Institute for Korean Studies Lecture Series

Re-centering Female Narratives through Murmurs and Song





Thursday Nov. 7 3:55-5:15 pm Hayes Hall 006

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When people gather to share their voices, they both claim a public role and re-center narratives to include their experiences and their perspectives. Such expressivities are key to building and nurturing fluid social relationships. This presentation focuses on the role of heungeulsori (murmuring sound), an individualistic and improvisatory expression of female desire and angst. In Korea, heungeulsori has served as an emotional outlet for women, uttered either in hopes the message could be received or, at least, released onto the air. Here, I examine diverse contexts for the performance of heungeulsori and consider the ways by which performers evoke individual, community and regional identities through use of melodic and narrative tropes. By examining public presentations of a once-private form of female articulation, the presentation touches on the ways by which concepts of genre and related expressivities transform in accordance with societal transformations and the human relationships therein.





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