



Freie Universität Berlin  
Institute of Korean Studies



**KDI SCHOOL**  
KDI School of Public Policy and Management



KDIS-FU KEP  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
**2020**  
SUMMER  
**SPECIAL  
LECTURES  
SERIES**



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Freie Universität Berlin  
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2020 KDI School-FU IKS  
Korea-Europe Programme

## SUMMER SCHOOL

For a number of years now, the Institute of Korean Studies at Freie Universität Berlin has been organising a yearly summer school for students in Korean studies from various European universities. It is doing so in recognition of the need for students majoring in Korean Studies to be given the opportunity to visit historical sites in Korea and engage in on-site discussions with Korean academics, other experts, and activists. This year saw the first time that the summer school was organised within the framework of the KDIS-FU IKS Korea-Europe Programme (short for “Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management – Freie Universität Berlin Institute of Korean Studies Korea Europe Programme”), which allowed us to invite applications from students in Korean Studies at universities across the whole of Europe. Running for three weeks from 8 to 26 August 2020, this year’s summer school concerned itself with the theme of “The Korean War 70 years on: War as Everyday Life, Everyday Life as War”. In a departure from the teaching methods of previous summer schools prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, its programme consisted of a combination of online classes and offline field trips. The online classes were held during the 14-day period of compulsory self-quarantine following the students’ entry into Korea. Regulations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic being very strict in Korea, to the point where no physical social interaction whatsoever is permitted during the period of self-quarantine, our students met online every day for six hours of seminars, study groups, and lectures. The summer school’s online lectures also served as lectures in the Institute of Korean Studies’ Summer Special Lecture Series and were, as such, open to all students of Korean Studies and all scholars with an interest in the Korean War. Each lecture was attended by a number of roughly 100 students and scholars from all over the world.

Next to attending online lectures and participating in online seminars, the eight undergraduate students and four doctoral students participating in the summer school undertook a number of field trips in and around Seoul, the doctoral students assuming the role of tutors to their undergraduate peers. While the sudden spike in the number of confirmed cases of corona virus infections from the 16th of August onwards and the corresponding tightening of social distancing rules to “Level 2” brought with them a number of unforeseen circumstances, we were able to safely and successfully complete our programme of fieldwork excursions, doing so with due regard for the government’s COVID-19 guidelines.

On the last day of the programme, the undergraduate participants gave presentations on topics they had engaged with during the three weeks of seminars, study groups, lectures, and field trips. These presentations were the more special and meaningful in light of the extraordinary circumstances of this year’s summer school, and their standard easily matched that of presentations given by graduate students.

Following the end of the summer school, we asked our students for their opinions on the programme they had participated in with such earnest and sincere interest. Below is a collection of the responses we received from six of the undergraduate students. They give a vivid account of this year’s summer school and allow us to get an impression of what it has meant to its participants.



“I arrived in Seoul on August 9th. After some time at the airport and in the taxi, I took my first Covid-19 test. After that, I had to go into a two-week quarantine. Exhausted and tired, I arrived in my room and shortly after had the first online meeting of the Summer School program. From then on this was the daily schedule in quarantine. Lectures, discussions, watching movies and reading texts about the Korean War. Even though we still struggled with the jet lag in the first days, it soon became clear what a positive influence the Summer School program had on our well-being in quarantine. Through the program, we had a daily routine, and there was never a moment of boredom. Besides, it was good to see people and talk to each other every day - even if it was just online. The contact and exchange with others were incredibly valuable during these isolated two weeks. So was the daily input of knowledge. In the morning, we mostly watched films which we then talked about in the meeting at lunchtime. Here we also discussed the lecture of the previous day, resolved any questions or prepared for the next class in the afternoon. Our tutors were at our side at all times - not only when it came to deciding queries and discussions, but also in matters regarding quarantine, they were generous support and security. Their help and concern for our well-being took quite a load off our shoulders. The days flew by, and the time went by super quickly until the day came when I got out of quarantine. At noon, I was picked up by our van, which we used to drive around for the next few days. I went from a room where I spent the last two weeks, straight out into life in the middle of Seoul. So many new impressions, so much to discover and learn, good food and good fellowship. The field trip days were probably the best time of the Summer School program. We got picked up in the morning, we're always on the road until the evening and went to all sorts of places that you probably wouldn't have gotten to so smoothly as an exchange student on your first real days in Seoul. In the evening, I always went to bed exhausted but super happy and looked forward to the next day. With all knowledge from the lectures and field trips, we prepared presentations for the last day of the Summer School program. The choice of topic was free for our two groups. Therefore we were able to choose a topic that had incredibly aroused our interest in the last couple of days. With the presentations and a joint final discussion and dinner, this year's Summer School program under exceptional circumstances ended. Despite the current situation, the best was being made of it and I can only recommend everyone to participate in the Summer School program. To learn so much about a specific topic in just two weeks is otherwise probably hardly possible. Therefore, the Summer School program is a perfect offer and it is worth taking the time. There is an absolute requirement, but it does not overstrain you and is a rather good challenge. The contents are fascinating and therefore, worth the effort. Another plus is the fact that the Summer School program is held in English, which quickly makes you feel more confident in speaking, discussing and giving presentations in English, which could also be an advantage for future exchange students.”

