

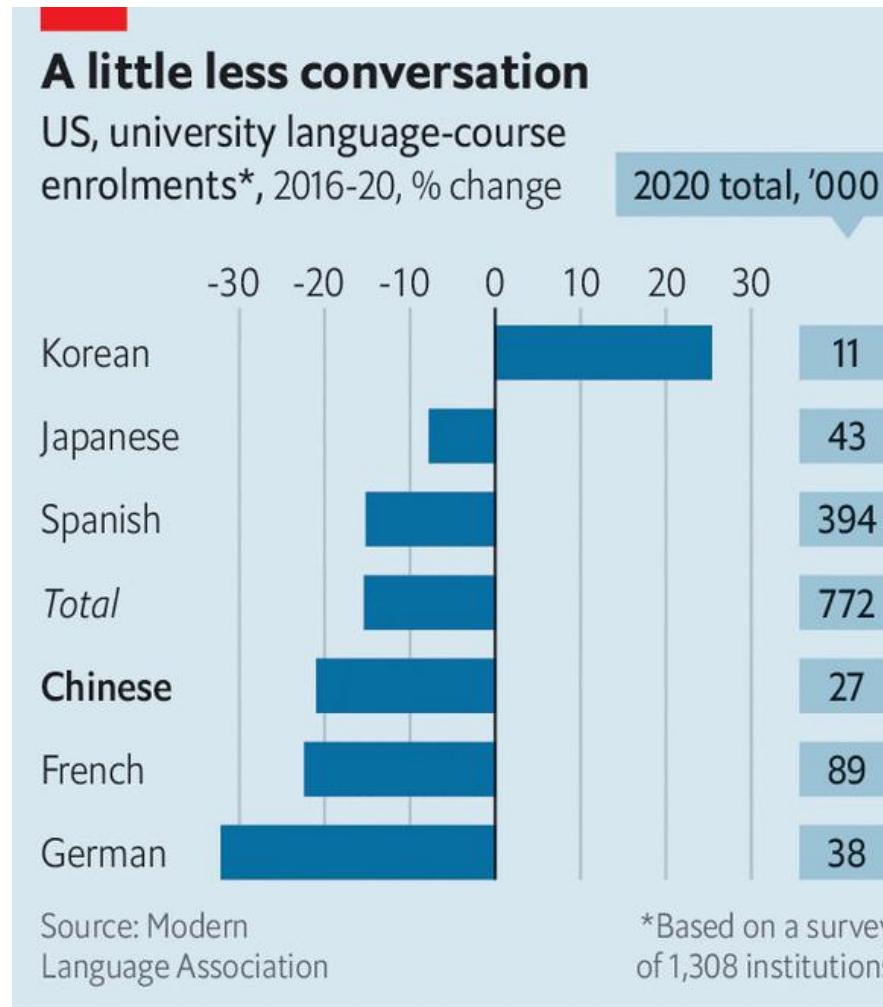
# 북미 한국학의 현주소 : 교수 임용 현황과 아시아학 접근 인식의 변환

