



The Institute for  
Korean Studies  
presents:

**Kee-Yoon Nahm**  
Illinois State University

## "Interrogating the Nation-State in Contemporary South Korean Theatre"

FA 24 IKS Lecture

This lecture begins with an overview of the political turn in South Korean theatre since 2014. In the wake of multiple political crises, theatre artists have interrogated the functions and responsibilities of the bureaucratic nation-state, still rooted in the late-twentieth-century ideology of ethno-nationalism. After the historical overview, the lecture then examines two plays by award-winning playwright Yun Mi Hyun as case studies. *The Wooden Boat* (2019) focuses on the experiences of an elderly man displaced from his home that is now in North Korean territory, while *Texas Aunt* (2017) depicts a rural South Korean community where the exploitation and abuse of migrant women run rampant. These plays reflect the ways in which contemporary Korean theatre interrogates and reimagines the nation-state through domestic political action and a heightened awareness of South Korea's positionality in twenty-first century geopolitics.

**November 6, 2:20-3:40pm**

Zoom

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