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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Korea Europe Review

Eun-Jeung Lee

Editor-in-Chief

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, the global academic community has become more closely connected than ever before. Meanwhile, it is natural to participate in academic conferences by accessing them online – regardless of the place and time zone you work in. Through these new connective experiences, the academic community not only has been redrawing the frame of academic discourse but also opened up new directions of research. As part of this advance, I am delighted to introduce the inaugural issue of the *Korea Europe Review – an interdisciplinary journal of politics, society, and economics*, which will contribute to this scholarly endeavour.

The *Korea Europe Review* (KER) is a platinum open access, peer-reviewed journal published by the *Korea Europe Center* at Freie Universität Berlin. The center's aim is the promotion of various forms of academic initiatives connecting Korea and Europe. Berlin, a city that overcame the conflicts of the Cold War and that became a symbol of peace and integration in Europe, is a highly symbolic place for fostering dialogue and exchange of ideas concerning the past, present and future of the Korean peninsula. The launching of KER is the next step in the center's mission to promote peace on the Korean peninsula and to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of Korean matters.

The *Korea Europe Review* answers to the growing demand for scholarly expertise in the multi-disciplinary, comparative, social science-oriented study of the Korean peninsula and its near neighbour's, but also, in a methodological sense, to the need to transcend traditional, disciplinary confines of regional and area studies in order to integrate scholarship on the Korea peninsula in just such multidimensional contexts. KER aims to reflect the region's increasing importance in terms of geo-cultural and geo-economic dynamics. This pertains to developments of old and new forms of political, cultural, social and economic hegemony in East and South-East Asia, both on a theoretical-conceptual level as well as in terms of concrete phenomena of transregional, international and indeed global power structures. The critical assessment of these dynamics and their diverse impact on the Korean peninsula but also on the larger, indeed international context of cultural and economic networks and cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific thus form a core area of interest of this journal. It naturally also encompasses the creation of new boundaries through the appropriation, translation and reconfiguration of linguistic, cultural and religious practices and

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techniques as well as historical narratives throughout East and South-East Asia and branching out into Eurasia. At KER, we therefore endeavour to provide a platform for multifocal perspectives and innovative research designs and create an opening for broad and indeed global, cross- and interdisciplinary research.

On behalf of the whole editorial team, I would like to express my thanks for the interest in and overwhelming support for this publication that we have already received from the community of Korean and East Asian studies. As a sign of appreciation of this support, KER will constantly strive to become a venue for Korea-related intellectual endeavours in the academic community. Above all, it is my decisive pleasure to invite you to submit your work to the Korea Europe Review, to bringing the journal to the attention of your colleagues, and to not hesitate to discuss your ideas with our dedicated team of editors.

We are looking forward to be working with you in the future and, by doing so, to jointly advance both, the cause of this journal and of scholarship on the Korean peninsula in general.

Eun-Jeung Lee
Editor-in-Chief



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