

Institute for Korean Studies Lecture Series

Korean Songs: From Sijo to K-Pop

2020-2021

IKS
LECTURE
SERIES

Wednesday, February 17

4:00-5:30 pm EST

Online



Young-mee Cho

Rutgers University

Professor Cho discusses one of the most prominent and enduring poetic forms of traditional Korea, sijo, a three-line verse form written to be performed in a musical setting, emerged in the latter part of the Koryŏ dynasty (918-1392), flourished through the Chosŏn dynasty (1392-1910). After chronicling the rise of this distinctive literary/musical genre, I will then explore its developmental into the 18th century sasŏl sijo as a narrative form and modern sijo as written both in Korean and English. Finally, I will examine the 20th century emergence of song lyrics as a new literary genre in the context of musical performance: art songs based on poems at one end and Korean popular music (yuhaengga & K-Pop) at the other.

Young-mee Yu Cho is an Associate Professor of Korean Language and Culture at the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. In addition to her publications in the areas of East Asian linguistics and Korean language education, she has been doing research on sociolinguistic issues, including Korean/Japanese honorifics and the development of Korean Hip Hop lyrics.

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