

“Writing World/Global History in Korea”

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As David Christian notes, one of the major aims of world history is “to see the history of human beings as a single, coherent story rather than as a collection of the particular stories of different communities.”¹ In other words, world history attempts to present the human past as a single story rather than unconnected stories of many civilizations. It also tries to understand the past by connecting specific subject matter to larger historical patterns and tendencies. Further, it includes ideological signification, seeking to avoid Euro-centrism, Sino-centrism, ethnocentrism, state-centrism, and anthropocentrism, in writing history.

These understandings of world/global history are widespread in Korea, too, but the different points of emphasis in writing world/global history in Korea result in the use of alternative terms such as universal history, transnational history, interregional history, international history, and big history.

My purpose in this presentation is to introduce the achievements and contributions of world/global history in Korea and, to report the current state and vision of the *Asian Review of World Histories*, the organ of the Asian Association of World Historians.

1. World /Global History in Korea

1-1. Research Institute of Comparative History and Culture(RICH)(한양대학교 비교문화연구소)

- Established in 2004 under the direction of Lim Jie-hyun, professor of History Department at Hanyang University, in Seoul.
- RICH has organized many regular domestic and international conferences with their themes such as inaugural theme of “Mass Dictatorship” and others on the culture of “War Commemoration,” “Transnational History,” and “History of Everyday Life.”
- RICH are composed of three committees, including Steering Committee, International Advisory Committee, and Personnel Committee, thirteen full-time faculty members, four affiliated faculty members, and several research assistants.

¹ David Christian, “World History in Context,” *Journal of World History* 14, no. 4 (December 2003), 438.

- RICH is in partnership with fourteen foreign research institutes.

RICH's flagship project is the HK(Humanities Korea) Project of Transnational Humanities and will be funded by the National Research Foundation of Korea for ten years until 2018. Its goals are to rescue the Humanities from the nation-state paradigm.

- <http://www.rich.ac/eng/>

1-2. Institution for Marine & Island Cultures (목포대학교 도서관문화연구소)

- Established in 2008, Institution for Marine & Island Cultures of Mokpo National University intends to establish a database of marine and island-related cultural resources as part of a plan for regional activation established from the standpoint of cultural theory, and to contribute to the development of the cultural industry and national culture through the development of pertinent content and it also tries to define a global image of marine and island cultures and to contribute to their development by engaging in cooperative research with international marine and island cultures-related research institutes.

- The institution publishes *Journal of Island Culture* biannually (Issue No. 38 in 2011). It also published ten works including *Collection of Works on Marine & Island Culture* and *Marine History and Culture* and four works on Asian marine cultures including *Chinese Islands and Folklore* and *Marine Folklore in the Bohai Bay Area of China*.

- The Institution has also organized more than Seventy domestic and international academic conferences whose themes are 'Marine and Island Cultures in the Global Era,' 'Korean Marine Culture Conference' etc. These conferences played a leading role in academic conferences related to marine and island studies.

- <http://islands.mokpo.ac.kr/>

1-3. Training Project for the Professional Manpowers for Glocal History and Culture of Kyungpook National University (경북대학교 BK21 글로벌 역사문화 전문인력 양성사업단)

- The major goal of the project team is to train the professional and creative manpowers for 'glocal' history and culture.

- 'Glocal' is a compound word being formed from 'global' and 'local.' Thus, 'glocal' history pays attention to understanding of globalization based on local characteristics.

- Until now, the project team had organized five glocal history seminars, inviting leading world/global historians such Ji-hyung Cho, Taejin Yi, Jie-hyun Lim, and Miyajima Hiroshi, and dealing with the themes such as "What is global history?" "The conception of region

in Korea and Japan: World, State, and region,” and “Global Environment and Human History.”

1-4. Ewha Womans University History Department BK21 Plus (Brain Korea 21 Program for Leading Universities & Students) for East AsianHistory(이화여자대학교 사학과 동아시아사 BK21 사업추진팀)

■ This BK21 Program is a training project for the professional and creative future scholars for East Asian History. But East Asian history this program seeks for is not the traditional history. The program tries to understand East Asian history from more global perspective.

□ July 17, 2014 World Class Scholar’s Special Lecture

Professor Michael. E. Robinson (East Asian languages and cultures at Indiana University)
“Trials and Prospects of East Asian Studies in North America.”

