

Jina Eleanor Kim

Dissertation Title:

The Materializing and Vanishing Modern Girl in Colonial Korea and Taiwan: Colonial Urban Modernity and Women's Magazines

My paper looks at the internal dynamics of a popular Korean women's magazine, *Yôsong* (Woman), published during the Japanese colonial period. I examine various relationships between image and text, advertisements and goods, and the commodified, the consuming and the productive women to reveal a new understanding of the highly, self-consciously crafted categories of womanhood. The paper will show that gender is an essential component of the aesthetic, technological and political economy of colonial modernity. I will argue that women's magazines in Korea during the early twentieth century, thus, created a social space in which women could participate not only in consuming urban modernity, but also in forming a public discourse on urban life, modern gender identity and modern popular literature. Finally, I will focus more specifically on the "modern girl" figure, both as a literary character and reader-writer, and the various urban landscapes associated with her to show how she materialized as an authoritative observer of everyday urban life.