

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BIOETHICS AND HEALTH IN ASIA

Integrative perspectives from physics, biology, epidemiology, medicine, philosophy, history, sociology, STS, gender and decolonial studies, ethics, law, and intactivism

Date: March 9, 2024.

Location: Seoul National University Department of Science Studies,
College of Natural Sciences, Gwanak-ro 1, Gwanak-gu, Seoul, South Korea



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WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Morning | SNU, College of Natural Sciences, Building #24, Room 208

9H15-9H30	Welcome & Introduction	Dr. Cynthia KRAUS , philosopher, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
9H30-10H15		Prof. DaiSik KIM , physicist, Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology & Prof. Myung-Geol PANG , biologist, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, South Korea <i>"Forces involved in the South Korean circumcision history: Newton, peer pressures, and our efforts."</i>
10H15-11H		Dr No CIRC , M.D., National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Center (NOCIRC) Korea <i>"The actual state about male circumcision in South Korea and the impact on their sexuality."</i>
11H-11H15	<i>Short Break</i>	
11H15-11H45		Dr. Cynthia KRAUS , University of Lausanne <i>"A decolonial history of penile circumcision in South Korea (1910-present)."</i>
11H45-12H15	Comments & Replies	<i>Discussants :</i> Prof. John DIMOIA , historian, Seoul National University & Prof. So-Yeon LEEM , STS, Dong-A University, Busan
12H15-12H45	General discussion	<i>Chair :</i> Brian EARP

Afternoon | Ibid.

14H-14H45		Prof. Yuko HIGASHI , gender/sexuality studies, Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan <i>"Three cases of actualization of genital normativity in Japan: Trans, intersex, and pseudophimosis."</i>
14H45-15H30		Dr. Brian EARP , philosopher, psychologist, University of Oxford, U.K. <i>"A new Tuskegee? Unethical human experimentation and Western neocolonialism in the mass circumcision of African men."</i>
15H30-16H	Comments & Replies	<i>Discussants :</i> Prof. Bo Kyeong SEO , anthropologist, Yonsei University & Prof. Ilhak LEE , M.D., bioethicist, Yonsei University
16H-16H30	General discussion	<i>Chair :</i> Cynthia KRAUS
16H30-16H45	<i>Short Break</i>	
16H45-17H45	Concluding Round Table	<i>With the participation of:</i> Attorney Hangyeore CHOE , NOCIRC Korea Sung-Ae Koo , Founder of Aaosung sex education center Korea. Prof. Sungook HONG , STS, Seoul National University <i>And with all the Speakers, Discussants, and Workshop participants</i> <i>Chairs:</i> Cynthia KRAUS, Brian EARP, YUKO HIGASHI
17H45	<i>Farewell</i>	

BIONOTES

Hangyeore CHOE is an Attorney at Myoungjae LAWFRIM. He received his LL.B from Hanyang University and J.D. in Yonsei University Law School. He passed the 5th Korean lawyer qualification exam and have been building up work experience as an attorney. He is expert in family litigation involving inheritance, guardianship, and divorce and provides advice thereon. He provides systematic legal services regarding all issues and procedures related to divorce including which of the two persons are at fault for the divorce, division of property, custody of the children and visitation rights, response to domestic violence, application for advanced ruling, etc. he has achieved good results in many disputes involving division of property, custody of child, etc. which may arise in the course of divorce. In a private capacity, Attorney Choe is a member of NOCIRC Korea.

John P. DiMOIA, is Professor of Korean History at Seoul National University (SNU). He is also affiliated with the STS group at the university. He is author of *Reconstructing Bodies* (2013, Stanford University Press), and one of the editors of *Engineering Asia* (Bloomsbury, 2018). He is currently working on a book outlining Korean developmentalism, 1954-present. Outside of SNU, he has held visiting fellowships at The Needham Research Institute / NRI (Cambridge University), Kyujanggak Institute of Korean Studies, (SNU), Asia Research Institute (NUS), Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG), UCLA (Center for Korean Studies) and FAU STSG (STS Gender). Since July 2022, he has been the editor of *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies*.