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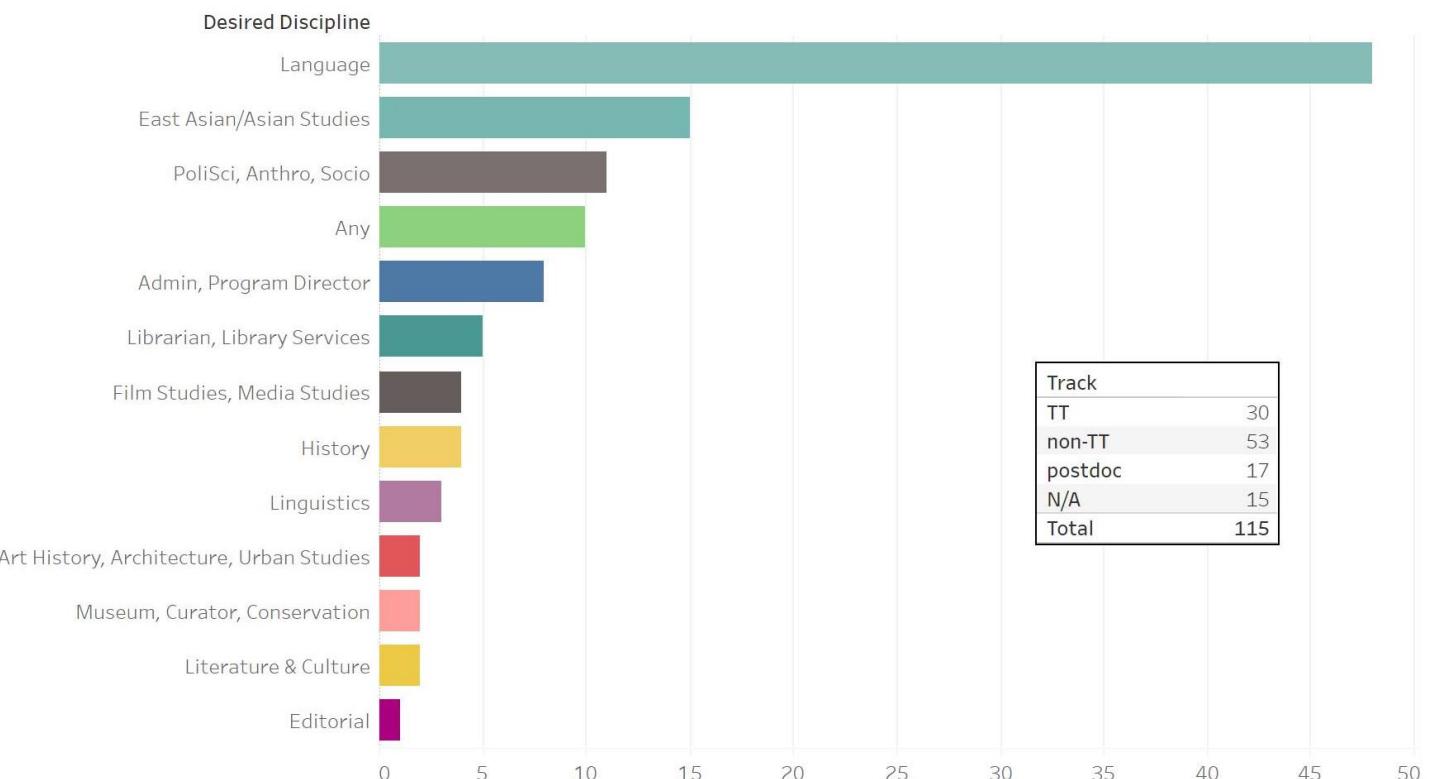
# US University Language Course Enrolments



- Language courses: no courses in *hanmun*
- Content courses: history, culture, pop culture, cinema and media studies, visual culture
- Major/Minor programs
  - not many universities actually have Korean studies major or minor (rather, Korean language major or minor)
- Housed departments/schools: Asian studies, Asian language and cultures, East Asian languages and cultures, comparative literature, history, media studies, ethnic studies
- Universities: top-rank private universities, state-sponsored/affiliated universities, many liberal art colleges, some high schools

# Academic Jobs in Korean Studies

# Korea-related Job Advertisements [2022-2023] by Discipline & Track



# 한국어 교수, 강사 공고 사례 1

- **[Penn State University]** Teaching Faculty in Korean (Department of Asian Studies) Teaching Faculty in Korean (**Department of Asian Studies**) The Department of Asian Studies at Penn State (University Park) invites applications for a **full-time teaching faculty** position in Korean (non-tenure track) to begin in Fall 2023. This position will be filled at the **rank of Lecturer, Assistant Teaching Professor, or Associate Teaching Professor**. Responsibilities include teaching introductory to advanced Korean language courses, as well as participation in programmatic service. **Teaching load is six courses per year** (usually three courses per semester - standard academic calendar).

