



Department of Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University



About the Department of Women's Studies



여성학부

Department of Women's Studies

The Department of Women's Studies is committed to training feminist perspectives and cultivating academic researchers with professional knowledge and feminist leaders oriented toward academic ability for analysis. The Department of Women's Studies covers an extensive range of research topics from a global aspect to the microscopic area of daily life. Founded upon the philosophical discussion on the knowledge in women's studies, the department conducts integrated academic research on a wide variety of topics in human society, including the analysis of the historical buildup of labor, family, sexuality, policy, and gender systems, thereby gaining associated knowledge.

As the first ever women's studies launched through the institutional education in Asia, the Women's Studies at Ewha dates back to 1986 where the activities of the <Research Committee on Women's Studies>

were unfolded by professors from various fields of study. In 1977, for the first time in Korea, the elective class <Women's Studies> became available for undergraduate students. As the Department of Women's Studies was established subsequently for graduate students, a master's program and a doctoral program were further introduced in 1982 and 1990, respectively, thus turning out 334 graduates with a master's degree and 48 graduates with a doctorate degree until February, 2021. People of talent from Ewha's Department of Women's Studies continue to excel as feminist professionals in diverse fields, including academia, media, culture, and feminist organizations, extending their knowledge gained during their postgraduate years.

What is women's studies?

Women's studies is an academic field that explores issues in human life from a feminist perspective. Women's studies draws on critical questions about the process and perspectives on which the existing knowledge system was built, from the standpoint of women's experiences. Women's studies sheds light on the stories of people who have been lost in the myth of universality, and casts questions regarding human beings and society from a new aspect. The knowledge of women's studies built over analyzing and reinterpreting gendered social structures and ways of thinking provides new insights into reality in line with varying issues such as gender, socio-economic class, race, region, and sexual orientation. It also serves as the groundwork for extending the social practice designed to eliminate discrimination in human society. Women's studies does not limit itself to a single academic field such as the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences, but employs interdisciplinary methods to facilitate the exchange among a diverse range of disciplines.

Professors



Kim Sunhye, Assistant Professor

She received her Ph.D. in Women's Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park, and held postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard University and George Washington University before joining the Department of Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University, where she is currently an Assistant Professor. Her research examines the intersections of reproductive labor, science and technology, gender, and race within the transnational South Korean context. As Principal Investigator at the Asian Center for Women's Studies for the project "Race and Gender: Global Korea, Neo-racialization, and Intersectionality" (NRF, 2024–2027), she explores how reproductive and demographic governance intersect with racialized and gendered structures of inequality. She has published on these topics, including "Eggs and Sperm from Others: Reproduction and Gendered Racialization in South Korea" (The Journal of Asian Studies, 2025), "In/eligible Infertility: The Routinization of Assisted Reproductive Technology and Stratified Reproduction in South Korea" (Journal of Science and Technology Studies, 2023), and "Reproductive Technologies as Population Control: How Pronatalist Policies Harm Reproductive Health in South Korea" (Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters, 2019). She currently teaches courses on transnational feminism, gender and technology, and biopolitics and reproduction.



Kim Bo-Myung, Associate Professor

In 2003, she obtained her master's degree with a dissertation on the anti-sexual violence movement at the collaboration course with Seoul National University, and in 2016, her doctorate from the Department of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Arizona, located in Tucson City, Arizona, United States, with a dissertation on the post-war history of feminism and racial politics in the United States. Between 2019 and 2021, she worked in the Department of Sociology at Busan National University, and began her teaching career in 2022 at the Department of Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University. Her main research interests include the women's movement and feminist politics, and her study has primarily focused on the cases in the United States and Korea. Her major research papers are "Feminist Politics, Historical Time, and Racial Difference : The Case of the U.S. Second Wave Feminism" (Journal of Korean Women's Studies, 2016), "Late Modern Misogyny and Feminist Politics" (Journal of Korean Women's Studies, 2018), "Feminism Revival and the Politics of Survival" (Economy and Society, 2018), "Moving Forward while Staying in the Middle: Betty Friedan's Feminist Narrative of Women's Progress" (Journal of Gender Studies, 2025), "From Revolutionary Futurity to Spatial Refuge: Radical, Lesbian, and Cultural Feminist Manifestoes from the 1960s and 1970s" (Hypatia, 2025).