□ August 5, 2014 World Class Scholar’s Special Lecture

Professor Eugene Y. Park (University of Pennsylvania)

“근대 전문직 중인의 신분과 선대 인식(近代 專門職 中人의 身分と 先代 認識)”

1-5. Institute of World and Global History of Ewha Womans University (이화여자대학교 지구사연구소)

■ Institute of World and Global History was founded on December 1, 2008 as one of programs sponsored by Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, Korea, under its WCU(World Class University) Project initiative.

■ The object of the Institute is to avoid Euro-centrism in world/global history research and writing in Korea and to play a leading role in advancing a new world/global history research and education from more critical world historical perspectives.

■ One of the major works of the Institute invited, and collaborated with, professor David Christian of Macquaire University who conceptualized and popularized ‘big history.’

■ The director, Professor Ji-hyung Cho, has spearheaded research, teaching, and curriculum development for ‘world/global history’ and ‘big history’ through the institute and opened a big history class for the undergraduate students at Ewha Womans University. With the help of Dr. Seohyung Kim, he also has organized high school teachers for curriculum development, classroom preparation, and even teaching methods.

2. *The Asian Review of World Histories*

- The *Asian Review of World Histories* is official journal of the Asian Association of World Historians and published by the Institute of World and Global History
- It is a peer-reviewed journal
- It publishes original research articles and book review to advance research, teaching, and public discussion on world historical studies in or for the Asian region.
- It seeks participation of historians who focus on history from cross-cultural, comparative, and global perspectives and thus identify themselves as ‘global,’ ‘world,’ ‘tranregional,’ and ‘big’ historians.
- It also acts as a forum for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary conversations and collaboration of historians with scholars in adjoining disciplines including and with global historical scholars in all parts of the world.
- <http://www.thearwh.org/>

2-1. History and Current State of the *Asian Review of World Histories*

- The first issue of the *Asian Review of World Histories* were launched on January 1, 2013.
- It is usually composed of four articles, one review article, and several book reviews(from four to five). It was designed as a biannual journal and, until now, it published 16 articles, 4 review articles, and 17 book reviews.
- The editorial board of 16 renowned scholars do their best to improve the quality of every article. Every submitted article is put in the process of three peer-review, and the editorial board members and other scholars specializing in the subject of submitted articles proceed with the evaluation
- The 2015 January issue will be published as a special issue made by the special issue editor, professor Rila Mukherjee at University of Hyderabad, India. The special issue focuses on the world history in the Indian Ocean World. For now, nine selected articles for the special issue is put on the process of evaluation.
- The 2015 July issue will be made up of mainly of the papers by the keynote speakers and other participants at the Singapore Congress held for 29-31 May, 2015.
- Thus, the 2016 January issue is the earliest issue open to general contributors.

2-2. Vision and Prospect of the *Asian Review of World Histories*

- The *Asian Review of World Histories* made a contract with KISTI(Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information). Under its contract, the ARWH is provided with doi (digital object identifier) numbers, and the content of all article appearing in the *Asian Review of World Histories* are provided with their abstract in major Korean databases such as *DBpia*, *KISS* (Koreanstudies Information Service System), and *e-article*.
- Article appearing in *Asian Review of World Histories* are indexed in CrossRef and Worldcat now.
- The *Asian Review of World Histories* made a contract with EBSCO publishing on September 25, 2014 and, thus, all article appearing in *Asian Review of World Histories* are indexed and/or abstracted in the EBSCOhost Databases including *American History and Life*, *Historical Abstract*, *History Reference Center*, *Humanities International*, *Sociological Collection*.
- Despite its short history, the *Asian Review of World Histories* has made a significant progress for the past two years because the editorial board and other scholars interested in our journal has dedicated themselves to advancing the *ARWH*. In a sense, the *ARWH* is getting out of its organizing stage and needs a take-off to establish itself firmly as a forum for the world historical studies in or for the Asian region.
- For this purpose, the *ARWH* should encourages more world/global historians to submit their qualified original research articles relating to Asian region, with cross-cultural, comparative, and global perspectives. In addition, another important thing is that the *ARWH* should be included in *Arts & Humanities Citation Index* and thus, the *ARWH* is more accessible by historians and other scholars interested in world/global history in Asia.