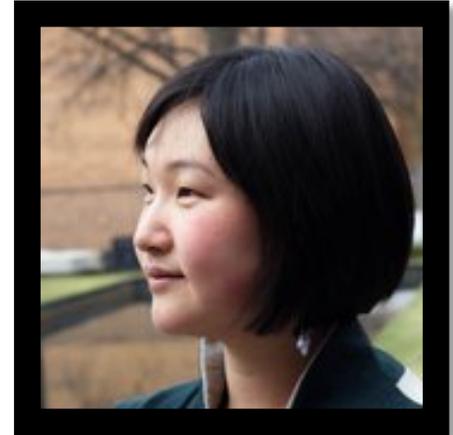


Program in Transnational Korean Studies *Presents:*

Maternal Guardians: Intimate Labor and the Pursuit of Gendered Citizenship among South Korean Volunteers

Hae Yeon Choo

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Department of Sociology
University of Toronto-Mississauga



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4:30pm – 6:00pm

HSS Room 4025

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This talk uses ethnographic research to examine the intimate labor of South Korean middle-class women who volunteer in immigrant integration programs for migrant women entering South Korea via cross-border marriages. I show that volunteers participate in South Korea's nation-building project under globalization as the “maternal guardians” of migrant women, thus challenging their own gender-based subordination while sustaining the racial and class hierarchy and the heteronormativity of the Korean nation. These women use intimate knowledge about

migrant women as a medium to pursue respect in the face of gendered discontent and transform themselves as new global South Korean citizens.

Hae Yeon Choo is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto. Her research centers on gender, migration, and citizenship. Her interest in using intersectional analysis informs her articles in *Sociological Theory* and *Gender & Society*. Her book manuscript *The Paradox of Citizenship: Gender, Labor, and Migrant Rights in South Korea* (under contract with Stanford University Press) examines how inequalities of gender, race, and class affect migrant rights through a comparative study of three groups of Filipina women in South Korea—factory workers, wives of South Korean men, and club hostesses. She has also translated Patricia Hill Collins's *Black Feminist Thought* into Korean.