

Gender, Work and Family in South Korea

Bios and Paper Descriptions

Gender Inequality and Feminist Research in South Korea

The latest data released by the OECD reveals that South Korea has the highest gender wage gap, among the thirty-four member nations. South Korean women earn an estimated 65% of their male counterparts' salaries. Despite the election of Park Geun-hye as the first woman president, gender inequality persists in economic, political, legal and social arenas. This presentation examines scholarly debates about various dimensions of gender inequality in South Korea, as well as movements by women to fight for greater equality.

Miliann Kang is Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her book, *The Managed Hand: Race, Gender and the Body in Beauty Service Work* (2010 University of California Press) focuses on Asian immigrant women's labor in nail salons and won book awards from the National Women's Studies Association and the American Sociological Association. Her writing has been published in the Huffington Post, Newsweek, Gender and Society, Meridians, Women's Review of Books, and the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Her current research is on transnational Asian and Asian American mothering.

Who Draws the Big Picture? Gendered Intensive Parenting for Korean Students at US Elite Colleges

Using interviews with Korean students at some of the "Ivy League" colleges, this study investigates how Korean upper-middle class mothers and fathers engage in so-called "tiger parenting" differently in a transnational setting. Fathers with higher levels of education, income, and social network have more capacity for and legitimacy in parenting than mothers who are mostly in charge of the "private" sphere regardless of their education and job experience. It shows how intensive elite parenting is more a class issue than of race or ethnicity.

Juyeon Park studied mass communication and sociology at Yonsei University (South Korea) for her B.A. and also received her Master's degree in sociology from the same school. She is currently in the doctoral program of sociology and the graduate certificate program in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The Politics of Gender and Labor in the South Korean Labor Movement from 1970 to the Present

This study is an effort to acknowledge gendered labor politics by placing Korean working women's labor activism at the center of the South Korean labor history. Seo focuses on how gender operates in the historical development of the Korean labor movement by examining women's experiences, narratives, and voices, and how this plays out the formation of working women's subjectivity and agency in Korea from 1970 to the present.

Youngju Seo is a doctoral candidate in the department of Sociology at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research interests include gender and labor history, labor revitalization, social movements, qualitative research methods, and Korean studies. She has been working on her doctoral dissertation, "The Politics of Gender and Labor in the Korean Labor Movement from 1970 to the Present."