot stand completely isolated. Whilst it is understandable, especially considering the *century of humiliation* and American hostility, that the CCP has taken a less than friendly attitude towards both its neighbors and its domestic minorities, perhaps it is time that China finally learns the value of harmony in diversity. **K**

# An Imperfect God

By Goh Jinoo [siewierszczyna@korea.ac.kr](mailto:siewierszczyna@korea.ac.kr)

“What does Solaris want from us?”  
“Why do you think it has to want something?”

An excerpt from the 2002 film remake of Stanislaw Lem's original novel *Solaris*, this short dialogue between scientists Kris Kelvin and Gibrarian represents the book's plot quite poetically. Presenting a constant battle between an entirely alien being and mankind's search for rationality in it, *Solaris* is what one could consider the perfect cross between science fiction and a philosophical documentary.



1961 Release Cover of *Solaris*

*Solaris* is a novel set around the events surrounding the eponymous planet, Solaris. The planet is presumed to be completely covered in something that can only be explained as a massive ocean-like being. This setting is later explained in Lem's book *Fantastyka i Futurologia* (Science Fiction and Futurology) to be an intentional choice, stating that it was to avoid anthropomorphic personification. This ties in as an integral part of the plot, as the constant effort and eventual failure in uncovering the meaning behind Solaris' existence seems to be a central theme of the novel.

The plot starts off with Kelvin arriving on Solaris Station, a research station in a low orbit above Solaris. After a dangerous experiment with the planet involving previously untested methods, the scientists experience strange effects. Simulacra, at first believed to be mere hallucinations caused by the planet's poisonous gas, start appearing within the station. Kelvin's simulacrum, his now-dead partner Rheya, takes on a central part of the story. The interactions between Kelvin and Rheya leads Kelvin deeper and deeper into confusion as he slowly realizes that while the Rheya in front of him truly believes herself to be Rheya, only Kelvin himself recognizes her as a creation of Solaris. This revelation throws Kelvin into further disarray, as Sartorius, another member of the crew, mentions the various inconsistencies spotted throughout Solaris' experiment on them.

As Snow, one of the other two scientists on board, puts it, “it might be worth our while to stay. We're unlikely to learn anything about it, but about ourselves.” This one sentence portrays what exactly is off about the attitude both the novel's scientists and mankind

in general take towards objects outside the realms of known logic. Whilst it is clear that these unexpected visitors are part of a conscious effort on Solaris' end, there is no visible logic behind the action. It may be a hostile reaction, a present of some sort, or even a message uninterpretable to mankind.

The reason why Solaris' manifestations can be interpreted in multiple ways is precisely to reveal to the reader the utter impossibility in reaching out for contact with the planet. Kelvin refers to this concept as an *imperfect god*, representing an omnipotent being that is both capable of manipulating matter to its will, but simultaneously lacking said will. Almost like a baby that has yet to reach intellectual maturity, Solaris, the Imperfect God, simply can not acknowledge the reasons behind its own actions. **K**

## Book Information

**Title:** Solaris  
**Author:** Stanislaw Lem  
**Publication Year:** 1961  
**Publisher:** Faber & Faber  
**Pages:** 214

# Pioneering a New Trend, Leenalchi

By Kim Seo Hyun [jamie0511@korea.ac.kr](mailto:jamie0511@korea.ac.kr)

Is it possible to have the younger generation familiar with hip hop and electronic music listening to *pansori*, traditional Korean musical storytelling, every day? It seems so. Leenalchi, a *fairly familiar and beautifully unfamiliar* band according to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), has pioneered a hybrid genre called “pansori dance.” Along with “Tiger Is Coming,” one of their hit songs, their music with modifiers such as *K-heung* (Korean vibe) and *fusion gugak* (Korean traditional music) is definitely cultivating a new trend among the younger generation.

The public may be relatively unfamiliar with the band itself in contrast to their songs, as they only recently gained attention. Leenalchi's rise to fame was through the videos in Korea Tourism Organization (KTO)'s Feel the Rhythm of KOREA campaign, for which they provided the music. Produced to continuously promote the attractiveness of Korean tourism brands and induce people to visit Korea after the cessation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the videos have gained much popularity with more than 30 million views each on YouTube. The success of the videos is attributed by most to the tunes of the alternative pop band Leenalchi, especially their song “Tiger Is Coming.”