Brian D. EARP, PhD, is a Senior Research Fellow in the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics at the University of Oxford, Associate Director of the Yale-Hastings Program in Ethics and Health Policy at Yale University and The Hastings Center, and Associate Editor of the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. Brian's work is cross-disciplinary, following training in philosophy, cognitive science, psychology, history and sociology of science and medicine, and ethics. From 2024, Brian will be a tenured Associate Professor of Biomedical Ethics within the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore.

Yuko HIGASHI, PhD, is a full professor in gender/sexuality studies in the Graduate School of Sustainable System Sciences at Osaka Metropolitan University. She is a former Fulbright grant recipient, who majored in social work at University of Hawaii at Manoa and studied sexology at the Pacific Center for Sex and Society directed by Dr. Milton Diamond. She served as a member of the advisory committee of the World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) from 2009 to 2021 and she is currently on the advisory committee of the Asia-Oceania Federation of Sexology (AOFS). Her recent chapter on male genital cutting is published in *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting : Global Zero Tolerance Policy and Diverse Responses from African and Asian Local Communities* (Springer, 2023) .

Sungook HONG. After receiving his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Seoul National University's Interdisciplinary Program in History and Philosophy of Science, Sungook Hong served as a professor at the University of Toronto, Canada, and as a professor at Seoul National University's School of Life Sciences. He is currently a professor in the Department of Science Studies, where he researches and teaches science and technology studies (STS). His current research interests include technoscience and disaster, science fiction (SF) and STS communication, and ethics-in-action for the regulation of artificial intelligence.

DaiSik KIM is a distinguished professor of physics at UNIST and a professor emeritus of Seoul National University also in physics. He got his B. A. in Physics from Seoul National University in 1985, and M. A. in biophysics in 1986, and Ph. D. in physics in 1990 both from University of California at Berkeley. He did his postdoctoral research at AT&T Bell Laboratories (Holmdel) and Oklahoma State University. Since 1994 until 2019, he was with the physics department of Seoul National University where he rose to full professorship in 2005. He made an early retirement in 2019 to take up the distinguished professorship at UNIST (Ulsan National University of Science and Technology). His areas of research include ultrafast phenomena, terahertz spectroscopy and nano optics of various materials systems. He is a recipient of many awards including the Korea Science Award, Korea Young Scientist Award, and finally the 2000 NOCIRC Human Rights Award "For courageously bringing the issue of genital integrity rights of children to South Korea". He published over 260 research articles in international journals and his google scholar h index is 63.

Sung-Ae Koo is a social activist and instructor in the field of sex education in South Korea. She received a BA in Nursing from Yonsei University in Seoul in 1979. In the 1980s, she worked as a social activist for the Catholic Women's Peasant Association and the Busan Women's Association. Since 1987, she has been offering annual educational workshops on sex education, reaching middle and high schools, mother's associations, the Education Training Institute, and social and religious organizations, conducting 150 workshops each year. She founded the Aosung sex education center in 2000, currently serving as its director and General Manager. Koo has contributed to popularizing knowledge and positive perspectives about children's sexuality and has played a central role in shaping Korean society's approach to sex education. She delivers lectures, regularly appears on various shows, and has published several books on children's sex education. She is still actively engaged in the field.

