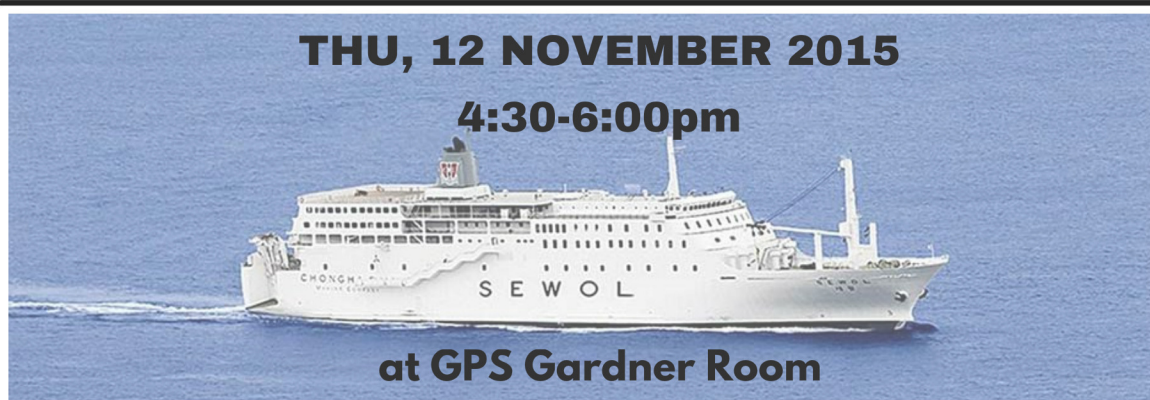


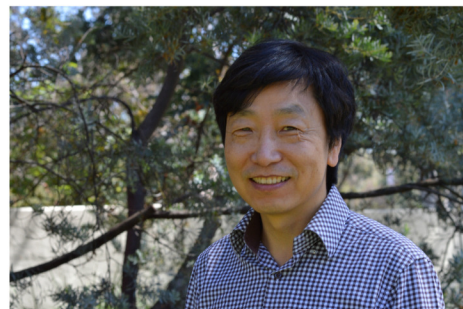
# The Legacies of State Corporatism in Korea: Regulatory Capture and Corruption in the Sewol Ferry Tragedy



Scholars have proposed two different political economy explanations for the Sewol ferry accident that claimed 304 lives in April 2014: neoliberal reforms and corruption. We argue that regulatory capture and corruption are the dominant factors in the tragedy. The delegation of enforcement of safety regulations to the shipping industry association was not a neoliberal reform, but a direct legacy of the Park Chung-hee regime's state corporatism that protected the monopoly of the lucrative Incheon-Jeju ferry business at the expense of public safety.

Dr. Jong-sung You is a senior lecturer in the Department of Political and Social Change, Australian National University. His research interests include comparative politics and the political economy of inequality, corruption, social trust, and freedom of expression. His publications include *Democracy, Inequality and Corruption: Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines Compared* (Cambridge University Press 2015) and articles in academic journals including *American Sociological Review*, *Political Psychology*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, and *Journal of Contemporary Asia* among others. He obtained his Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University and taught at UC San Diego before joining the faculty of ANU. Before pursuing an academic career, he fought for democracy and social justice in South Korea and was imprisoned for his political activities.

**Presented by**  
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**Coordinated by**  
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**A reception will be held following the talk.**

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