CALL for PAPERS

Special Issue: Re-thinking North Korea

The world has seen an unprecedented intensity of references to North Korea in global media outlets. Starting with the New Year’s greetings by Kim Jong Un that unmistakably courted South Korea’s good will, the appearance of his sister, Kim Yo Jong, in the Pyeongchang Olympic Games, followed by a series of North-South high level meetings starting with the April summit between Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong Un which marked the historical first time that any North Korean leader set his foot on the southern soil ever since the 1953 ceasefire of the Korean War. The world had a second wave of astonishment when Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un met in person in Singapore. While the events of 2018 may not have brought about a notable progress in US-North Korea relations, symbolically, it is undeniable that a series of "first-evers" were recorded in the history books.

Looking ahead, the editorial committee of Transnational Asia seeks to produce a special issue under the title: “Re-thinking North Korea.” Re-think, or think again, about North Korea—because the past conventions have to be adjusted, if not fundamentally, to a considerable degree, in terms of how we, the global observers, perceive this nation state, its society and culture, its political agenda, and above all, its own identity. The committee is accepting an abstract of about 250 words capturing the aspects of the changes that took place in 2018, locating them in history and placing them in the arena of serious academic discourse. The interested authors are encouraged to contact Sonia Ryang Sonia.ryang@rice.edu if they wish to further discuss their ideas. If the authors are ready to submit their abstract, please send it to Amber Szymczyk transnational.asia@rice.edu.