

# Institute for Korean Studies Lecture Series

## Ecodystopian Posthumanism: Nuclear Apocalyptic Fiction and Cli-Fi in South Korea

**50**  
1969–2019  
EAST ASIAN  
STUDIES  
CENTER

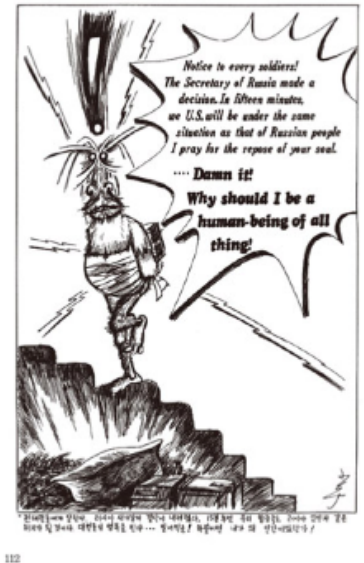
Tuesday March 17, 4-5:00 pm  
Hopkins Hall 250



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This presentation examines the development of environmentalist themes in South Korean science fiction from the 1960s through the 2010s. Environmental themes have been relatively rarely treated in the local practice of the genre. While also inquiring into the reasons for the scarcity, the analysis will concentrate on three examples of existing works: Kim Yunju's 1960 existentialist novella "Apocalypse in Relief," Sin Kihwal's 1989 post-apocalyptic graphic satire *Here Come Nuclear Bugs*, and Kim Changgyu's 2017 cli-fi story "Only to Be." Distinctive of these works is a tendency to reflect upon an ecocatastrophe by blurring the boundaries between the human, the animal, and the machine. This "ecodystopian posthumanism," it will be suggested, reflects a shared belief, among the writers, in the existence of intimate ties between developmentalism and humanism in South Korea's process of techno-industrial modernization.



Free and open to the public  
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