(Antonia Schulze)

“After arriving at ICN airport, I was driven directly to the district health department to have a corona test performed. Afterwards, I went to the quarantine facility that I had booked in advance. For the next 14 days, I was not allowed to leave this room. Food was put in front of my door in the morning. Per Webex meeting, I connected myself every day to the summer school lectures and the group discussions. To prepare our final group presentation, we met at discord and used google docs to collect our information piece by piece without contact. The intensive program made the 14 quarantine days fly by. Due to the abrupt increase in the number of infections and the associated restrictions, such as museum closures and contact restrictions, the field trips could not be carried out as planned. Our institute rented a van including the driver, in which the participants of the Summer School, the tutors and our institute management could sit comfortably. The hot weather and the rainy season made the trips even more difficult. But our tutors provided us with water, snacks, and umbrellas. We drove from place to place and stayed exclusively in the fresh air. Most remarkable was the trip to Incheon to the Incheon Landing Memorial and the outside of the Korean War Memorial Museum. We made the best out of the situation, and I took a lot of knowledge and lovely memories from the summer school with me.”

(Isabelle Lemke)



“This year's Summer School ... encountered many struggles due to the ongoing pandemic situation but still managed to be an excellent experience for the students and the participants worldwide. During our mandatory two-week quarantine, we had a pretty intensive schedule with a mix of reading, watching movies, group discussions and the actual lectures by the professors. While the program was intensive, it helped us staying active during the quarantine period and managed to teach us about a variety of topics about the Korean war. Each professor is an expert about a specific aspect regarding the Korean war, which combined, made the program contain comprehensive knowledge. During the first week, we learned about the Korean war history itself, the legacies of the war and also the concept of "Weltbürgerkrieg". It is important to note that reading the provided documents beforehand is beneficial to understand the lecture's content further. In the second week, the topics got more specific, so we looked at the Korean war in rural villages, the making of an anticommunist ideology and we had a look at cinematic representation about the war in different countries. Following the lectures and coming out of quarantine, we had fieldwork which was an additional struggle because many public places were not accessible. ... the Summer School 2020 was a unique, but worthwhile experience. ... we gained an extensive amount of knowledge about the Korean war and managed to arrive smoothly in Seoul, which makes it easy to recommend this program for other students.”

(Marvin Wittler)

“The Summer School of 2020 has been a new experience in multiple ways. Due to the worldwide pandemic especially travelling and the quarantine period brought a lot of new challenges. Therefore, the Summer School program was changed accordingly to fit the new restrictions and also to help us, students, to pass the quarantine time quickly. ... I gained new academic insights, but also a lot of confidence in asking critical questions and engaging in intellectual discussions during the short but intense two weeks of online schooling. The online quarantine lessons were followed by one week of fieldwork trips to various memorials and locations showing the impact of the Korean War. Unfortunately, we could not follow the fieldwork program as planned, as a new upsurge in Covid-19 cases resulted in more closings of public places. Nevertheless, there were still enough places left to visit – be it the place of the Incheon landing operation or the Namsan Tower, to get a good view of the city and recognize the marks of the colonialization through Japan and the American occupation left in the city's appearance. ... The Summer School was ended with group presentations, where each student got the opportunity to present his or her points of interest gathered through the three works of research, lectures and tours. If given a chance, I would gladly join such a program again, as I felt like I was able to grasp certain concepts and ideas a lot better through a short but packed schedule. I would also like to recommend a program like this year's Summer School to other students at the start of their exchange year, to get some help with settling in and getting adjusted in a new environment.”