Lee Euna, Associate Professor

She earned her doctorate from the Department of Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University and has held a post at the same department since 2022. She currently serves as the Director of the Korean Women's Institute at Ewha Womans University (since 2023). She previously worked at the Hokma College of General Education at Ewha Womans University, the Korean Women's Development Institute, and the Gyeonggido Family & Women Research Institute, conducting research on the state and gender, gender equality policies, and feminist pedagogy. Her research interests center on theorizing experiences and gender relations across diverse policy fields beyond the boundaries of family and labor, including gender mainstreaming, gender-sensitive education, and labor market flexibility. Her main research papers include "The Politics of Administrative Bureaucratic Organizations and Gender Mainstreaming Strategies," "Issues and Challenges on Gender Training for Public Officials," "A Study on the Activation Plan of the Flexible Working System for the Stabilization of Women's Employment," (co-authored) "Young Women in the 2024–25 Impeachment Square: Precarity and the Politics Appearance" (co-authored) and "Gender Equality and the Unhappy Marriage with Low Fertility" (co-authored).

Professor Emeritus



Chang Pilhwa, Professor

She earned her PhD with “Women and Development” from the University of Sussex, located in the United Kingdom. Since 1984, she has taught at the Department of Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University. She has previously served as the Director of Ewha Womans University's Korea Women's Institute, Dean of the Graduate School, Director of Ewha Institute for Leadership Development, and the Director of Asian Center for Women's Studies. She has also successively filled other posts such as the Governor of the International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women in 2005 and the President of the Asian Association of Women's Studies. Her major publications and research papers include “Gender Division of Labor in Korea” (co-author), “Women, Body, and Gender” (1999), and “Women's Studies in Korea”.



Lee Jaekyung, Professor

In 1987, she graduated with a doctorate in sociology from the University of Michigan, United States, and she has taught at the Department of Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University. She has also served as the President of the Korean Association of Women's Studies and the President of the Korean Family Studies Association. Through her work, she has analyzed the modern Korean family from a feminist viewpoint, and conducted research on changes in motherhood, marriage, and family, as well as policies for women. Her works include “In the name of the family: Korean modern family and feminism,” “Women's Studies” (co-author), “State and Gender: Theory and Practice of Sexual Mainstreaming” (compilation), and “Feminism and Science” (joint translation), and she has also published a large number of academic papers on Korean families and policies for women in domestic and foreign academic journals.



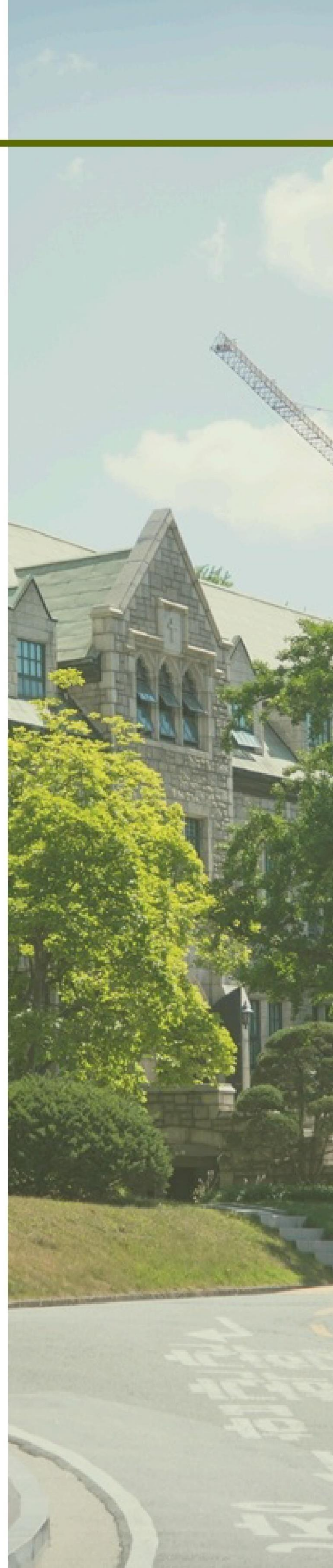
Cho Soonkyoung, Professor

She obtained her PhD in sociology from U.C. Berkeley in the United States in 1987 and she has taught at the Department of Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University since 1988. Her research interests have been aligned to the feminist analysis of labor issues, community labor, feminist methodologies, and qualitative research methodologies. Her major research works include “Labor and Feminism” (compilation), “Cold War System and the Politics of Production” (co-author), “Myth of Difference and Reality of Discrimination,” “Social Formation of Knowledge in Women's Studies in Korea,” “Democratic Market Economy and Confucian Patriarchy” and “Outsourcing of Female Occupations and Indirect Discrimination.”



