



The Institute for
Korean Studies
presents:

Ingu Hwang
**"1974, Watershed
Moment in Transpacific
Human Rights Activism
and Politics for Korea"**

50 years ago, in 1974, the darkest time of democracy just loomed as President Park Chung-hee enacted a series of emergency decrees. Ironically, this excessive suppression led to the internationalization of pro-democracy struggles. I argue that this was the watershed moment in which local protests expanded into transpacific human rights activism and politics. I first note the entanglement between Korea's political transition and the globally revitalized "human rights" framework by the early 1970s. Then, I show how local and transnational activists collaborated to articulate the 1974 crackdowns as human rights cases, especially through the US Congress, the emerging global human rights center. In illustrating this developing transpacific human rights activism, I call attention to the parallel development of counter-mobilization led by the Park regime and the Nixon-Ford administration to secure Cold War security consensus. Thus, I highlight that local disputes over democratization in Korea became transnational contestations on human rights.

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Hagerty Hall 145

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