Representative of their entire discography, their song “Tiger Is Coming” interprets a part of *Sugungga*, one of the main five episodes of *pansori*, in a modern sense. It narrates a story in which a terrapin looking to procure a rabbit's liver attempts to call out for a rabbit, but mistakenly calls a tiger; this makes the tiger come down the mountains excitedly. Created through the combination of addictive beats and

rhythms, melody based on unheard-of genres, and various unusual onomatopoeia, the song has become sensational. Besides, it has transformed *pansori* so that it can be enjoyed by all generations by breaking its fixed image of obsolescence and sorrowfulness.

The band was initially created as a one-time project group, but the great harmony among the members allowed their musical collaboration to continue. Just as the band was named after one of the great *pansori* singers of the late Joseon Period, Leenalchi, there are several *pansori* singers in the band. All vocalists of Leenalchi have studied Korean traditional music at Seoul National University, and their desire for challenging the limits of traditional music and self-expansion of music variety led them to form an alternative pop band.

On the other hand, Jang Young Kyu, the leader of Leenalchi, has expanded his scope of activities by collaborating with people in various fields since he was young. Therefore, when Leenalchi's music was born according to his musical goal of



Band Leenalchi

making a *danceable pop*, it yielded a unique color. Their music resists any classification by genres, and rather accommodates various genres as musical ingredients. They pursue an elaborate composition of musical elements that are exciting, intriguing, but not accidental.

Gaining explosive popularity among the younger generation, Leenalchi is taking the lead in modernizing and popularizing *gugak*. They are currently the most notable music group in that they *project* Korean traits in their music and publicize them to the world. Leenalchi, which opens up infinite possibilities without limiting the boundaries of music, suggests that non-mainstream genres can also be revived through understanding the sensibility of the generation. **K**

# Behind All That Glitter

## — This Is Paris

By Oh Ji Su | jjol@korea.ac.kr

You either love her or hate her. The icon of the early 2000s, Paris Hilton, has once more appeared in the limelight with her new documentary, *This Is Paris*. In this documentary, Hilton reveals intimate stories that far differ from her television (TV) persona, instigating a reevaluation of her established character. She is no longer a Barbie that seeks attention; Hilton now has a bigger goal of becoming a billionaire. Released on September 14, 2020, *This Is Paris* explores the untold story of Hilton's traumatic childhood experience that has molded her into the person she is today. The privileged yet somewhat tragic life of Paris Hilton sends the message that, no matter how much money or success one has, one is always vulnerable in the journey of life.



Granddaughter of the Hilton hotel chain, Paris Hilton was living the life of a rich heiress and model until her then-boyfriend posted a sex-tape featuring her in 2003. A few weeks after the release of the video, Hilton debuted her first reality TV show, *The Simple Life*, with her long-time friend Nicole Richie. The show portraying two socialites attempting to perform menial tasks became an immediate success among audiences. This caused Hilton's popularity to skyrocket, marking the starting point of her career as a celebrity.

After a decade of being "famous for being famous," Hilton has slowly faded away from the paparazzi's focus, opting for the creation of her own social media presence as well as the construction of her career. Currently a well-established businesswoman and a professional DJ, Hilton has been successful at creating her empire. Nonetheless, the former blond rich

diva, and party-girl image stemming from the success of *The Simple Life* has yet to be erased completely from the public's mind. In an interview, Hilton reveals that she first rejected the offer to film a new documentary. However, after director Alexandra Dean shared the concept of the film, she decided to participate. *This Is Paris* reveals the story of her real self that was masked behind by "the person [she] invented who really isn't [her]."

### Shadowing Her Real Self

Fame, money, and good appearance are the greatest desires of many. Hilton is the exemplar that possesses such qualities. She is none other than the original influencer as well as one of the first women to create a lucrative career out of her privileged status. However, *This Is Paris* does not focus solely on the success of Hilton's



This Is Paris documentary poster

business; instead, it emphasizes the more intimate parts of her life. The former *it girl* confesses the fakeness of her persona by opening the film with the statement that nobody is aware of her real self. Her mother even mentions that her 'Disney'-like self, displayed in the tabloids, simply functions as a defense mechanism; it is just a shell exhibiting what the public wants to see.