Huh Rakeum, Professor

She earned her doctorate in western philosophy (ethics studies) from Graduate School of Sogang University in 1992, and since 1995 she has taught at the Department of Women's Studies. Her major research interests center on the feminist theory, while she has also studied practical topics, including the ethics of caring, eco-feminism, and gender mainstreaming policies. In addition, she takes an interest in research on the concept of the theory of action such as the ego, subjectivity, and autonomy. Her major research papers include “from the ethic of principles to a feminist ethic: center on 'integrity'” and “Migration and Gender in Global Asia” (compilation), as well as the “Commodification of Care in the Context of Women's Migrant Labor” and the “Re-conceptualization of 'Affirmative Action' for a Transformative Strategy of Gender-mainstreaming.”



Professor Emeritus



Kim Eun-Shil, Professor

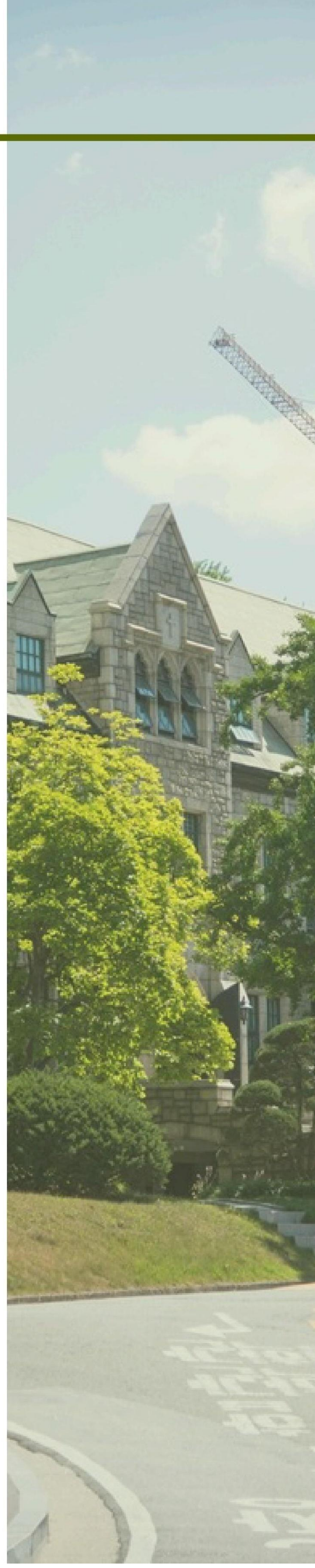
She earned her PhD with “Women and Development” from the University of Sussex, located in the United Kingdom.

Since 1984, she has taught at the Department of Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University. She has previously served as the Director of Ewha Womans University's Korea Women's Institute, Dean of the Graduate School, Director of Ewha Institute for Leadership Development, and the Director of Asian Center for Women's Studies. She has also successively filled other posts such as the Governor of the International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women in 2005 and the President of the Asian Association of Women's Studies. Her major publications and research papers include “Gender Division of Labor in Korea” (co-author), “Women, Body, and Gender” (1999), and “Women's Studies in Korea”.



Jung Ji Young, Professor

Professor Jung Ji-Young was professor of Women's Studies (2003-2024) and a director of Asian Center for Women's Studies at Ewha Womans University. She earned her doctorate in Korean history from the Department of History, Sogang University. While historically analyzing the process in which gender structure and perception were created, she also conducted research designed to uncover the multi-layered traces of women around her. She was also concerned about the way in which the memories of “women of the traditional era” were built in Korean society in the 20th century. Her publications include “The Construction of Order and its Fissures: The Household register and women of the late Chosŏn Korea”, “Site of Memory in East Asia” (co-author), and “Japanese invasion of Korea: The war of three East Asia states” (co-author).



