



The Art of Protest



Democratization and Identity Formation in South Korea

Thursday, February 6, 2020 | International Center, Room 303

3:00 - 4:00 PM, with reception to follow

Street protests are a veritable art form in South Korea, perfected through more than sixty years of bloody confrontations with state power. In 2016-2017, this form reached its full potential as a vehicle for political change as the city square in the heart of the nation's capital transformed into a raucous but family-friendly stage for spectacles of popular dissent in a sequence of events that has been celebrated as the Candlelight Revolution. This talk will look back on the history of street protests in South Korea, focusing on its "language of contention" (Tarrow 2013) so as to explore the mechanisms of collective identity formation and political subject-making that have made South Korea's protest culture one of the most dynamic in the modern world.

Youngju Ryu is an Associate Professor of Korean Literature at the University of Michigan and the author of *Writers of the Winter Republic*, the winner of 2018 James Palais Book Prize, and numerous articles on Korean literature, film, and media. She serves as the co-editor of *Perspectives on Contemporary Korea*, a book series published by the University of Michigan Press and has edited two volumes on colonial and contemporary Korean culture.



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This event is free & open to the public.