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DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES
Asian Studies Centre Seminar Series

The **University of Cambridge Department of East Asian Studies** is pleased to announce the following lecture in its series of East Asian seminars.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please note this talk is not in the faculty.

Time: 5:00pm, Friday, 27th January 2012

Venue: Umney Theatre, Robinson College



Korean Culture after the Kim Dae-Jung Administration

Prof. Kang Nae-Hui, Chung-Ang University

Friday, 27th January 2012, Umney Theatre, Robinson College, 5:00pm



Culture in Korea has undergone a great transformation over the last three decades. In the days of the Park Chung Hee dictatorship, it had been the “hand-maiden” of politics, as it was easily wielded by political power. As the result of rapid industrialization, the country saw the economy growing increasingly autonomous from political intervention. This change had an impact on culture as well, liberating it from politics. During the 1990s, it was often said that the “era of culture” was coming with the emergence of what was then called “cultural discourse.” For Korean culture, this was both a blessing and a crisis: now more autonomous but left without state protection, it had to prove its own value and productivity. This change has much to do with the neoliberalization of the country. This talk will focus on some aspects of the relationship between politics, the economy, and culture in South Korea which have led to significant transformations in the nature, social status, and function of culture. I also want to take a look at the ways in which changes in culture after the Kim Dae-Jung administration have contributed to developing a new social technology of subject formation.

Prof. Kang Nae-hui teaches English literature and cultural studies in the Department of English and the Graduate Program of Cultural Studies at Chung-Ang University in Seoul. Publisher of the cultural studies journal *Munhwa/Kwahak* since 1992, he has also been responsible for the Korean edition of *Traces*, a multi-lingual series of translation and cultural theory. His publications have dealt with such topics as Korean colonial modernity, technologies of writing, the idea of cultural society, knowledge production and education reform, intellectual movements, and neoliberal dominance in South Korea. His published books include *Korean Culture and ‘Communism’ in the Age of Neoliberalism* (in Korean, 2008); *Impacts of Modernities* (Co-edited with Thomas Lamarre, 2004); *Cultural transformations in South Korea and cultural politics* (in Korean, 2003); *Power of literature, Value of Literature* (in Korean, 2003). Having finished his second term as chair of the executive committee of Marx Commune, a Marxist intellectuals’ organization formed to hold biennial conferences, he is widely active in Korean intellectual and social movements. Currently he is co-chair of Cultural Action, a major social movement organization.

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