

Program in Transnational Korean Studies

Presents:

“The Disappearance of a “Lesbian Park”: Space, Gender, and Sexuality in Contemporary Seoul”

Dr. Layoung Shin

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UC San Diego



Date

**Tuesday,
November 3, 2015**

Time

4:00-5:30pm

Location

**Humanities &
Social Sciences
Room 3027**

Sinch'on Park (pictured above) is a small public park in downtown Seoul that has been well known as a gathering place for young queer women since the early 2000s. It was widely referred to as a “Lesbian Park,” and some young queer women called it “home.” However, during 2012 and 2013, the popularity of Sinch'on Park has decreased; at the same time, young queer women's off-line cultural activities and displays of same-sex sexuality have disappeared. In attending to this change in the urban spaces of Seoul, I explore how Sinch'on Park has lost its role as a queer space for young women and how public visibility of young queer women in general has decreased in recent years. I contextualize such change within the context of a newly emerging moral discourses on homosexuality, age, gender and hierarchies within LGBT communities in contemporary South Korea.

Dr. Layoung Shin has a Ph.D. in anthropology from State University of New York at Binghamton and a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer at the Transnational Korean Studies Program of UC San Diego.