The mansion, the photoshoots, the flights and the cameras all capture the life of a successful businesswoman, resolving one of the public's biggest curiosities: What happened to Paris Hilton? The film clarifies, however, that although Hilton's life seems to be filled with fame and money, everything was not handed to her on a silver platter. This is shown in the scene where she goes through her hectic schedule that barely gives her time to pack for her flights, demonstrating that the life of a public figure and millionaire is not a walk in the park. She is fundamentally a brand that needs to abide to social expectations giving up her self-identity in exchange.

Although her various responsibilities stem from her position as a public figure and businesswoman, they are not the only factors that derive from her busy schedule. There is an underlying issue that does not allow her to stop working. In *This is Paris*, it is stated in a conversation between Paris and Nicky, her sister, that Paris has not rested in years. She is depicted as a person so in love with money that she cannot allow herself to have a short vacation. Her anxiety not only limits her health, but causes her to be a workaholic for money, which she later claims does not bring her happiness. The fact that there is no meaningful reason behind such aspirations implies that this is all an effort to fill her emotional void. This anxiety extends to Hilton's trust issues, a vulnerable side that is shown not only in the handling of her business but also in her personal relationships. This trust issue built upon her past failed relationships further causes her to be paranoid to the extent of having hidden

cameras in her own bedroom. Even though these problems might seem to be superficial in other people's eyes, the nature of such actions might be the result of a deeper psychological problem.

### Finally Spoken

As well as focusing on the adversities faced by Hilton, *This Is Paris* introduces a more relevant issue stemming from the negative image directed to rebellious teens prevalent during the 90s. As a direct victim of the notion of troubled teens, Hilton uncovers the childhood trauma that still haunts her until today to raise awareness and prevent the emergence of more victims. The story begins with her innocent early childhood before her rebellious stage. As Hilton began to rebel, her joyful childhood came to an end. This rebellion was what unknowingly gave her a one-way ticket to Provo Canyon School, a rehabilitation school for youths.

Hilton explains the physical and mental abuse that she faced while attending the treatment center in the 90s. She reveals how she was involuntarily taken from her bed to the school, forced to take pills every day, and put into solitary confinement as a punishment. After courageously displaying her own traumatic experiences, other Provo Canyon School survivors also share their stories in the documentary supporting Hilton's cause. By putting the issue in the limelight, Hilton inspires other survivors to be vocal about their own traumatic experiences. The impact of *This Is Paris* was such that survivors were inspired and opened a march, calling for the closure of the treatment center. At this



PROVIDED BY THE SUN

Picture of the Hilton Family, illustrating Paris Hilton's childhood

march, Hilton, featured as a speaker, promised to use her platforms and resources as a means to increase regulation of the industry.

One walking into the public eye is akin to walking into a lion's den. From the moment Hilton appeared in front of the cameras, she immediately became the target for judgement and prejudice. *This Is Paris* portrays the complicated life of Paris Hilton as she overcomes a traumatic childhood and strives to achieve her goal. The original influencer notorious for her quote, "That's Hot," is no longer projected as the rich blond created in the early 2000s, but a survivor with an ambition that desires to make a change. **K**



### Film Information

**Release Date:** September 14, 2020  
**Director:** Alexandra Dean  
**Cast:** Paris Hilton, Kyle Richards, Kim Kardashian, Brandi Glanville, Kathy Hilton  
**Running Time:** 110 minutes  
**Genre:** Documentary

# The Last Bookstore

## — Going Back to Paper Books

By Kim Sur Hyun surhyunk01@korea.ac.kr

Nowadays, people spend more time on their cell phones than reading a book. It is rare to find someone reading a book on public transportation, and no one seems to borrow books from libraries or even visit them anymore. As the number of people reading books decreases, books and bookstores are gradually disappearing as well. In particular, numerous bookstores are disappearing as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as more people are required to stay inside. For example, the offline stores of Yes24, the largest bookstore in Korea, recently closed, as well as many other bookstores did around the world. As a result, the K Museum of Contemporary Art (KMCA) opened the exhibition *The Last Bookstore*.

