

Editor's Note

Uncovering the less-explored areas of academic attention related to Japan is one of the critical functions of *the Seoul Journal of Japanese Studies*. For a special topic within this issue, we have collected a few articles that focus on “multiple identity in Zainichi Korean life.” Zainichi Koreans have undergone complex multicultural experiences in a transnational environment, and in the sense that they are not regarded as part of mainstream society either in Korea or in Japan, Zainichi Koreans are doubly marginalized. Exploring their life histories and experiences therefore requires a transnational perspective as well as multicultural awareness, and the three articles we selected for this special topic delve into less-known aspects of their lives. Lee Youngho tackles the question of multicultural co-existence by highlighting Zainichi ethnic education centered on “Chosŏn schools,” and in so doing he deftly explores the place of the individual within the community. Kim Yeun Hee examines the life experiences of the families created through international marriage between Korean and Japanese people. Through an ethnographic study of fifteen family members of such transnational marriages between the two countries, she shows how these families try to transcend the divisions between Korea and Japan for the sake of their children. Finally, Kim Ji-young offers us a case study on Manabe Hideo (Korean name Kim Chong-nam), an avant-garde painter who worked in a surrealist style, an investigation of the artist's history which is brought to life through primary source material. All three articles are deeply associated with multicultural identity in a transnational setting, and each sheds new light on this largely ignored section of Japanese society, which has not been fully explored before.

The five other articles picked for this issue also deal with topics related to Korea and Japan. Kim Yang-Hee focuses on South Korea's response to Japan's export regulations. Contrasting the Japanese venture to weaponize interdependence with South Korea's response to decouple from Japan, she uncovers the highly interlinked relationship between the two economies within the global supply chain. Yoon Suk Jung analyzes changing Korea-Japan relations in the 1990s from the perspective of the new structural opportunities for cooperation.

According to him, the two countries began perceiving each other as equal partners based on their shared democratic values in the 1990s, which led to the institutionalization of cooperation between the two nations. Kim Bokyoung discusses the significance of the NHK taiga drama *Idaten*, a series which thematized a relatively unknown dark side of modern Japanese history against the backdrop of the 1964 Summer Olympics. Lim Kyoung-hwa investigates the movements to document the comfort women that worked for the Japanese military in Okinawa, and how the region's forgotten memory of its population of Korean military laborers and comfort women serves to expose the horror of the state's wartime actions. Lastly, Kim Jae-Hyung explores the controversial issue of the competition and cooperation between the Japanese Government-General of Korea and Korean society during the colonial period. In arguing against the position that colonial Korean society was merely an exploited passive actor, Kim investigates Korea's active acceptance of Japanese development and modern systems of knowledge.

All the articles in this issue touch upon thorny and sensitive questions that need more academic attention, and it is hoped that the revealing of such under-explored issues concerning Japan may offer a useful impetus for further research by the next generation of scholars in our field.

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