



Scuola Italiana di Studi
sull'Asia Orientale
ISEAS



École Française
d'Extrême-Orient
EFEO

CO-HOSTED BY



ecaf
european consortium
for asian field study

KYOTO LECTURES

Wednesday, October 22th, 18:00h

Sharon J. Yoon

SPEAKER

The Deterioration of Ethnic Solidarity in Korean transnational enclaves Beijing and Osaka

Recently, scholars have noted that migrants exhibit distinct patterns of adaptation characterized by frequent movement to their countries of origin. This influx of transnational migration has, in turn, altered the structure of historically established minority communities. The research that will be presented investigates how changes in the ethnic community have shaped the ways minorities construct notions of ethnic identity, using ethnographic, interview and survey data conducted in the Korean enclaves of Beijing and Osaka. These enclaves reflect two distinct waves of migration: recent South Korean transnational migrants, and third- and fourth-generation Korean Japanese/Korean Chinese minorities. As a result of the growing number of newcomers since the 1990s, the Koreatowns in Beijing and Osaka have become increasingly connected—both on the institutional and grassroots level—to the homeland. But rather than strengthen sentiments of ethnic identity, this has led to formidable barriers in constructing a collective consciousness within the Korean community. Damaged co-ethnic relations between the two waves of Korean migrants have significantly hindered their ability to mobilize the rich transnational resources for upward mobility. The talk will bring to light the structural barriers Korean migrants encounter in cultivating solidarity in the transnational enclave. In doing so, suggestions for social welfare policies that may aid migrants in more effectively cooperating together to mobilize the resources offered by the enclave will also be made.

Sharon J. Yoon is currently a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Postdoctoral Fellow at Osaka University. She completed her doctorate in sociology at Princeton University in 2013 and spent one year as a Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania prior to her arrival to Japan. Her research is funded by the National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, the Korea Foundation, and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and has been published by the Korea Economic Institute and the *International Journal of Sociology*. She is now working on two book manuscripts: *Pursuing the Chinese Dream: The Success and Failures of Korean Entrepreneurs*, which is currently under review, and *When Nationalism Goes Virile: The Rise of Hate Speech in Osaka's Koreatown*, in progress.

This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room 1, 1st floor).

École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO)
29 Betto-cho Kitashirakawa, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, 606-8276 Japan

Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS)
4th Floor, 4 Yoshida Ushinomiya-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, 606-8302 Japan

EFEO | T: 075-701-0882 F: 075-701-0883 E: efeo.kyoto@gmail.com

ISEAS | T: 075-751-8132 F: 075-751-8221 E: iseas@iseas-kyoto.org

