



**The Institute for  
Korean Studies  
presents:**



**Kyeong Hee-Choi  
University of Chicago**

**"Translation as Cultural Decolonization:  
North Korea's 'Selected World Literature'  
Project, 1960-1967"**

Prevailing colonial and postcolonial studies in the West have afforded little space for addressing the complexities of Korea's colonial experience, subsequent national division, and their consequences. Addressing an under-explored area, this study investigates a case of postcolonial reckoning with colonial legacies wherein building literary infrastructure through translation served as an institutional framework for cultural decolonization. The focus is North Korea's state-sponsored "Selected World Literature" project from 1960 to 1967. This presentation draws upon a collaborative work with Moon-seok Jang (Professor of Korean Literature, Kyung Hee University).

**September 25, 2025**  
**2:20-3:40pm**  
Hopkins Hall 246  
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