A critical look at South Korean immigration laws and regulations and the legal status and rights of foreign spouses

South Korea is in the transnational circuit of labor and marriage migration as a destination of unskilled or low-skilled workers and 'mail-order brides' from near-by and far-away countries. Asian women settling in Korea through marriage, despite obtaining citizenship, often end up living like refugees, suffering poverty and prejudices and being left outside of social security net. This paper identifies problems and inconsistencies in laws and regulations related to their rights, welfare and integration into the Korean society. In order to improve these women's access to social security protections, it is imperative to make revisions and adjustments to relevant legislation and policies.

이주 노동자의 초국가적 생애 경로는 저개발국에서 개발국으로의 일방적인 패턴을 가지고 있다. 그런데 아시아 여성의 한국으로의 이주는 이주 난민으로의 고착화가 두드러진다. 따라서 이들의 사회보장권을 실질적으로 보호할 수 있는 모범과 하위법 사이의 제 조정 작업이 요구된다.

*The talk will be given in Korean. If you have any questions about the event, contact Prof. Hae-Young Kim (haeyoung@duke.edu)