According to the KMCA website, the purpose of the exhibition is to help visitors, no matter the age or gender, experience the nostalgia of books and the bookstores that sell them. This exhibition also portrays the sad reality of the disappearance of books that contain wisdom from previous generations and aims to look back at the preciousness of the knowledge these books possess.

### Literary Sculptures

*The Last Bookstore* is presented with different exhibitions and art pieces located on two open floors. There are various installations as well as unique sculptures that are made purely out of

books and book pages. This exhibition also utilizes different light features to symbolize a "great idea," which connects to the purpose of this exhibition because in order to write a book, creativity is the most important feature. This is why all of the installations contain at least one type of light fixture.

Right when the visitors get off the elevator on the 5th floor of the building, they are introduced to a stack of giant books, setting the mood for the exhibition. As one continues down the exhibition hall, there is a room colored dark red with human-sized mannequin dolls made from pages of newspapers, as well as a wall covered with open

books that symbolize a canvas with pen-drawn images on them. The human-sized mannequins project how book pages can be converted to become a new fashion piece. There are also books shaped in different figures hanging from the ceiling like chandeliers and a room containing a large table with green table lamps lined up.



PHOTOGRAPHED BY KIM SUR HYUN

| Exhibition 1



PHOTOGRAPHED BY KIM SUR HYUN

| Exhibition 2

Another piece that can be found on this floor is a wall covered with picture frames of famous writers and small houses made from books. One of the most memorable displays of this floor is a room with different letters from the alphabet falling from the ceiling at different heights and angles. At the center, it is lit up with one white light bulb that creates a shadow around the white room. These falling letters project the power and the importance of individual letters. When these individual letters are combined in different orders, they form words with different meanings.

Next to this, there is another room that has a variety of old television sets on the floor that represent how everyone moved on from books to technology. When entering this room, the viewer can see how the artist projected the sad reality of how

technology has taken over the job of books. Rather than having light fixtures to brighten the mood, the television screen creates a dark atmosphere, which is in accordance with what the shift to technology may have done to the value and prevalence of books in our lives.

The second part of the exhibition is located on the 4th floor where the shop, as well as the cafe, is located. On this floor, the most memorable exhibition is the room filled with pages from books covering the workspace from head to toe. This room represents an artist's workspace as it contains a stool, a ladder, a table, and painted canvases. Lastly, there is a room that has boxes made of book pages, stacked in unique shapes and forms. Each figure has different colored neon lights inside that fill the room with an air of mystery.

### Is it Worth it?

*The Last Bookstore* is an exhibition that aims to make the audience view once again the importance of books. It also takes visitors back in time to experience the nostalgia of books and the art of books themselves. *The Last Bookstore* has very unique art pieces that are made entirely out of old, recycled books. Every book fanatic will love to visit this museum and find interesting books from the exhibition that they will want to read. However, this exhibition fails to accurately make the audience feel nostalgia. It is rather an exhibition where young teenagers would go to take pictures and leave.

Although the purpose of the exhibition was to allow the audience to experience the special sensibility that one feels when sitting at a bookstore through various contemporary artworks, the art pieces by the various artists fails to connect to each other and create one common atmosphere. Overall, this gallery contains too many different art pieces to fully connect with each one. This exhibition might be perfect for those who want to take pictures; however, it does not clearly reach its goal. ❌

### Exhibition Information

**Title:** *The Last Bookstore*  
**Venue:** Gangnam K Museum of Contemporary Art  
**Date:** 2020.12.11~2021.6.6  
**Opening Hours:** From 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. (Closed on Mondays)  
**Ticket Price:** 15,000 won



# Sayuri Fujita — An Inspiration for Single Mothers

**O**n November 16, 2020, Sayuri Fujita, a Japanese TV celebrity living in South Korea, surprised many when she revealed that she was now a single mother purely by choice. Fujita posted a picture of her holding her pregnant belly with the caption, "On November 4, 2020, I became a mother to my son. Becoming a single mother was not an easy decision, but it is also not a shameful decision." Due to the strict regulations of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) in South Korea, Fujita had to travel back to her home country for a sperm donation. Fujita's decision to become a single mother through artificial insemination brought waves of attention to her and her child, directing the spotlight on the restrictions unmarried women face in South Korea.