# 한국어 교수/강사 공고 사례 2

- [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] Lecturer in Korean The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, **Global Languages unit**, invites applications for one full-time position as a **Lecturer** in Korean. This is a three-year appointment beginning July 1, 2024, with the possibility of indefinite renewals based on favorable performance reviews. This position includes **full benefits**. Responsibilities include teaching **six Korean language (undergraduate-level) sections annually**,

# Special Section: Unpicking the Hegemonic Threads in the Production of Korean Studies in English: Eurocentrism, Cold War Logics and Questions of Authorship

**ADAM BOHNET** Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario<sup>2</sup>

**VLADIMIR TIKHONOV** Professor, University of Oslo<sup>3</sup>

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## Korean Studies in Crisis: Charles Armstrong's *Tyranny of the Weak* as a case

- 출처) *European Journal of Korean Studies* (2021):  
<https://www.ejks.org.uk/download/special-section-adam-bohnet-vladimir-tikhonov/?wpdmdl=2524&refresht=6590566c4c9791703958124&ind=1639373603250&filename=2470.EJKS%2020.2.1.unbranded.2021-08-12.pdf>

# So, what are the problems in Korean studies?

- “US and the US hegemony in the formation and the development of both South Korean and English-language Korean studies” (Bohnet and Tikhonov)
- Korean studies in post Cold War era: the structural/systematic conventions continue as seen in the case of Charles Armstrong’s case
- English-obsessed Korean academic disciplines in South Korea including Korean literature, Korean history, Korean philosophy, etc. → is this productive for the general advancement of studies about Korean history and culture?
- Lack of research collaboration: Foreign researchers must master Korean language to the highest level
- Weak research network: researcher-base and the school-base for longe term research collaborations and outcomes

# What are the opportunities for Korean Studies?

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Widening disciplinary coverage: history, literature, religion, sociology, anthropology

→ cultural studies, cinema and transnational media studies, visual history/culture, sound studies, diaspora studies, environmental humanities, ethnic studies, digital humanities, Asian Latin American/Asian American/Asia-Afro studies, etc.

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Multidisciplinary and comparative: transnational, cross regional, cross cultural, cross disciplinary, transpacific, transcontinental, archipelagic studies, island literature/culture, transcontinental, environmental studies, posthumanism, ecofeminism, Anthropocene, translation studies, medical humanities, etc. \*problems I encounter: lacking depth in historical context, philological works, archival knowledge

# Conventional Job descriptions for tenure track Korean studies positions

- [University of Indiana] We are interested in candidates who combine disciplinary rigor and area studies expertise to examine **real-world challenges facing contemporary Korea** and who are interested in contributing to and benefiting from the Institute for Korean Studies. We are interested in candidates whose research agenda focuses on **domestic topics and utilizes Korean language sources**.
- [Emory University] The Department of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures (REALC) invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in **Korean Studies with a background in the humanities including, but not limited to, the fields of literature, gender, media and cultural studies, philosophy, religion, and history**. The candidate is expected to teach a survey course with a focus on modern Korea. The Department is particularly interested in candidates whose scholarship is inter-disciplinary and inter-regional (within East Asia and beyond)

Korean studies positions under the categories of “Asian Studies,” “Diaspora Studies,” “Asian American Studies,” “Digital Humanities,” “Art History/Curatorial”

- University of Hawaii, “Asian Studies” position
  - Expertise in **trans-Pacific environmental humanities or environmental justice studies**; Research competence in a relevant Asian language; Ability to develop and teach innovative interdisciplinary graduate- and undergraduate-students
- University of Hawaii, “Korean Diaspora”
  - We are looking for a colleague with demonstrated expertise in **Korean diaspora, immigration, and/or transnationalism in the context of American Studies**
- [University of Colorado Boulder] Assistant Professor of **Korean Literature and Culture** The Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Colorado Boulder invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Korean Literature and Culture to begin August 2024. Candidates must have a PhD in Korean literature or a related field. ABD candidates will be considered. However, if the PhD degree is not conferred by August 19, 2024, the candidate will be appointed initially as an Instructor.