Career after Graduation

01 Education and academic research

University faculty members, researchers at government-sponsored research institutes (Korean Women's Development Institute, etc.), research institutes affiliated with local governments (Gyeonggido Family and Women's Foundation, Seoul Foundation of Women and Family, etc.), research institutes affiliated with universities, and many more.

02 Women's Policy

Central administrative departments (Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, National Human Rights Commission of Korea, etc.), National Assembly, and government ministries (National Assembly Research Service, etc.)

03 NGO Activities

Media, politics, and feminist organizations, environmental organizations, other social movement groups, etc.

04 Media and Politics

Journalists for major media outlets, political party activities

Dissertations for the last 5 years

2021

- Kang, Ji-yeon
A Case Study on the Women's Community of Work and Care through Urban Agriculture : Focusing on Keumchon Agriculture Network and Healthy Farmers Social Co-op in Keumchon-gu, Seoul (M.A.)
- Kim, Mee-sun
A study on the Post-war "Female Economy" in Reflected in Dressmaking Shops (Ph.D.)
- Kim, Min-jun
A Critical Study on the Digital Sexual Violence and its Technological Countermeasures (M.A.)
- Kim, Bo-hwa
A study on the 'law-marketization' of the response and recovery of sexual violence and the reconstruction of 'the politics of sexual violence' (Ph.D.)
- Lee, Kyoung-Ha
Changes in familism through the agency of a daughter-in-law in their 20s and 30s: Focused on high-educated middle-class women (M.A.)
- Choi, Song-hee
The Changing Life-Course Planning of Single Women in Korea's Egg Freezing Technology Industry (M.A.)
- Hong, Mi-ri
The Journey of reclaiming-self of women with domestic violence experiences: Reconstructing social relation norms and practicing relational autonomy (Ph. D.)
- KUDAIBERDIEVA, ASELA
Feminist study on the kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan: Focusing on Stigma and Sexuality Control (M.A.)
- Kim, Hye-bin
Critique on Japanese Extreme Right Wingers' Anti-Comfort Women Movements and U.S.-Centered Human Rights Discourse (M.A.)
- Park, Jin-Sol
A Study on the Political Meaning of 4B Women After Feminist Reboots (M.A.)
- Son, U-jjeong
Process of defining 'abnormal' reproductive experience in discourse on denial of pregnancy (M.A.)
- ZHOU, XIAOQUN
Gendered Femininity of Modern City Women in China and Research Focusing on Phenomenon of NVHANZ (M.A.)
- Park, Bo-Ram
A Study on the Cultural Practices of Queer Women in the GL (Girls Love) Community (M.A.)
- Kang, Eun-kyung
A Study on DJUNA's SF as Feminist Worlding (M.A.)
- Lee, Jung-yeong
The Post-Gangnam Station Politics of the Feminist Movement through the "Burnout" syndrome (M.A.)
- Lee, So-yoon
Becoming 'Sanju' of the Unclaimed deaths and Family politics around Funeral practices in Korean Society (M.A.)
- Kim, Woo-Young
Moving toward a Care-Oriented Society with Korean Smart Elderly Care Technology (M.A.)

2022

- Kim, San-gae
Gender Politics of Membership related to Village and Land in Changing Development Discourse of Jeju-island (M.A.)
- Kim, Young-ji
Analysis of the National Vaccination Policy Process of "Cervical Cancer Vaccine" - Focus on Low-Fertility Measures and Pharmaceutical Companies' Market Expansion Strategy- (M.A.)
- Kim, Jeong-eun
The construction of 'healthy diet' discourse in Korean society and individualized crisis management (M.A.)
- Kim, Woo-in
Changes in Translators' Work Due to the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, and Conflicts and Negotiations of Female Freelance Translators (M.A.)
- Cha, Ji-Eun
20-30s Korean female BDSMers' desire to research sexuality: individual to subject (M.A.)
- Kim, Hyo-jeong
A study on 'Becoming Ecological Citizen' reflected on Alternative Agricultural Movement by Women Peasants in Indonesia and South Korea (Ph.D.)

