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Rights Claiming in South Korea

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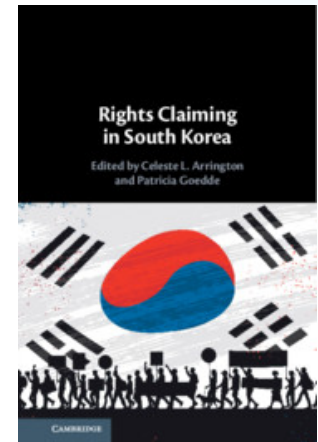
Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul

Although rights-based claims are diversifying and opportunities and resources for claims-making have improved, obtaining rights protections and catalysing social change in South Korea remain challenging processes. This volume examines how different groups in South Korea have defined and articulated grievances and mobilized to remedy them. It explores developments in the institutional contexts within which rights claiming occurs and in the sources of support available for utilizing different claims-making channels. Drawing on scores of original interviews, readings of court rulings and statutes, primary archival and digital sources, and interpretive analysis of news media coverage in Korean, this volume illuminates rights in action. The chapters uncover conflicts over contending rights claims, expose disparities between theory and practice in the law, trace interconnections among rights-based movements, and map emerging trends in the use of rights language. Case studies examine the rights of women, workers, people with disabilities, migrants, and sexual minorities.

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'Rights Claiming in South Korea is a rich, timely, and theoretically significant contribution to the sociolegal scholarship on rights mobilization. With an elegant combination of historical and contemporary studies, the book offers not only an in-depth inquiry into how legal rights are constructed and contested in South Korea, but also a rigorous and insightful engagement with the comparative studies on rights mobilization in East Asia and beyond.'

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