

AEMS Educator Workshop: Teaching Korea Through Film

Saturday, September 30, 2006

**Springer Cultural Center,
Champaign, Illinois**

In conjunction with the [Asian Film Festival](#)



This free workshop was offered to local educators as an opportunity to explore the use of some of the films screened at our [Asian Film Festival](#) as teachers tools. We invited speakers from around the country to give presentations. Twenty-five Illinois educators, from elementary school through college, attended the workshop.

The original announcement of the workshop is available as a PDF download [here](#).

The [Spring 2007 issue](#) of the AEMS newsletter reviewed these films, along with an overview of the "Korean Wave" phenomenon.

 [View Workshop Presentations](#)

 To watch, you must have Real Player. Click the logo to download.

Presenters:

Heinz Insu Fenkl

Featured Presenter

Dr. Fenkl spoke about the Korean animated feature film, *Empress Chung*, as a window into Korean culture. He provided historical both for the history of animation in Korea and for the traditional folktale of *Shim Chung*, on which this film is based. *Empress Chung* is suitable for elementary and possibly middle school students.

Professor Fenkl is director of the both the Creative Writing Program and the Interstitial

Studies Institute at the State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz. He is the author of two novels, including, *Memories of My Ghost Brother* (Dutton Books, 1996), an autobiographical novel about his bi-racial childhood in 1960s Korea.

Related links:

[Empress Chung Official Website](#)

[Korean Film Council \(KOFIC\)'s page about Empress Chung](#)

Includes synopsis, awards, credits, and director bio.

[Heinz Insu Fenkl's website](#)

Includes links to his fiction and online essays.

Aaron Magnan-Park

Dr. Magnan-Park's presentation, entitled "*Globalizing Korean Culture: 'Korean Fever' and South Korean Cinema*," discussed the unexpected global success of South Korean cultural products. This phenomenon is often referred to as "*hallyu*," or "Korean Fever."

Dr. Magnan-Park is Assistant Professor of Film, Television and Theatre at the University of Notre Dame. He has published several articles on South Korean and Hong Kong cinema.

Related links:

[Hallyu](#)

A wikipedia article.

[Oasis on Metacritic](#)

Information about the film, *Oasis*, mentioned in Dr. Magnan-Park's presentation, with links to several film reviews.

[Interview with Lee Jeong-hyang](#)

AsiaSource interviews the director of *The Way Home* , another film mentioned in this presentation.

Seungsook Moon

Dr. Moon discussed the significance of the male-only conscription system to the social and economic organization of contemporary Korean society, providing the broad social and cultural context to understand the film *The Unforgiven*. Professor Moon is Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Asian Studies Program at Vassar College. She is the author of *Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea* (Duke University Press, 2005) and is currently editing a volume entitled *Gender and Sexuality in the Global U.S. Military Empire*.

Related Links

For links related to the film *The Unforgiven*, click [here](#).

Hyunju Park

Ms. Park used the film *Please Teach Me English* as an opening to discuss the South Korean ambivalence towards learning English. Although English competency is broadly recognized as important to social mobility, many Koreans openly or privately resent it as a destroyer of Korean national identity.

Ms. Park has just completed a dissertation on this topic in the Linguistics Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Related Links

General info page about *Please Teach Me English*

Anne Prescott

Facilitator

Dr. Prescott is Associate Director of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Last Updated July 27, 2012

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