

Special Lecture “How to Communicate with Aliens: A Comparative Study of North and South Korean Science Fiction” Held

On Monday, May 25, 2026, the Ritsumeikan Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation Studies held a special lecture titled “How to Communicate with Aliens: A Comparative Study of North and South Korean Science Fiction.”

This lecture offered a valuable opportunity to gain insight into the visions of the future and the value systems reflected in the societies of South Korea and North Korea through Dr. Dafna Zur’s comparative study of science fiction works from the 1950s and 1960s.

In particular, while the works clearly exhibited a strong character of systemic competition that reflected the post-Korean War context, North Korean science fiction presented an idealized image of the scientist as a loyal supporter of the regime who would nonetheless use science and technology to open up the nation’s future, thereby expressing a kind of aspiration that future generations would grow to resemble this ideal figure.

In South Korea as well, although the works carried an anti-communist orientation, scientists were depicted as figures who would lead the country out of poverty and other hardships and guide it toward a brighter future.

These intriguing commonalities, which tend to be obscured by the overarching framework of systemic rivalry, provide a new perspective for reexamining the societies of the time and demonstrate that this lecture was an exceptionally valuable opportunity for reconsidering that historical period.

The Ritsumeikan Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation Studies continues to actively promote academic exchange with a broad range of research institutions across languages and disciplines.

●Event Details

Date: Monday, May 25, 2026, 17:00–18:30

Venue: Suekawa Memorial Hall Lecture Room, Kinugasa Campus, Ritsumeikan University

Organizer: Ritsumeikan Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation Studies, Ritsumeikan Center for Korean Studies

Supporter: Korea Foundation (KF)

●Lecturer

Dr. Dafna Zur

Associate Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University

Director, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University (2019 - 2025)

立命館大学コリア研究センター・東アジア平和協力研究センター共催企画

スタンフォード大学
DAFNA ZUR先生講演会

宇宙人との対話法

—南北コリアSF比較研究—

1950~60年代の南北朝鮮におけるSF小説は、単なる空想文学ではなく、戦後の体制競争のなかでそれぞれの国家が描いた未来像を映し出す重要な文化資料です。本講演では、韓国と北朝鮮のSF作品を比較しながら、科学技術、宇宙開発、人間像がどのように表象され、それぞれの国家理念や近代化のビジョンと結びついていたのかを考察します。南北朝鮮のSFを通じて、冷戦期の政治的想像力と文化表象の交差を読み解きます。

 **5/25** ²⁰²⁶ _{MON} 17:00~18:30

 衣笠キャンパス 末川記念会館 講義室



Special Speaker DR. DAFNA ZUR

専門は韓国文学、映画、大衆文化研究。著書に「Figuring Korean Futures: Children's Literature in Modern Korea」(Stanford University Press, 2017)があり、植民地期およびポスト植民地期の韓国における児童文学と未来像の形成を論じている。現在は、戦後の南北朝鮮における青少年向け科学・文学雑誌を通じた道徳教育に関する研究に取り組んでいる。北朝鮮SF、朝鮮戦争の表象、韓国大衆文化に関する論考を多数発表し、韓国文学作品の英訳も手がけている。

お申し込み方法

右のQRコードまたは下記URLよりお申し込みください

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/BAJKWRXWWW](https://forms.office.com/R/BAJKWRXWWW)



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