

Program in Transnational Korean Studies

Presents:

"The Melancholia of Queer Korea: Toward an Anthology of Fiction"

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Date

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Time

4:00-5:30pm

Location

Dolores Huerta - Philip
Vera Cruz Room, Student Center

The contested nature of queerness in South Korea was suddenly brought into relief this summer when the 2015 Queer Cultural Festival precipitated a very powerful backlash by those who would deny a queer history in Korea. My latest research involves an effort to help restore this history through a volume of translated fiction. But what concerns and responsibilities adhere to the task of giving voice to "sexual minorities" through a fragmented body of literature, sometimes but not always written by queer-identified people? And in what ways can fiction help to weave a new narrative of Korean history that incorporates the voices of those whose affective and erotic experiences have long been at odds with the heavy-handed heteronormativity that has shaped sexual desires and their public expression in Korean for the last century? In my talk I'll share what I've found in the archives and the struggles of anthologizing and translating queerness today.