



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

# 2024 THE EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER PRESENTS:

## “MIGRANT CRASH”

**JOSEPH JEON**

**University of California, Irvine**

This paper examines Ryusuke Hamaguchi’s acclaimed 2021 film, *Drive My Car*, and in particular its ostensibly celebratory depiction of migration (to South Korea) at the end of the film. This unlikely shift in scenery ambivalently straddles two very different forms of transnational flow, conflating in the manner of fantasy the freedom of commodity and capital movement across borders and that of unencumbered human migration. In so doing, the scene expresses an otherwise a repressed fact in contemporary migration discourse, that the current crisis that we see at various borders around the world between the Global North and South bears a material relationship to the histories of extraction that have characterized such geopolitical relations, be it in the form of colonial tribute or neo-imperial free trade hegemony.



**Free and open to the public**  
<https://easc.osu.edu/events/josephjeon>

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The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center**

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JANUARY

Thursday  
2:00-3:30pm  
Mendenhall Lab 185