

**Panel Discussion:
Korean Soft Power Influence in Southeast Asia**

Institute for
Korean Studies

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

GW 한국학연구소

**PANEL DISCUSSION:
KOREAN CULTURAL INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**



Wednesday, March 17, 2021
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. ET
Virtual Event via Zoom

Speakers

Kamon Butsabab, Chulalongkorn University
Duy Tan La, Vietnam National University HCMC
Hiền Nguyễn Thị, Vietnam National University HCMC

Discussant

Shawn McHale, George Washington University

Moderator

Gregg Brazinsky, GW Institute for Korean Studies

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◇ Event Description

South Korea's soft power and cultural influence have become increasingly significant in Southeast Asia during the last two decades. This panel features three eminent Korea experts from Thailand and South Vietnam. They will discuss the changing relations between South Korea and Southeast Asia and the way that Vietnamese, Thai, and other Southeast Asians have contributed to South Korea's growing economic and cultural ties with the region. Professor Shawn McHale, a leading US historian of Vietnamese history will provide commentary.

◇ Speakers



Kamon Butsaban is currently a faculty member in Faculty of Arts at Chulalongkorn University. He serves as the Head of Korean section and the Secretary of M.A. Korean Studies Program at Graduate School at Chulalongkorn University. His fields of research lie at Korean Studies, with particular interests in Korean society and culture. It examines several related themes: Korea's soft power, Korean wave (Hallyu), and the New Southern Policy and Thailand-Korea cultural cooperation. Dr. Butsaban received his Ph.D. in international studies from Seoul National University and his M.A. in Korean Studies from Chulalongkorn University and B.A.

in Political Science from Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.



Duy Tan La is full time lecturer in the University of Social Sciences and Humanities-Vietnam National University (USSH-VNU), Ho Chi Minh city. Graduated from USSH-VNU with the major in Oriental studies, he continued his higher education in South Korea (2010-2018) with the focus on modern Korean history and culture at the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS). He is currently teaching Korean language, courses of "Introduction to Korean history", and "History of Korean social life" to undergraduate students in the Faculty of Korean Studies, USSH-VNU. His research interest is about Korean and Vietnamese history in comparative

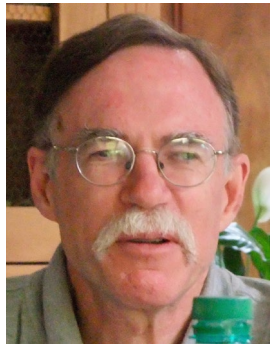
perspectives, history of Korea and Vietnam's relations, issues about North East Asia's security related to North Korea, etc. He is a young and ambitious scholar in the field of Korean studies who put his faiths and efforts for the development of Korean studies in Vietnam, always looking forward to presenting Vietnam and Korea altogether to the world via international connectedness and scholarly cooperation.



She received a Ph.D. in Korean Literature from Seoul National University.

Hiên Nguyễn Thị is a Professor of Korea Studies at the Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. She is the Editor-in-chief of the Vietnamese Localization of *Koreana* the quarterly webzine magazine on Korean arts and culture. She is the author of *Shanghai – Tokyo – Ha Noi – Seoul in East Asian Literature in the beginning of 20th century* (2017), and has translated and published a number of books from Korean to Vietnamese, including *20 Years of Korea – Viet Nam' Relationship (1992 - 2002)* (2015), *An Anthology of Korean Literature* (2017), amongst others.

◇ Discussant



Shwan McHale teaches courses on Southeast Asian history, Vietnam, history and memory, and colonialism and its legacy. His book, *The First Vietnam War: Violence, Sovereignty, and the Fracture of the South, 1945-56*, will be published by Cambridge University Press in August 2021. He spent most of 2019 in Cambodia and Vietnam on an ACLS/ Robert Ho Fellowship in Buddhist Studies, working on a new project on Vietnamese Mahayana Buddhist engagements with Theravada Buddhism, 1930-1990.

◇ Moderator



Gregg A. Brazinsky is Professor of History and International Affairs and Deputy Director of GW Institute for Korean Studies. His research seeks to understand the diverse and multi-faceted interactions among East Asian states and between Asia and the United States. He is the author of *Nation Building in South Korea: Koreans, Americans, and the Making of a Democracy* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007) and *Winning the Third World: Sino-American Rivalry during the Cold War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017). He served as Interim Director of the GW Institute for Korean Studies during the Spring 2017 semester.

This event is on the record and open to the public.