Cynthia KRAUS, PhD, is a philosopher of science and Senior lecturer in gender studies & STS at the University of Lausanne (UNIL). She is specialized in interdisciplinary collaborations and one of the founders of the "Lausanne School" or "Swiss model" which involved developing an ethic from below and building, across disciplines, a teaching (Medical School, UNIL) and university hospital (CHUV) team of about 20 experts to improve standards of care for intersex people in Switzerland. She also helped develop intersex studies in French and participated in the hearing by the French National Consultative Ethics Committee for Opinion No132 (2019) on variations of sex development. Cynthia received several awards and grants as PI, and conducted research in the U.S., U.K., Canada, France, Belgium, and West Africa. She is currently visiting Ewha and Dong-A universities, working on penile circumcision, cosmetic genital surgeries, and intersex medicine in South Korea, as well as on so-called "ethnic" cosmetic surgeries and bodily modifications such as female genital "mutilations," skin whitening, and "Asian" eyelid surgery.

Ilhak LEE, MD., Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at the Department of Medical Humanities and Social Medicine at Yonsei University College of Medicine. A renowned expert in clinical ethics, Dr. Lee has significantly contributed to enhancing the quality of end-of-life care in Korea through his research on the diverse experiences of Koreans surrounding end-of-life care. His work has not only shed light on the complexities of care but also aimed at improving the standards of compassion and support for patients and their families. Furthermore, Dr. Lee has been actively involved in numerous genomic ELSI (Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications) studies, playing a pivotal role in the development of related policies. He is a strong advocate for empirical bioethics, emphasizing that ethical studies should be grounded in real-world phenomena. Since 2018, Dr. Lee has been collaborating with researchers from the University of Bristol in the UK and Kyoto University in Japan on the BRIDGES-Bristol-Kyoto-Yonsei Project. This international collaboration underscores his commitment to advancing bioethical research and policy-making on a global scale, fostering cross-cultural understanding and solutions in medical ethics.

So-Yeon LEEM is an Assistant Professor at the College of General Education, Dong-A University in Korea. As a recipient of the Fernand Braudel International Fellowship, she served as a postdoctoral fellow in the Chair of Anthropology and Global Health at the Collège d'études mondiales, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in France from 2014 to 2015. She has published both solo and co-authored papers in journals such as *Asian Women*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Medical Anthropology*, *Social Studies of Science*, and *East Asian Science, Technology, and Society*, covering topics like plastic surgery in Korea, egg donation in Hwang's stem cell research, and women's oral health. Drawing on her (auto)ethnographic study of plastic surgery in Gangnam, she authored *How I Became a Plastic Beauty* (2022) and has also written *Women Not Mysterious* (2022), a book examining science, technology, and gender.

Dr No CIRC, M.D., is a practicing physician and manager of the National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Center (NOCIRC) Korea.

Dr Myung-Geol PANG is Professor of the Department of Animal Science and Technology, Director of BET Research Institute, Chung-Ang Univ. (CAU), President of Core Research Institute Council, and Fellow of Korean Academy of Science and Technology. He was President of Korean Society of Developmental Biology. He is also founder and CEO of GenDix, Korea. He previously served as a Senior Researcher at Biomedical Research Center, KAIST and Institute of Reproductive Medicine & Population, Seoul National University. He has received many awards for his work and written articles for many publications on male fertility and environmental health. He studied his Ph.D. in Cellular Endocrinology and Reproductive Biology, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, Virginia, USA. He received the B.S. & M.S. degrees in Animal Science from CAU. His research objective is to identify male fertility markers and their function to control male fertility. His lab has recently discovered key physical markers and biomarkers related with male fertility.

Bo Kyeong SEO is an anthropologist and an Associate Professor at the Department of Cultural Anthropology, College of Social Sciences, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea. She is working on medicine, inequalities, and experiences of dispossession. Over the last ten years, she has been conducting research in Thailand and South Korea, focusing on people's struggle for care in the context of poverty, transnational migration, and stigmatization. Her first book, *Eliciting Care: Health and Power in Northern Thailand*, was published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 2020.

ORGANIZATION & SPONSORS

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Bio and Environmental Technology (BET) Research Institute, Chung-Ang University (CAU), Seoul, South Korea.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Prof. Jung LEE, EIH, Ewha Womans University.

& **Prof. Jongtae LIM**, Director of the Department of Science Studies, SNU.