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Thinking about the Truth(s) in North Korea

Thursday, May 31, 2018
4:00 - 6:00 pm,
Humanities & Social Sciences Bldg.
3rd Floor, Room 3027

In the US, where we have the world's most advanced technologies and scientific discoveries in many distinct areas such as medicine, engineering, information dissemination, transportation, or conveniences of daily life, we find a strong belief that certain races are inferior to others, a belief that women are naturally made unfit for sciences, or a belief that a wealthy man is the best to run the nation. In North Korea, they have a credible nuclear technology that can reach and destroy us, we find that people there have a strong belief that their Leader is almighty and can make miracles happen at his will. Are these two societies so far apart? Or, is the way we think about North Korea itself has a problem? Society by default is a bundle of contradictions and discrepancies. At the same time, as shown by generations of anthropologists, every society has inner logic that is coherent. So, when we think about North Korea, why do we forget that and demand utmost consistency in all aspects of its society? In this exploratory talk, Sonia Ryang will try to unpack the way by which truth (or the truths) is constructed, handled, and believed in North Korea and the way by which we seem to be not seeing it.

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