

Editor's Note

The December 2019 issue of *Acta Koreana* presents a diverse selection of articles and translation from across the spectrum of humanities research in Korea Studies, including five papers on the subject of good and evil in Korean religion and philosophy, two discursive analyses of interwar journalism, an analysis of North Korean literature, a translation of a mid-Chosŏn period diary, and reviews of recent research and translation.

Under the guest editorship of Edward Chung, we have included five thematic papers from the conference entitled, “Good and Evil in Korean Philosophy, Religion, and Spirituality: Korean Ideas and their Global Implications,” held at the University of Prince Edward Island in the summer of 2018. We direct readers to Chung’s guest editorial note to the thematic papers for a complete introduction but we do wish to highlight the fact that the five authors have admirably navigated an intellectual task fraught with questions of interfaith incommensurability and intrafaith contradictions from the standpoints of the Buddhist, Confucian, Daoist, and Christian traditions.

In addition to the thematic articles, this issue includes three discursive analyses ranging from the early colonial period to contemporary North Korea. Mun Soohyun has written an analysis of German newspaper articles on the 1910 Japanese annexation of Korea and found that despite Japanese efforts to manipulate the German press, German publications did not uniformly accept the annexation as legitimate. Lee Jae-yon Lee and Kim Hyunjoo, employing the merging methodologies of the digital humanities, conducted an exercise in text-mining to trace the highly fluid meanings and associations of the concept of culture in the magazine *Samch’ŏlli* from 1929 to 1941. Kim Sunghee conducted an analysis of labor as portrayed in North Korean fiction emerging from the Military-First Era and argues that the state engaged in what he calls a sanctification of labor in the context of national crisis and sacrifice.

In this issue we also present Michael Finch’s translation of O Hŭimun’s *Imjin nambaeng illok* 壬辰南行日錄, entitled, “Daily Record of a Journey South in 1592.” Finch has provided a vivid English rendering of O Hŭimun’s personal experiences of the Japanese invasions that presents insights into the experience of war that take the reader beyond the relationships and decisions of military commanders and heads of state and into the realm of the everyday in way that historical analyses seldom do.

Finally, the scholars and translators Dafna Zur, Tommy Tran, Uri Kaplan, Hyonhui Choe, and Bruce Fulton have provided their critiques of recent Korea humanities scholarship and literary translation, including publications by Immanuel Kim, Inshil Choe Yoon, Mark

Nathan, Janet Poole, and Charles La Shure.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all of the contributors to this issue, the anonymous peer reviewers, the copy editors, and the members of our editorial and advisory boards without whom this issue would not have been possible. We are especially thankful for the continuing support and generosity of our publisher, President Synn Ilhi, and the administration of Keimyung University.

There are two new members of the editorial committee whom we wish to welcome. Dr. Joshua Van Lieu joined our team in September 2019 as associate editor, and Ms. Jieun Son joined us in July of 2019 as editorial assistant. We look forward to working with them on the issues to come.

We hope that our readers find this issue to be of value in their ongoing research as we now ready ourselves for the publication of the next issue of *Acta Koreana* in June of 2020.

Acta Koreana Editorial Committee