

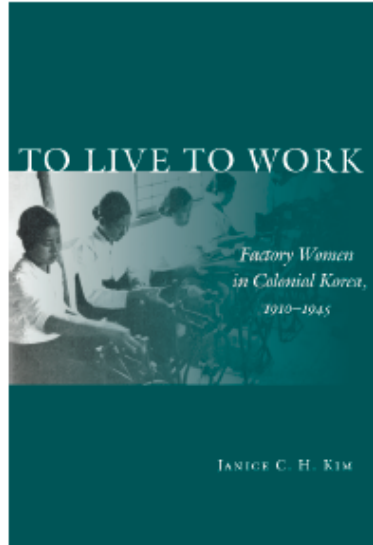
Janice C. H. Kim

“Women’s Work during the Pacific War:
The Labor Volunteer Corps in Late-Colonial Korea, 1937-1945”

Date: Friday, January 28, 2011

Time: 5:00-6:30 PM

Place: Pepper Canyon Hall Rm. 121



Kim’s discussion of women’s work in wartime Korea (1937-1945) has several aims. First, it narrates the contributions of Korean women to industrial production in the Japanese wartime empire. Second, by outlining the central policies and programs that brought industry and labor under the rubric of “imperial mobilization,” Kim will furnish examples of the scope of the war’s social effects. Third, she will elaborate on the ways in which female labor recruitment was performed under the auspices of student campaigns in its early years. Still facing a labor shortage in 1943, officials decided to recruit women explicitly for heavy industry and aimed for greater enlistment of women in the colonies. Describing how the Women’s Labor Volunteer Corps mobilized trainable female workers for all types of war-related industries is the fourth objective of this study. Fifth, Kim will focus on the oral histories of female volunteers employed in the machine and machine tools sectors, specifically, the operatives of the Fujikoshi steel factory in Toyama, Japan, to offer alternative renderings of women in wartime Korea. In

so doing, she will expose some of the lesser known effects of Japan’s total war in Korea.

Janice C. H. Kim is an associate professor of History at York University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Born in Seoul and raised in the Washington D.C. area, Dr. Kim has a B.A. and M.A. in History from The Johns Hopkins University (1996) and a M.A. in East Asian Studies (1997) and Ph.D. in History from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, U.K. (2001). She is currently working on a book manuscript tentatively entitled, “Between Mountains: Refugee Life during the Korean War,” which explores the social and economic history of refugees and civilian livelihood during and after the Korean War.

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