



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

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APRIL

2023 THE INSTITUTE FOR KOREAN STUDIES AND MERSHON CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES PRESENT:

**"PRIVACY FOR MODERN HOUSING: TRANSNATIONAL
ANTI-COMMUNISM AND POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION
IN COLD WAR SOUTH KOREA"**

NA SIL HEO

Associate Professor of East Asian History, University of South Carolina

After the Korean War (1950–53), Korean architects (re)negotiated their understanding of good, modern housing befitting the Cold War milieu. Among many, privacy (p'ŭraibo'shi) became a central architectural concern in South Korea, reflecting Korea's deep engagement with liberal values that were claimed to be lacking in socialist countries. In this talk, I argue that the discussion of conjugal sex in architectural texts, newspapers, and magazines was linked to Cold War visions of privacy, which was construed to be distinct to liberal, capitalist societies (noncommunist societies). Privacy was a project of articulating a qualitative difference from the collective and communal housing that was understood to be characteristic of communism in North Korea. In this way, housing became a site of transnational anti-communism, as architects and aspiring homeowners invested much energy in the ideological and material construction of privacy as a salient feature of modern housing in South Korea.



Free and open to the public

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/iks-lecture-na-sil-heo-privacy-modern-housing-transnational-anti-communism-and-postwar>

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The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center**

**Monday
12:00-1:30pm
Derby Hall 1039**