

Institute for Korean Studies presents

Beyond Stereotypes: Understanding Japanese and Korean Education

Thursday, September 27, 2018

2:20 pm — 3:40 pm

Evans Lab, Room 2004

88 W. 18th Ave.

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Abstract: With its K-12 students' high performance in various international achievement tests, Japanese and Korean education -- has drawn much interest from educational scholars and policymakers in various countries. Japanese and Korean education is also distinctive with its extraordinary speed of expansion, making young population in the two countries as the most educated in the world. However, less known are structural features of Japanese and Korean education that are responsible for these educational outcomes. Instead, various stereotypes on Japanese and Korean education prevail in both public and scholarly discussions. In this talk, Park introduces major institutional features of Japanese and Korean education, and links those features to their students' academic performance. Bringing in some empirical evidence, Park challenges stereotypical accounts of higher performance among Japanese and Korean students. His talk will highlight an emerging issue — educational inequality — which is often ignored in stereotypical accounts of Japanese and Korean education.

Bio: Professor Park received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2005. He has published a single-authored book, *Re-Evaluating Education in Japan and Korea: De-mystifying Stereotypes* (2013 Routledge) and co-edited a book, *Korean Education in Changing Economic and Demographic Contexts* (with Kyung-Keun Kim, 2014 Springer), and two previous volumes of Research in the Sociology of Education (Vol 19. *Family Environments, School Resources, and Educational Outcomes* with Grace Kao, 2016; and Vol. 17. *Globalization, Changing Demographics, and Educational Challenges in East Asia* with Emily Hannum and Yuko Butler, 2010). Park also has edited three journal special issues as either a single editor or coeditor on the topics of education as a positional good, young adults in East Asia, and growing up in one-parent families in Asia. Park has published more than 70 journal articles and book chapters. Park is the director of the research lab, "Korean Millennials: Coming of Age in the Era of Inequality," which is investigating multifaceted challenges faced by Korean Millennials in their pathways to adulthood in the context of rising inequality (supported by the Academy of Korean Studies).

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