30 YEARS KOREAN STUDIES AT SOFIA UNIVERSITY
Korea: One Peninsula, Multiple Dimensions
(Connectivity, Challenges, Perspectives)

Sofia University (Sofia, Bulgaria), 12-14 October 2025

Sunday, October 12th, Hall Aula	
16:30-17:00	**Registration**
17:00-17:30	Welcoming Remarks **Georgi VALCHEV**, Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski **Gergana PETKOVA**, Dean of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology **Dong-Bae KIM**, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bulgaria **Hak Mu RI**, Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) (to be confirmed) **Veselin DYANKOV**, Acting Director of Foreign Policy Planning, Information and Coordination, MFA
17:30-18:00	**Svetla KARTEVA-DANCHEVA**, Head of Department of the Korean Studies Department (2010-2019) 30 years of Korean Studies at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski – a fulfilled journey to the Land of the Morning Calm
18:00-18:30	**Vladimir TIKHONOV**, University of Oslo Keynote Speech: Radical feminism and struggle for gender equality in Korean history
18:30-20:00	Welcome Reception (Main Lobby)

Monday, October 13th

		Hall 1	Hall 2	Conference Room	Hall The Egg (Only In-person Presentations)
MOD		**Sirma KOSTADINOVA**	**Evelina HEIN**	**Yanitsa IVANOVA**	**Irina SHOLEVA**
		Narratives of Korea and intercultural dialogue	Culture and Places: Transformation and Representation	Exploring Korean Grammar, Translation, and Orthography	Korea Across Time: Society in Motion
[Session 1]	09:00-09:15	**[O] Hye Ran KIM** *Russian State University for the Humanities / HSE University* Historical and Identity Characteristics of Korean Diaspora Literature in Russia as Unification and Multicultural Literature: Focusing on the Sakhalin Literature Work "When I Become the Sea"	**Evelina HEIN** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* A Chinese emperor connection to the sacred mountain of Paektusan	**Yanitsa IVANOVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Early North Korean Linguists	**Seulkee NAM** *SOAS, University of London* Establishing Modern Medical Care in the Treaty Port of Inchŏn: The Anglican Medical Mission's Social Role and Healthcare Dynamics (1883–1916)
09:00-10:30					

	9:15-09:30	**Velina MINKOFF** *Colibri Publishers* Korea and its Language as Literary Characters in a Bulgarian Novel	**[O] Elizabeth CAMPBELL** *Korea University* Hechi and Soul Friends: Urban Personification and Global Marketing through the Seoul City Mascots	**[O] Stanislaw SKUT** *University of Warsaw* 'Incomplete noun', 'defective noun' or 'auxiliary noun'? Challenges in translating Korean grammatical categories amidst the reorientation between North and South Korean language norms: a case study from Poland (1977–2021)	**Bahar ALIYEVA** *Azerbaijan University of Languages* Control of Overseas Travel in Korea through the Passport System after Liberation
	09:30-09:45	**Patrick Jacques MAURUS** *INALCO* Problems of translating North Korean literature	**Shreya** *Jawaharlal Nehru University* Closeted Resistance: Queer Narratives and Cultural Activism in South Korean Literature	**[O] Sun Mean JU** *Kazan Federal University* Translating Korean Catenative Verb Constructions into Russian: A Study in Syntactic Transformations	**Ramóna FAJKUSZNÉ KOVÁCS** *Eötvös Lorand University* Wave, peak and backlash: K-culture in Europe and Asia
	09:45-10:00	**Sirma KOSTADINOVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Flower-growing Gods and Cosmic Battles: Exploring Parallels in Korean and Persian Creation Myths	**[O] Magdalena GRELA-CHEN** *Jagiellonian University* Hanbok craze: The rise of rental business and the decline of traditional aesthetics	**Sewon KIM** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Proposals for the Transcription of Bulgarian Proper Nouns into Hangeul: With a Focus on Personal Names and Toponyms	**Lucille SCHAEFER** *University of Bonn* Riding the Korean Wave at home. Korean nationalism(s) in response to Hallyu's success in the West
	10:00-10:15	**Mona KAUSHIK** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Korea: Nation, Society, Culture- Hindi Translation of Korean Poems with Special Reference to 'Mountain Flowers': Hindi Translation of 124 Modern Korean Poems – A Reality and a Debate	**Boyko PAVLOV** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohrridski* **Spas RANGELOV** *Hankuk University of Foreign Studies* Spring fragrance from Namwon to Stanimaka	**Olivier BAILBLÉ** *Aix-Marseille University* General introduction to Kugyŏl writing system	**Alexandra URBÁN** *Seoul National University* Time Synchronization in a Modern Korean Family - What Time Use Data Tells Us about Couple Time
	10:15-10:30 Q&A				

