

The 3rd Cultural Workshop

Theme: "What to do with Cultural Studies in Asia"

Place: Cultural Center, Seoul National University

Date: Friday, November 16, 2001

Paper Presenters:

1. The University of Tokyo
2. Peking University
3. Taiwan University
4. Seoul National University
5. Kyoto University

Discussants:

1. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
2. Nanjing University
3. Seoul National University

Prospectus:

We are now living in a time of rapid and radical change that is fundamentally altering our consciousness and lives. The conventional assumptions and presuppositions inherited from the past no longer seem to fit to the reality we are currently experiencing, and a new way of thinking has been seeping into every nook and corner of our society. Such unprecedented social and cultural changes are not only dismantling the foundation of conventional institutions, but also having a profound influence on the academic and literary disciplines, not to mention the arts and creative writing.

One of the remarkable changes is the recent emergence of cultural studies, which has enlarging the scope of literary and social studies to embrace a wider cultural perspective. This new discipline has created a paradigm for the study of canonical and popular texts together, causing the traditional opposition between high and popular culture to become increasingly untenable. Cultural studies is also concerned with the problems of cultural imperialism and hegemony inherent in the production and distribution of various types of cultural texts. The new paradigm, however, does not evolve around nationalism. Rather, it urges us to break the shell of nationalism and build a global village where the East and the West peacefully co-exist. As a result, boundaries between race, sex, class, and identity begin to disappear and cultures start to blend. All this has fundamentally altered the terrain of literary studies in the university of late.

The 3rd AEARU Cultural Workshop, this time sponsored by Seoul National University, is a positive response to the initiative fostered in this critical environment. In this event, scholars from East Asian countries will gather in Seoul to discuss the issues at stake, examine the nature of such social and academic changes, and propose a new vision for the future of literary and cultural studies. Under the main theme of "What to Do with Cultural Studies in Asia," we will broadly explore the problems, possibilities, and politics of cultural studies in Asia, with reference to the question of its literary value. On this meaningful intellectual occasion we hope to present new views of literature, centering on the issues of cultural hegemony, the market economy, popular culture, and globalization.

The 3rd AEARU workshop will provide an intellectual feast for the scholars from East Asian research universities, offering them opportunities to get acquainted, exchange ideas, and experience other cultures. We hope that the participants will unite in exploring the meaning of cultural studies in Asia in the age of globalization.

Workshop Programme:

Opening Announcement:

10:00 Dr. Bark Taeho (Vice-Chancellor for International Affairs)

Welcoming Address

10:00 - 10:10 Dr. Lee, Ki-Jun (Chancellor, Seoul National University)

Session I *Why Cultural Studies Now?*

Moderator: Seong-Kon Kim (Seoul National University)

10:10 - 10:40 Yasunari Takada (The University of Tokyo)

10:40 - 11:10 To be announced (Peking University)

11:10 - 11:40 Alec Gordon (Seoul National University)

11:40 - 12:00 Discussion : (Nanjing University)

12:00 - 02:00 Lunch: Dongwon Hall

Session II *Cultural Studies in Asia*

Moderator: Myong-Sook Ryu (Seoul National University)

14:00 - 14:30 Liang-ya Liou (Taiwan University)

14:30 - 15:00 To be announced (Kyoto University)

15:00 - 15:30 Myung Koo Kang (Seoul National University)

15:30 - 15:45

Discussion:

Angelina Yee (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee Break

Session III *Comments and Discussion*

Moderator: Eun-Kyung Min (Seoul National University)

16:00 - 17:00 Panel Discussion

Yasunari Takada (The University of Tokyo)

Alec Gordon (Seoul National University)

Angelina Yee (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

Closing Remarks

17:00: Dr. Bark Taeho (Vice-Chancellor for International Affairs)

Dinner Reception

17:30 -

Dinner Reception

hosted by Dr. Lee, Ki-Jun

(Chancellor, Seoul National University)