# A new trend: Global Asia or Global Asias

- **Penn State University, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Global Asias**
  - We are interested in applicants whose work contributes to approaches that may include, but are not limited to: gender, sexuality, and queer studies; race and ethnicity studies; migration and diaspora studies; Indigenous studies; colonization and decolonization studies; religious studies; environmental humanities; oceanic and archipelagic studies; and non-aligned relations between and/or among area studies.
  - As a Comparative Literature department, we are interested in applicants whose teaching and research interests reach across historical periods as well as mediums of literary and cultural studies. In this role, the Assistant Professor's work may contribute to areas including but not limited to poetry and poetics, drama and/or performance, film and/or new media, sound studies, and/or prose and narrative. Candidates must be engaged in research that makes use of at least one Asian language. We welcome a range of regional and trans-regional specializations in any historical period, including but not limited to: inter-Asian, Transpacific, Afro-Asian, and/or Indian Ocean studies; and comparative approaches to East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Eurasia, and/or global Asian diasporas.
- **Simon Fraser University, Refugee Literature and Culture, Global Asia Program**
  - The successful candidate will possess a strong record of research in the literary, cinematic, and other cultural production of refugee subjects within and/or from Asia (defined broadly), with preference given to candidates with expertise in southeast, southwest, or south Asian refugee studies. They will have teaching interests and demonstrated experiences that are inclusive, interdisciplinary, and cross-border in approach; and work with two languages in addition to English. Ideally, they will also possess deep ties to one or more communities formed out of the experience of displacement.
  - The successful candidate must hold a PhD in Comparative Literature, Asian Studies, Middle East Studies, American Studies, or a closely related field by the employment start date. However, PhD candidates with solid indication of imminent completion may be hired at the rank of Instructor and will be promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor upon completion of the PhD. This is a junior faculty position. Only those eligible to be appointed or promoted to the rank will be considered.

# So, what do the job ads. tell us about the status and future directions in Korean studies now?

- 냉전시대의 산물인 "한국학"의 정의 및 연구대상의 폭이 넓어지고 있음
- 북미 "한국학"과 한국안에서의 "한국학" 간의 관계에 대해 좀더 체계적, 이론적 접근이 필요한 시기라고 생각됨
- Sinophone studies, African studies, Japanophone studies, Middle Eastern studies 등의 필드와 직/간접적으로 대화할 수 있는 연구과제를 계획/시행하는 것이 한국학 저변확대를 위해 긍정적인 방향이라고 생각됨
- 지나치게 근현대 중심의 임용으로 인한 전근대 연구자의 수가 현저하게 감소하고 있음 (특히 역사/철학/종교)
- 다양한 주제에 관심을 갖는 대학원생들을 지도할 수 있는 인프라가 부족

# 북미 학생들의 관심분야

- 학생들의 배경:
  - Asian American, Chinese, white American, 그리고 여학생등이 주를 이루었으나 최근에는 백인계 미국인, 동남아인, 흑인계 미국인, 남아시아인(인도/파키스탄/방글라데시 등)인 등이 대거 수강을 하고 있는 패턴을 보임.
- 학생들의 관심분야:
  - 한국어에 가장 관심이 많고, 그 다음이 대중문화(특히 케이팝, 텔레비전 드라마) 등이었으나 최근들어 다양한 주제에 관심을 보임. 예를 들어, 패션, 문학, 전통음악, 다문화, 웹툰, 등.
  - 예: a biracial student (black Latin American) studied Japanese and Korean in BA, worked in Korea as a teacher, got interested in gender/race dimension in transpacific studies of postcolonial literature in MA, pursues a PhD in transpacific circulation of blackness in speculative fiction, cinema, etc.

# What Awaits “Us”

- Creating tenure-track positions in history (both modern and premodern)
- Train in multiple languages beyond East Asian languages
- Should be more conscious of equity and equality in human rights and environmental issues
- Academic network with various types of schools beyond elite schools
- Seminar groups on specific theme/period/topic