2023

- Jeong, Da-jeong
The contradiction experienced by women laborers in school catering job and their responses (M.A.)
- Song, You-jin
Composition of the 'Unmarried Women' Category and family planning: Focusing on Social Survey Data in the 1970 (M.A.)
- Kim, Yu-lim
Institutionalizing Diversity in ESG management and (Im)Possibility of Achieving Gender Equality: Focusing on the perceptions of ESG managers (M.A.)
- Lee, Soo-bin
A Study on the Elementary Care Class for 'Mothers' and 'Work' Experiences of Child Care Professionals (M.A.)
- Kim, Do-Hee
The meaning and practice of local settlement analyzed through the 'against marriage community' experience of young women (M.A.)
- Gu, Ji-yun
Korean Transwomen's Transition Process as a Life-Planning and the Plastic Surgery Practice (M.A.)
- Lee, Young-hee
Being Legal Father of Unmarried Men in South Korea: The Process of Child's Birth Registration of 'Mihonbu' and the Paradox of Paternal-blood-relation-centralism (M.A.)
- Jung, Seung-Ah
A Study on the Feminist Consciousness and the experience of Activists Supporting Digital Sexual Crimes (M.A.)
- Baek, Mi-rok
'Oppositional Bureaucratic Resistance' and the Paradoxes of the Gender Politics in Korean Women's Policies Implementation (Ph.D.)
- Kim, Min-sol
Mothering in the Context of Poverty: Focusing on the Care Experiences of Single Mothers with Disabled Children (M.A.)
- Kim, Yoo-hyun
Constructing the Meaning of Elderly Care through the Community-based Integrated Care Policy (M.A.)
- Kim, Soo-jin
Exploring the Possibilities of Gender-Equal Classrooms through Vulnerability: A Case Study of a Sixth-grade Class at A Elementary School (M.A.)
- Pham Khanh Linh
Embodying 'Koreanness': Beauty Practice of Vietnamese Female Students in South Korea (M.A.)
- Jeong, Min-joo
The Emergence of Female Riders during the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Popularization and Degendering of Food Delivery Platform Labor (M.A.)
- Kwon, Hyo-eun
Re/Constructing the Meaning of Disease and the Norm of 'Reproductive Life' through Experiences of Uterine and Ovarian Disorders among Women in Their 20s and 30s (M.A.)
- Kim, So-hyun
'Building a Healthy Family' Policy under Park Chung-hee Regime in the 1970s and Discourse on North Korean Families (M.A.)
- Kim, Ji-eun
Contradictory Positioning and Self-Justification Strategies of Korean TERF Forces: Connections with the Global Anti-Trans Movement (M.A.)
- Park, Do-yoon
A Study on the Signification of 'Labor' Creativity in the Metaverse: Focusing on the Experiences of ZEPETO Item Creators (M.A.)

2024

- Lee, Ji-won
Gendered Performative Labor Arising from Workplace Sexual Harassment (M.A.)
- Son, Hee-won
Queering Menstruation: The Lives and Reproduction of Non-female Transgender Queer People (M.A.)
- Lee, Si-eun
Contesting the Norm of 'Life Tasks' Centered on Employment and Marriage: Focusing on the Experiences of 'Family Care Youth' Women (M.A.)

Members of the Department of Women's Studies continue to pave the way for women's studies in Korea through active and vibrant academic activities through the publication of books and translated works.

2026

- Kim, Young-kyung
Experiences of Using and Being Unable to Use Menstrual Leave: Reproductive Health in the Workplace (M.A.)
- Kim, Seul-gi
A Study on Military Organizational Culture and Sexual Violence Response Policies: Focusing on Sexual Violence Reporting (M.A.)
- Kim, Hyun-young
A Study of Proxies for Sexual Violence Victims (Ph.D.)
- Oh, Hye-min
The Rise and Epistemic Vulnerability of Young Women Feminists in the Era of Post-Feminism Reboot (Ph.D.)
- Moon, Bo-mi
Politics of Performativity and Queer Solidarity: A Study on the Movement to Preserve the Statue of Peace in Berlin(M.A.)
- Lee, Kyung-eun
The Gender Politics of Discourse on Protection and Support Policies for Essential Workers(M.A.)
- Yuliarti, Monika Sri
K-Pop and Female Fans: Pleasure, Masculinity Perception, and Religious Identity among Female Indonesian Fans Living in South Korea (Ph.D.)