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

		Hall 1	Hall 2	Conference Room	Hall The Egg (Only In-person Presentations)
MOD		**Adrien CARBONNET**	**Soyoung KIM**	**Kukjin KIM**	**Miroslava ZABURTOVA**
		Korea between Regional and Global Foreign Policy	From Premodern to Contemporary Fiction: Narrative functions and Translation	Korea's Socio-Economic Trajectories	Korean Culture in Global and Local Contexts
[Session 2] 11:00-12:30	11:00-11:15	**Adrien CARBONNET** *KU Leuven* The North Korean-Bulgarian Diplomatic Crisis of 1962: Focusing on the account of the Belgian representative in Sofia	**Kyungmin BAE** *University of the Philippines* Korean Translation Practice of Filipino Learners: In search of Translation Methods and Techniques	**Kukjin KIM** *University for Foreigners of Siena* The Journey of Roman Glassware in Ancient Times: from the Mediterranean to the Korean Peninsula	**Jong-suk WON** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Comparing Bulgarian Surva and Korean Jisinbalgi: Transformations in Tradition and Globalization Era after COVID-19

	11:15-11:30	**Ivan LIDAREV** *National University of Singapore* India between the two Koreas: Balancing history, ideology, and economics	**[O] Lyudmila ATANASOVA** *Hankuk University of Foreign Studies* Narrative Functions of Liminality in Yi Kwang-su's Novels	**Nako STEFANOV** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Social-economic development of Late Choseon	**Yana MANCHEVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* In Search of Korean Art Exhibitions in Bulgaria
	11:30-11:45	**[O] Baljeet Kumar SINGH** *Jawaharlal Nehru University* Emergence of New India under Modi Era: Changing Foreign Policy Dynamics through Act East Policy towards South Korea	**Soyoung KIM** *Seojeong University* Reframing Cultural Meaning in Korean–Bulgarian Literary Translation: A Case Study of Visiting Mother K	**Nikolina KIRILOVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Korea: "The Little Tiger" or "The Great Dragon"?	**Miroslava ZABURTOVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* From Fridge to Stage: Performing Taste in the Korean TV Cooking Show Please Take Care of My Refrigerator
	11:45-12:00	**Kamen VELICHKOV** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Korea's foreign policy in Central Asia: objectives and achievements	**Byoung Yoong KANG** *Univerza v Ljubljani* The <Perfect Society> and Contemporary Society: Koreanness via Cryonic Narrative	**[O] Akansha KHARI** *University of Delhi* US-South Korea relations: How the bilateral relationship shaped South Korea's image economically and internationally	**Imsuk JUNG** *University for Foreigners of Siena* Food in K-contents: semiotic meaning in Korean culture and society
	12:00-12:15	**Zornitsa GREKOVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* The Search for Maritime Grandeur: Republic of Korea and Its Cooperation with ASEAN in Underwater Cultural Heritage	**[O] Spas RANGELOV** *Hankuk University of Foreign Studies* Korean and Bulgarian in Contrast from the Perspective of Language Typology	**Tsvetelina ANDREEVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Shattering the glass ceiling: Women in Business in 21st Century South Korea	**Irina SOTIROVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* **Asya ANTOVA** *18th Secondary School William Gladstone* Academicism and mass culture – incompatible extremes or complementary opposites. Korean culture presented through the Board Game HanPanDo
		12:15-12:30 Q&A			

12:45-14:15 LUNCH (Restaurant Alma Mater)

