

HYUNJUNG KIM

Personal Information

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Education

2017 – 2020	New York University M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies Specializing Korean History and Gender Studies GPA: 3.67
Thesis title	The Examination of Korean Motherhood in Kyung-sook Shin's <i>Please Look After Mom</i> via concepts of "Wise Mother, Good Wife" and Double Oppression
Thesis Supervisor	Dr. Elizabeth Heard, Department of Experimental Humanities & Social Engagement
2015 – 2017	Baruch College B.A. Political Science Major GPA: 3.74
2013 – 2015	Berkeley College GPA: 3.91, Dean's List 6 semester

Thesis Abstract

My dissertation examines the socially constructed motherhood in Kyung-sook Shin's novel, *Please Look After Mom*. Using the gender ideology of "Wise Mother and Good Wife" and the postcolonial theory of double oppression as my primary analytical devices, I argue that the motherhood incubated at the height of social and political unrest made 'Mom' a de facto bearer of loyalty/fidelity, a central Confucian precept in three ideal human relationships (between ruler and subject; between parent and child; between husband and wife) indoctrinated by Joseon rulers. In postcolonial Korea marked by throwaway culture, Mom's lifelong devotion as a loyal agent in her bonds with the state, children, and spouse results in the eventual loss of her sense of autonomy as she finds herself incapable of operating in a society that has fully embraced modernization. In the recognition of others, Mom's identity becomes synonymous with her title, 'Mom,' which also becomes her unofficial name in the novel. Lastly, the novel depicts the robust continuity of the motherhood as her youngest daughter - despite her high educational attainment and profession as a pharmacist - assumes the undervalued motherly roles.

Relevant Master's Courseworks (Fall 2017 - Fall 2018)

Approaches to History of Women and Gender, Fall 2017

- This course focused on the methodology and historiography central to the women and gender research
- This course provided an insight into how to use literary works to examine the subtle and non-politicized negotiations inherent in gender relations within a particular cultural context
- Major Texts read: **Joan W. Scott**, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis"; **Gisela Bock**, "Women's History and Gender History: Aspects of an International Debate"; **Linda Alcoff**, "The Problem of Speaking for Others"; **Afsaneh Najmabadi**, "Beyond the Americas: Are Gender and Sexuality Useful Categories of Historical Analysis?"; **Mrinalini Sinha**, "Giving Masculinity a History: Some Contributions from the Historiography of Colonial India"; **Wendy Anne Warren**, "The Cause of Her Grief: The Rape of a Slave in Early New England"; **David Halperin**, "Is there a History of Sexuality?"

- Term Paper: "Korean mothers in 1980s through the Third World gender perspectives" - In this paper, I examined South Korean women who became mothers in the 1980s, a period marked by conventions of patriarchy as well as the industrialization and the democratization movement. By applying the gender theories concerning the Third World, the paper discusses the importance of contextualizing gender within a particular social, political, and cultural locus. In doing so, the paper reveals the systemic construction of Korean motherhood

International Studies in Human Rights, Fall 2017

- This course focused on human rights issue in the Third World through books and films
- This course helped me examine human values, particularly the rights of those who remain marginalized and silenced. I was trained with anthropological, historical, and literary methodologies to examine human rights.
- Major Texts read: **Gabriel Marquez**, *News of a kidnapping*, **Francisco Goldman**; *The Art of Political Murder*; **Nanfu Wang**, *Hooligan Sparrow*; **José Donoso**, *Hell Has No Limits*; **Marge Piercy**, *Woman of the Edge of Time*
- Term Paper: "Pilgi Mun, a comfort woman's personal life story" - Under the collective name *Comfort Women*, the voice of each individual woman is effectively muted. How many people know the names or stories of each individual? By taking a combination of anthropological and historical approach, I focused on Ms. *Mun's* life story not just as a comfort woman but as a woman.

Women and Slavery in the Atlantic World, Spring 2018

- This course focused on gender ideologies concerning women and slaves in the context of third world cultures
- This course provided an insight into gendered relations based on sex, class, and race as well as how such categories contribute to the formation of particular gender relations.
- Major Texts read: **Michel-Rolph Trouillot**, *Silencing the past: power and the production of history*; **Patrick Bryan**, *The Haitian Revolution and its Effects*; **Carolyn Fick**, *The making of Haiti: the Saint Domingue revolution from below*; **Jennifer Morgan**, *Laboring Women*; **Marie Schwartz**, *Birthing a Slave*
- Term Paper: "Beyond the Haitian Revolution: Examining Complex Nature of the Event" - The Haitian Revolution cannot be explained by a singular goal of reactionaries who sought to achieve emancipation. It was a culmination of struggles between varying groups of people (French rulers v. Slaves; Mulattos v. Freed blacks; Freed-slaves v. Slaves; Free Women v. Slaved women). Departing from a narrow political/historical perspective, I focus on the ways in which slave women contributed to the revolution.