(Nele Steffen)



“Summer School 2020 had quite exceptional circumstances because of Corona. ... This year's topic was the Korean war and a normal day in Summer School consisted of one or two lectures with Q&A Sessions, group meetings with our tutors and topic related movies or essays we had to watch or read as preparation for the classes and seminars. It was a great chance to participate in lectures from some of the most renowned Professors in their field of study, and we got a detailed and diverse insight to the topic of the Korean War and its multiple facets. It was a unique opportunity to learn in-depth about the Korean War, and I learned more in these two weeks than I could ever have through a regular course in university. But the essential part of Summer School for me was the people, not only the other participants but especially the tutors. Not only did they go out of their way to find places for our field trips, which were limited because of Corona restrictions, but also build a relaxed but still learning orientated atmosphere in the meetings and were always available if we had any problems. ... The Summer School was an invaluable experience and a tremendous help starting my year in Korea, especially as someone who has never been here before.”

(Colin Erdmann)



“... Different from all the previous years, this Summer School was conducted mostly online with two weeks of online lectures and one week of field trips. Of course, it made sense to start the program during our quarantine stay, which made our isolation less isolating, thanks to all the group discussions we had almost every day. Still, it also made the time go by much quicker than expected because we had a packed schedule that occupied most of our time. At first, I was quite unsure if it would not be too demanding to have a plan from 10 AM to 6 PM almost every day. Still, one quickly underestimates how much time you have on your hands in these two weeks. I quickly adjusted to the routine of watching documentaries, movies and lectures, which we later discussed together. ... Before I entered the program, I thought, that I had already learned plenty about the Korean War, as it is a very defining period for Korea in many ways and a big part of my studies at university. Still, I was soon taught better because the lectures showed an abundance of topics in the context of the Korean War that I had never heard or even thought about. Within these two weeks, I had not only learned more about the Korean War than I have in the past two years, but I also expanded my general knowledge and understanding of Korean politics, society and history in a way, that was only possible due to the intense schedule and multi-faceted topics that were presented by experts of the field of Korean Studies. The whole time, the tutors did not only encourage us to ask questions for a more in-depth understanding but also helped us get through various problems during our quarantine and took care of us after we finally entered the real world again, which helped tremendously with our arrival in Seoul, a city, that for most of us felt like uncharted waters in which we dipped our toe in for the first time, unaware of what to expect. Directly after the quarantine, the field trips started, and we were supposed to visit many places in Seoul that have a connection to the war. But after all the obstacles, the Coronavirus already had placed in front of us, and it would have been too easy for the field trips to work out the way they were planned. The number of Corona cases in Seoul surged up again, and a lot of locations we planned to visit were closed. Still, after many changes of the plan by Professor Lee and our tutors, we did visit various places, that are connected to the Korean War and that we were able to integrate into our final presentations on the last day of the Summer School. ...”

(Anika Schneider)





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THE KOREAN WAR 70 YEARS ON  
**„WAR AS EVERYDAY LIFE,  
EVERYDAY LIFE AS WAR“**

The Institute of Korean Studies at Freie Universität Berlin invites you to attend its **Summer Special Lecture Series 2020** – **“The Korean War 70 years on: War as everyday life, everyday life as war”**. Held in the form of online presentations by leading experts in the field of research on the Korean War, these lectures form part of this year’s **KDIS-FU Korea-Europe Programme Summer School** in Korea, but are equally open to all students of Korean Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and to all those who have an interest in Korea and the Korean War. Should you wish to join the Webex meeting for one of the lectures in the series, please send an email to Marla Seline Koch ([mkskoch@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:mkskoch@zedat.fu-berlin.de)) by 4pm (Berlin time) on the day preceding the day of the relevant lecture.

#### 1st WEEK

**11 Aug, 9am (Berlin time)/4pm (KST)**

**Prof. Park Myung-ilm:** „Korean War – History“

**12 Aug, 9am/4pm**

**Prof. Kwon Heonik:** „Another Cold-War and the Korean War“

**13 Aug, 9am/4pm**

**Prof. Han Kyung-Koo:** „Legacies of the Korean War in South Korea“

**14 Aug, 9am/4pm**

**Prof. Han Monica:** „Legacies of the Korean War in North Korea“

#### 2nd WEEK

**17 Aug, 9am/4pm**

**Prof. Park Chan-Seung:** „The Korean War in Rural Villages“

**18 Aug, 9am/4pm**

**Prof. Park Hyun-Sun:** „Cinematic Representation on the Korean War and its Policies“

**19 Aug, 9am/4pm**

**Prof. Vladimir Tikhonov:** „Korean War and the Making of Anti-communist ideology“

**20 Aug, 9am/4pm**

**Prof. Janice C.H. Kim:** „Pusan at War“