		Hall 1	Hall 2	Conference Room	Hall The Egg (Only In-person Presentations)
MOD		**Svetoslava PEYCHEVA**	**Sergei KURBANOV**	**Jungmin HEO**	**Yana MANCHEVA**
		Religion, Literature, Identities	Korea in History	ROUND TABLE Dynamics of immigration inside and outside of Korea	Korean Cultural Production via cultural identities
[Session 3] 14:15-15:45	14:15-14:30	**Svetoslava PEYCHEVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Korean Masquerade Games: Sacred Layers and Social Function	**Daria GRISHINA** *HSE University* *GAUGN* On the front line: establishment and activities of the Chosŏn legation in Tokyo, 1887-1905	**[14:15-14:35]** **Jungmin HEO** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Navigating Student Mobilities in Turbulent Times: Migration Processes and Life Experiences of Korean International Students in Bulgaria	**Lyuboslava HRISTOVA-PETROVA** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Divine Images with Korean 'Flavour'. Negotiating Cultural Identities in Contemporary Korean Art
	14:30-14:45	**[O] Arti PATHAK** *University of Delhi* The Bridge Between India and Korea: Buddhism	**[O] Nana GELASHVILI** *Ivane Javakhishvisi Tbilisi State University* Historical Korea as a Cross-cultural Bridge between China and Japan	**[14:35-14:55]** **[O] Seongjin KIM** *Duksung Women's University* Migration Networks of Koryoin and Korean Chinese	**Ivanka VLAEVA** *South-West University Neofit Rilski* *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Music in a new rituality: Opening Ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Korea

	14:45-15:00	**[O] Mohd BILAL** *The Academy of Korean Studies* Sacred Landscapes, Silenced Memories: The Disappearance of Buddhism from India and its Survival in Korea	**Sergei KURBANOV** *Saint Petersburg State University* Rare primary sources and new approach to the perception of North Korean history in 1945 – 1950	**[14:55-15:15]** **[O] Yeonkwang KIM** *Korea University* Exploring Food Habit Changes of a Koryo-saram in Uzbekistan Before and After Migration	**Vladislava MAZANA** *Charles University* Constructing Manhood in K-pop Lyrics: A Corpus-Based Analysis of Masculine Identity
	15:00-15:15	**Yannick BRUNETON** *Paris Cite* Aspects of the relationship between poetry and Sŏn Buddhism in Korea	**[O] Avram AGOV** *Langara College* North Korea in the socialist system, 1953-1962: integration and the rise of nationalism	**[15:15-15:30]** Discussion	**Martin LUKANOV** *Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski* Drawing the Line: The Korea Manhwa Museum as a Site of Cultural (Re)Creation
	15:15-15:30	**[O] Inero ANCHO** *University of the Philippines* Meaning and Value of Learning Korean Language in the Graduate School			
		15:30-15:45 Q&A			

15:45-16:15 COFFEE BREAK

		Hall 1	Hall 2	Conference Room	Hall The Egg (Only In-person Presentations)
MOD		**Irina SOTIROVA**	**Irina SHOLEVA**	**Raina BENEVA**	**Gwon Jin CHOI**
		Social Dynamics in South Korea	Korea: Diplomacy and Memory	Korean cinema across borders	Korean Language Education in Focus
[Session 4] 16:15-17:45	16:15-16:30	**[O] Natalya YEM** *al-Farabi Kazakh National University* Ethnic Identification of Children in International Families: A Case Study of Russian-Speaking Children in South Korea	**Karol STAROWICZ** *Adam Mickiewicz University* '함께하면 강하다, 함께하면 안전하다!' – The Enduring Strength and Future of the U.S.–Republic of Korea Alliance	**Andronika MÀRTONOVA** *Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences* An unexpected sharp turn: The DPRK in the focus of film critic and writer Panteley Karasimeonov after 1944	**Sun Hee PARK** *Ewha Womans University* Compressed Words, Expanded Meanings: Korean Short-Form Culture
	16:30-16:45	**[O] Ankit KUMAR** *Jawaharlal Nehru University* **Rahul RAJ** *Jawaharlal Nehru University* The New Normal: Rise of Non-Religious Identity in South Korea	**Sophio GUGUNAVA** *Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University* Soft and Smart Power: The Development of South Korean Diplomacy	**Zakir Hossain RAJU** *Independent University Bangladesh* Role of K-Cinema as Leader in Inter-Asia: Connections of Korean Film Festivals in Developing Bangladesh Cinema	**Monika HÁLOVÁ** *Palacky University Olomouc* Second-Language Acquisition of Korean Case and Word Order: Natural Discourse and Teaching Materials Input Comparison
	16:45-17:00	**[O] Liliia ZAMIATINA** *University of Turku* “Korean elderlies are so rude!” Myth-busting as Reflecting on Rapport-building In the Field. Tapgol Park, Spring – Summer 2025	**[O] Fedor CHERNETSKII** *Lomonosov Moscow State University* “Friends and Neighbors Effect” on Elections in the Republic of Korea	**[O] Aman TRIPATHI** *Jawaharlal Nehru University* Korean Cinema and the Politics of Memory: Trauma, Healing, and the Vision of Reunification	**Gwon Jin CHOI** *Inha University* Applying project-based learning (PBL) to teaching Korean in Bulgarian situation
	17:00-17:15	**[O] Angelina TOMOVA** *Sogang University* Unseen and On the Move: Examining South Korea’s Runaway Children	**[O] Ankitha K R** *University of Delhi* One Voice, One Nation? State-Curated Memory and the Performance of National Identity in North Korea	**[O] Ji-Yeon JO** *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill* Bordering Affects: Hospitality and Hostility in Zhang Lu's Borderland Trilogy	**Tsvetelina BORISOVA** *18th Secondary School William Gladstone* Korean Language Education in Primary and Junior High Schools at the 18th Secondary School William Gladstone in Sofia, Bulgaria

