

AN  
INTERDISCIPLINARY  
JOURNAL OF  
POLITICS,  
SOCIETY, AND  
ECONOMICS

KOREA EUROPE  
REVIEW

(Autumn 2021)

**No 1**

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CREATIVE ENCOUNTERS

멀리서 보면 희극, 가까이서 보면  
비극인 나의 대한민국  
(*My Korea is comedy when seen in  
long-shot, but a tragedy in closeup*)

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**Keywords**

Korea, tragedy, comedy, K-wave, feminism,  
Hell-Chosun, elderly people in Korea,  
N<sup>th</sup> Room Case, social media, Ilbe,  
misogyny

**Article History**

Published: 17 Dec 2021

**Editor's note**

*The Korea-Europe Programme at Freie Universität Berlin sponsored the „My Korea Is...“ competition for students enrolled in Korean studies but also for Koreans currently studying in Europe. The competition was open for entries in a variety of formats, including visual (video, animation, photography, collage, painting, comic, design, mixed and multimedia etc.), audio (podcast, composition etc.), text (essay, poetry etc.) among others. The following entry by Haeun Kim received the First Prize as Jury Favourite in the category of Korean citizens studying at a European university and we are pleased to be publishing it here.*

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멀리서 보면 희극, 가까이서 보면 비극인 나의 대한민국.  
My Korea is comedy when seen in long-shot, but a tragedy in closeup.



K-Pop, K-Beauty the K-Wave is fiercely trending nowadays. But beyond this glamour, Korean people are suffering in the society of South Korea. You are wild about K-Wave, we are burning in Hell-Chosun.

# Distorted desire and sensitivity



## ***Binge-eating Strike***

On 13th April 2017, 304 of high school students died during the cruise trip because of a tragic accident. Even if they had enough time to be rescued but irresponsibility and ignorance of adults, they are drowned. After this disaster, families of dead students protested with over a month of fasting. In front of them, far-right cyberspace members, so-called "Ilbe", did binge-eat to mocking them. Moreover, some of these families had a sexual relationship during this protest in the tents for protesting families.

## ***Nth Room Case***

Distributing illegal sexual webcams in Korea is a serious social problem. Recently, there was a criminal case named "Nth Room Case" involving blackmail, cybersex trafficking, and the spread of sexually exploitative videos via the Telegram app between 2018 and 2020 in South Korea. This criminal case spotlighted child pornography and cybersex trafficking in Korea.

## ***Your tragedy makes me feel alive.***

Social media turns many of us into needy attention seekers.

They are using someone's tragedy like death as a way to get more attention from social media.

# Misogyny and Feminism



## *Feminism in Korea*

The Boom of Feminism appeared dynamically and dramatically in 2015 in Korea.

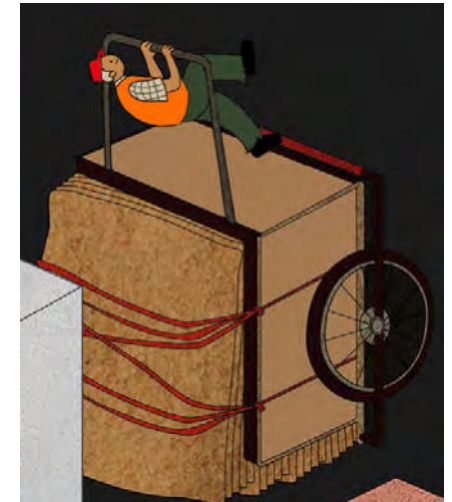
Until 2015 most Korean people did not take the sexual jokes about females as serious social problems, in other words, Korean women till 2015 could not easily express their own opinion against this unfairness. Because of feminism protest in Korea, nowadays Korean women are called various insulting words.

For examples,

1. 김치녀(kimchinyeo): kimchi+woman, a bitch who ugly and greedy is, but also for general korean women
2. 메돼지(metwaeji): extreme-feminist+pig. Nowadays generally be used against Korean feminists in cyberspace.
3. 꽃뱀 (kkochbaem): female gold-digger
4. 보슬아치(bboseul-achi): pussy+ bashaw. Nowadays generally be used against Korean women.

Moreover, many people are thinking the feminism as a mental disease. It is happening till now 2020.

# The elderly poverty



## *Bacchus Granny*

Most elderly people in Korea are the postwar generation. Learning opportunity was so rare for this generation when they were young. So, nowadays many old people fell into poverty, and we can see easily elderly people are collecting waste paper the whole day to survive and their 12hours labor be paid 10,000won (7Euro). Therefore, some female elderly do prostitute day and nighttime. These women are giving a small drink like Bacchus (this drink is popular among elderly people) and make a deal. Most of their customer is male elderly people. So, these old women are called Bacchus Granny, and we can see them easily in day time at a park, where old people used to gather around.

*Thank you!*





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**Korea Europe Review (KER) | ISSN:0000**

**Published by:**

*Korea Europe Center* [a collaborative project of FU Institute of Korean Studies and KDI School of Public Policy and Management]

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**Hosted by:**

Center für Digitale Systeme (CeDiS) [www.cedis.fu-berlin.de](http://www.cedis.fu-berlin.de)