Engendering East Asia, Spring 2018

- This course focused on gender issues in countries of East Asia, particularly China, Japan, and Korea
- This course cultivated my understanding of common gender issues of three East Asia countries in the context of Confucianism.
- Major Texts read: **Man Xu**, *Crossing the Gate: Everyday Lives of Women in Song Fujian (960-1279)*; **Theodore Jun Yoo**, *The Politics of Gender in Colonial Korea: Education, Labor, and Health, 1910-1945*; **Weijing Lu**, *True to Her Word: The Faithful Maiden Cult in Late Imperial China*; **Marcia Yonemoto**, *The Problem of Women in Early Modern Japan*; **Barbara Sato**, *The New Japanese Woman: Modernity, Media, and Women in Interwar Japan*
- Term Paper: "The Effect of Confucianism on Korean Motherhood" - This paper examines the sense of guilt Korean mothers often possess toward their sons and daughters. By paying attention to Confucian doctrines that bestow the responsibility of education onto mothers, I trace the formation of the guilt, commonly professed by Korean mothers in the 1980s. Two Korean literary canons - *Please Look After Mom* and *Mother's Stake* - are used as primary sites of discussion.

Language, Culture and Translatability, Fall 2018

- This course focused on metaphysics of translation and the interworking of the modes of translation in terms of space, time, and transnational perspective
- This course provided an insight into the modes of translation, a key element in comparative literature. The metaphysics of translation allowed me to understand the added/distorted/lost meanings inherent in the process of translation

- Major Texts read: **Naoki Sakai & Meaghan Morris**, *Translation and Subjectivity: On Japan and cultural nationalism*; **David Bellos**, "Translation, Imitation, Appropriation: On Working With Impossible Texts"; **Jonathan Abel & Emily Apter**, "Translation as Community: The Opacity of Modernizations of Genji Monogatari"; **Walter Benjamin**, "The task of the Translator"; **Gayatri Spivak**, "The Politics of Translation"
- Term Paper: "Distortion of Originality via Translation in *Please Look After Mom*" - Based on the fact that translation can never be same as the original, I focused on how the novel, *Please Look After Mom*, serves as a great example of texts traversing two linguistic communities through a medium of translation, during which the originality gets distorted.

Experience

May 2021 – Current	Yonsei University Institute of Gender Studies Web communication coordinator & Gender research assistant
Main Responsibilities	Managing official web site's design, contents and feedback, and categorizing academic articles related to Korean gender and women labors as a research assistant.
Feb 2020 - Jan 2021	NYS Assemblyman Ron Kim's office administrative & communication intern
Main Responsibilities	Helping constituents with language and cultural barrier to get their voices heard in the state and municipal governments in all facets of their concerns including housing, transportation, healthcare, nutrition assistance, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translating Korean news article into English for Assemblyman Kim. • Organizing press conference to deliver Mr. Kim's message to local community • Communicating between 311 (NYC Government) and residents regarding civil affairs including governmental benefits for low-income constituencies. • Meeting local constituencies in person on behalf of Mr. Kim in an effort to and gain their signed support for Mr. Kim's consecutive terms. • Informing the constituencies of the local politics as well as their benefits through weekly letters and pamphlets. • Applying for NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) on behalf of the Korean speaking residents.

Volunteers

Oct 2019	Animal Haven Walked abandoned dogs and cleaning shelter
Feb 2016 - May 2016	BARC Shelter Walked abandoned dogs for an hour every Friday.
Apr 2012 – Mar 2016	New York Cares Helped first grade students enjoy art by teaching them various techniques and skills of drawing and painting.
May 2013	Heavenly Angels Cleaned up abandoned cats and dogs' temporary houses.

Skills

Proficient in English & Korean
Microsoft outlook – PowerPoint, Word, Excel
Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere

Reference contact information

Professor Elizabeth Heard, Department of Experimental Humanities & Social Engagement at NYU
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Professor Peter Lucas, Department of Experimental Humanities & Social Engagement at NYU
Contact: peterlucas@nyu.edu

Chief of Staff Tony Cao at Assemblyman Ron Kim office
Contact: tony@ronkim.com