	17:15-17:30	**[O] Pilar MIGUEL XIMÉNEZ DE EMBÚN** *Complutense University* Lenses of Resistance: Visual Culture and Protest in 1980s South Korea	**Elena VODINCHAR** *Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum Bulgarian Academy of Science* The picture of power. The diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during socialism through the prism of a museum object	**[O] Jeremiah MAGONCIA** *Ateneo de Manila University* Beyond Melodrama: How Netflix is Diversifying Korean Contents through Reality TV	
	17:30-17:45 Q&A				

18:00-19:30	**OFFICIAL DINNER (Restaurant Alma Mater)**

Tuesday, October 14th ROUND TABLES

	HALL 1	HALL THE EGG
10:00-11:30	**How to Talk about North Korea?** **(With, On, and Beyond the Terrain)** Participants: **Behrin Shopova**, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum Bulgarian academy of sciences (Bulgaria) *For a rare score of the North Korean Opera "The Flower Girl" from the Special Collections Department at the Ivan Vazov National Library – Plovdiv* **Irena Tsvetkova**, World champion from the 17th ITF Taekwon-do World Championship, Pyongyang 2011 **Patrick Maurus**, INALCO (France) *North Korea has a lot to say, but does it really want to talk?* **Raina Beneva**, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria) *Bulgarian experience in bilateral exchange in the field of education for the period 2011-2016 and beyond* **Vladimir Tikhonov**, Oslo University *Engaging North Korea: How to Transcend the Divide*	**(Im)possible Korean Distances:** **Strategies of Screen Representation between One's Own / Self-Strangeness/ Others** Participants: **Andronika Màrtonova,** Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria) **Aibarsha Bozheyeva**, School of Media and Cinema at Almaty Management University (Kazakhstan) **Boyan Tzenev**, National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts (Bulgaria) **Simeon Alexander**, Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria) **Yana Lekarska**, film director (Bulgaria) **Maria Simeonova**, Central Library of Bulgarian Academy of Science (Bulgaria)

11:30-12:00	**Closing Ceremony (HALL THE EGG)**
12:00-13:30	**LUNCH (Crystal Palace Hotel)**
13:30-15:30	**Visit to the Boyana Church (UNESCO Heritage)**

Accompanying Events

Saturday, October 11th

FILM SCREENING:	**HAVE FUN IN PYONGYANG, French Documentary film 2019**
Place:	Cinema Odeon, 1 P. Evtimii Str.
Organizers:	Korean Studies Department and the Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of sciences With the special contribution and participation of **Patrick Maurus** (the film screenwriter, Professor Emeritus of INALCO, Paris) and **Andronika Màrtonova** (Professor. Vice-Director of the Institute for Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia)
Date and starting time:	11 October, 18:00

Sunday, October 12th

SIJO WORKSHOP	(only for Korean Studies students)
Lector:	Byoung Yoong KANG (Univerza v Ljubljani)
Date and starting time:	12 October, 14:30-16:30
Place:	Center for Korean Studies, Hall 111

Wednesday, October 15th

BOOKS PRESENTATION:	'Les trois Corées' & 'Il était une fois... trois Corées', Patrick Maurus
Place:	Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., 1504 Sofia, floor 4 - North wing
Organizers:	Korean Studies Department and Francophone Center
Date and starting time:	October 15, 11:30 AM