As a woman over the age of 40, the probability of naturally conceiving a baby was getting slim for Fujita. Although Fujita did not want to lose her chances of having a biological child, she equally did not want to marry someone for the sake of experiencing the joys of motherhood. However, the access restrictions for any form of artificial insemination in South Korea deemed her to be unqualified for a sperm donation. The prime reason as to why was because she had no spouse.

Under South Korea's Bioethics and Safety Act, only married women are granted access to artificial insemination procedures as the consent of one's legal spouse is currently a mandatory element to this process. The marital framework that the government is pressing forward has largely to do with the underlying roots of Confucianism deeply embedded in Korean society. This has created a social stigma surrounding single mothers, deeming them unfit to raise children on their own. Many believe this unjust social perception has unjust and unnecessary constraints for women. Fujita's pregnancy stimulated heated debate about women's right to self-determination, and their right to delve into motherhood - married or not.

Korea's unjust system for women's right to self-determination is clearly shown in the abortion law. Abortion in Korea is not criminalized but is only an option

until the 14th week of pregnancy. As it is only partially allowed, it can be said that the right to self-determination is only partially protected. It is important to realize that starting and ending a pregnancy directly affects the mother as it drastically shifts her life. Therefore, no woman should be told otherwise when she chooses abortion as what is best for herself.

Likewise, different options to conceive a child should be accepted. As long as a woman finds herself to be ready to raise a baby, she should be given the chance, regardless of her age and marital status. When taking into consideration South Korea's low fertility rate - dropping to a historic record of 0.84 births in the second quarter of 2020 *Statistics Korea* - the fact that current laws are obsolete when it comes to artificial insemination becomes even clearer.

The response to Fujita's Instagram post was explosive. There were thousands of comments applauding her courage to share her experience in a society with conservative roots. After a long wait, it is now the time for Korea to embrace diverse family structures by breaking down closed doors to assisted reproductive services. Being a single mother is no longer a flaw, it is simply a choice. **K**

By Lee Do Kyung  
rae00@korea.ac.kr



# Caging the Freedom of Speech

**T**he United States (U.S.) was in chaos recently when supporters of former President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6. The riot was part of an attempt to nullify the outcome of the presidential election in which Donald Trump had been defeated by Joe Biden. One of the consequences of the disturbing mob riot was Google and Apple's decision to shut down Parler, a mobile app that provides a platform for free speech, after the app was linked to the violent uprisings. While Google and Apple justified their actions as "eradicating the source of fake news," some expressed worries over it becoming an example of the infringement of the freedom of speech.



Originally marketed as an unbiased social network, Parler has been populated with right-wing extremists since its launch in 2017. It contained highly biased content and conspiracies that could lead to false, legally liable accusations against politicians. The messages of violence on Parler intensified during the days preceding the Capitol attack, related to unfounded claims about fraud in the recent election. Several users claimed that the election had been "rigged" against Trump and urged joint action to overturn the results. Google explained that the site made no effort to remove any content that actively proposed violent actions and shut down the app. Similarly, Apple removed Parler from its app store, citing a violation of its content-moderation requirements.

The companies' choices were meaningful in regard to their intention to prevent further violent uprisings that would undermine democracy and national security. The uprising not only resulted in four deaths, but was also an attempt to undermine a democratically agreed-upon decision. However, shutting down the app leads to debate over the freedom of speech, a basic yet potent right and raises the question of whether it was the best solution.

Google and Apple's audacious decision was backed by the claim that Parler was the source of highly dangerous misinformation. However, it is unclear what information should be classified as "highly dangerous." With no direct connection between the site and the uprising, the decision to shut down the site was hasty. Admittedly, free speech

cannot be a catch-all excuse for defamation and conspiracies. Still, arbitrarily classifying the inappropriateness of the content and shutting down a platform may set a bad example of oppressing the freedom of speech. If this example were to be followed, any information could be classified as dangerous depending on individual companies' viewpoints and interests. Even if the content may seem disturbing and misleading, it is vital to let public decide their value rather than to silence the speakers.

