



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

NORTH KOREAN LITERATURE: TOPICS, THEMES, AUTHORS

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Exploring the DRPK literature as more than
an imitation of the Soviet model, but
rather as an ideological stream
subordinated to the Party's
needs with its own Korean
“way” of narrative
building and
unique heroes



6.12.2023

16:00-18:00

LAB. DIDATTICO AULA 2, III PIANO

Italian Institute of Oriental Studies (ISO)

Sapienza Università di Roma,

Circonvallazione Tiburtina, 4, 00185 Roma

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ISO - PhD Curriculum in African and Asian Civilizations

EVENT DETAILS

LECTURE CONTENT

The research of North Korean literature has been of little interest because of many reasons, mostly for being considered a part of the worldwide ideological stream of badly written works full of prescribed and naïve heroes, highly influenced by the Soviet models, a typical product of the cold war era. This idea is not wrong, but the post-war literature in DPRK featured some distinguished aspects that witness the specific Korean “way” of narrative-building and heroes that cannot be associated with the Soviet model, but also to the domestic pre-war proletarian wave and the KWP politics of the 1950s.

DPRK literature had few fixed (prescribed and recommended) themes, newly modelled heroes and narrative strategy. We have to understand it as part of official ideology. Literature has been slowly developed into the simplified ideological stream subordinated to the Party needs and subsequently it turned into literature subordinated directly to Kim Il-sung and his family. This literature had their prominent authors and platforms, plans that have to be performed and the victims of factional struggle in 1950-1960s.

LECTURER

Miriam Löwensteinová is a professor at Charles University in Prague, Department of Korean Studies. Her interests and research are mostly concerned with premodern Korean literature, especially chronicles, historical prose, diaries and the p’aesŏl genre. She has translated both classical and modern literature, prose and poetry. She is the author of many books and articles on various themes of Korean literature and cultural traditions.

Lecture: 16:00-17:40

Q&A: 17:40-18:00

Scientific coordinator:

Prof. Antonetta L. Bruno

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