2025

- Lee, Eun-su
Beyond the 'Mono-Norm': The Politics of Love — Consensual Non-Monogamy Practices and the Reconstruction of Intimacy among Korean Youth in Their 20s and 30s (M.A.)
- Kourdi, Dounia
Towards an Interspecies Community of Care: A Case Study of the Jeju Island Maresup Horse Sanctuary (M.A.)
- Kim, Ga-hyun
Medical Transition of Transgender People and the Re-Construction of Social Relationships (M.A.)
- Wong, Patricia Ysabel
Colonial, Cunt, Queer: Rethinking Contemporary Philippine Drag (Ph.D.)
- Anggaunitakiranantika
Gendered Labor and the Politics of Exclusion among Indonesian Women Workers in South Korea (Ph.D.)

Admission Guide

01

Admission process and number of students admitted

- Master's program, PhD program, and joint master's and PhD program:
Unspecified

02

Eligibility

1) Master's program and joint program

- Those who have obtained a bachelor's degree from a university at home and abroad
- A person recognized as having educational attainment equivalent to or higher than a bachelor's degree under the laws and regulations.

2) PhD program

- Those who have obtained a master's degree from a graduate school at home and abroad.
- A person recognized as having educational attainment equivalent to or higher than a master's degree under the laws and regulations.

* It is not necessary for the applicant's undergraduate degree to be related to the degree she plans to enroll in.

03

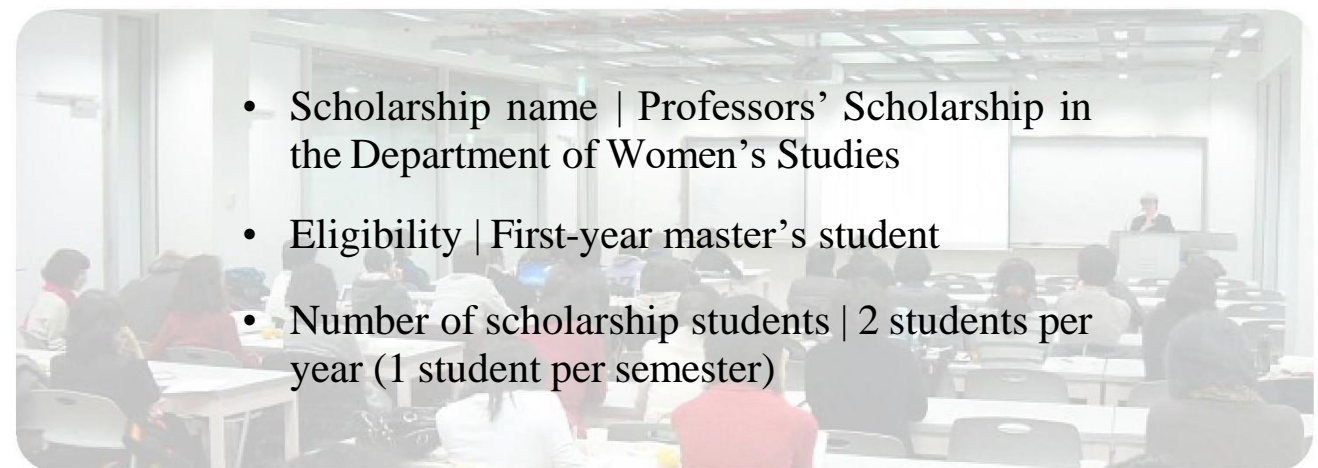
Admission process

- Document screening (a letter of recommendation required)
- English: Major-Specific Oral Interview: Please refer to the department website ([문헌 안내 | 이화여자대학교 여성학과](#)) for the required bibliography.

04

Information on “Professors’ Scholarship in the Department of Women’s Studies” for new students

Professors’ Scholarship in the Department of Women’s Studies: A scholarship sponsored by professors of the Department of Women's Studies with the funds they have donated for the student scholarship. Two new students for master’s degree are awarded each year



- Scholarship name | Professors’ Scholarship in the Department of Women’s Studies
- Eligibility | First-year master’s student
- Number of scholarship students | 2 students per year (1 student per semester)

Since the detailed schedule is subject to change each year, please see the notice on the website of the school admissions office or contact the admissions office for further information.



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