Free speech is fundamental, yet its concept is still quite abstract. No concrete guidelines on the extent of free speech exist. However, it withers from the slightest attempt to undermine it, thus threatening the future of democracy. Thus, careful approaches should be taken to the debate over free speech because, just like dominoes, one bad example could easily lead to several others. It must not be forgotten that the violent posts on Parler are the symptoms of the problems, not the cause. They simply reflected the deep national conflict that must be solved for the country to advance. Tearing down a platform filled with complaints may be equivalent to snatching away the chance to identify and fix the problems. The nation is required to carefully investigate the root causes of problematic online content before hastily silencing it. **K**

By Jung Eun Chong  
jecdavid@korea.ac.kr





# Controversies Over the Netflix Law

Since the beginning of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), people have undeniably spent more time online. As a result, the amount of online traffic has increased. In turn, this has caused the Ministry of Science and Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) to enforce the revised Telecommunications Business Act, also known as the Netflix law. This new law has triggered a heated dispute between content providers (CP), telecommunication service providers (TSP), and internet service providers (ISP). While some say that the Netflix law is necessary, others argue that it will only increase the financial burden on CPs and consumers.



The Netflix law, passed on December 10, 2020 by South Korea's National Assembly, holds CPs and TSPs responsible for the internet service quality. The Netflix law is applied to companies that average one million daily users and attract more than one percent of Korea's internet traffic. This decree is not only applied to foreign CPs such as Google, Netflix, and Facebook, but also Korean companies like Naver and Kakao. However, Naver and Kakao only account for 2.5 and 1.8 percent of online traffic respectively, while Google accounts for 25.8 percent. This discrepancy attracted strong criticism from Korean ISPs because they do not account for a comparatively large amount of online traffic, yet encumber ISPs by being included in the scope of the law.

Under the Netflix law, CPs are held responsible for internet service and its stability, so that people can view content under a stable connection. These CPs are also required to consult with TSPs when traffic occurs, and to discuss with ISPs the time when they expect traffic to be high. While these requirements may seem reasonable, the Netflix law is unnecessary and should be revised as it is only causing a burden to CPs as well as consumers.

Moreover, CPs should not be responsible for quality of the internet connection. There have been cases where CPs have sued ISPs, arguing that CPs should not be responsible for online traffic. On April 14, 2020, Netflix Korea sued SK Broadband for apprising Netflix for the use of its network and requesting Netflix to contribute to the cost of network

expansion caused by its popularity. However, Netflix strongly opposed to the claim and argued that the maintenance and management of networks was not their responsibility. As a result, SK Broadband said they will review the lawsuit and Netflix will not pay more for ISPs.

Usually, TSPs are responsible for the network quality, and giving that responsibility to CPs is highly unusual. CPs are demanding the decree to be revised once again, as, according to The Korea Internet Companies Association, it has many problems such as "going beyond the scope of the act and a possible violation of the basic rights" to have to pay more for free entertainment. These CPs are already paying exorbitant costs each year to maintain a stable network; demanding more money from CPs will only cause a greater burden. According to past judicial decisions, Netflix laws impose responsibilities that CPs cannot manage and control. In the case of Kakao and Naver, they have paid nearly 100 billion won a year to mobile carriers in 2016.

With Disney Plus announcing its domestic launch in 2021, the level of domestic traffic is expected to surge in 2021 for overseas CPs. Therefore, the controversy over the Netflix law will continue. This is why the Netflix law has to be revised once again, so it can benefit CPs, ISPs, TSPs, and consumers. If it is not revised, consumers in South Korea will eventually end up paying twice as much money compared to the original price to view content.

By Kim Sur Hyun

surhyunk01@korea.ac.kr



# WE LISTEN

*The Granite Tower (GT)* values your opinion. Send us detailed feedback on GT's March issue—anything from what you liked or disliked reading to what you would like to see more of in our upcoming issues. Contact us at [thegranitetower@gmail.com](mailto:thegranitetower@gmail.com) or [@thegranitetower](https://www.instagram.com/thegranitetower) on Instagram.

*The Granite Tower  
(GT)*