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### **BSE Fears and Candlelight Demonstrations in South Korea: Political or Scientific?**

Why did Korean people so angrily and fiercely protest against the import of US beef during the spring and summer of 2008? In order to answer this question, the BSE problem should be addressed not only as a political and scientific problem but also as a risk communication problem. Thus, using the SARF(social amplification of risk framework) which emphasizes risk communication, this paper aims to account for why and how the BSE(Bovine spongiform encephalopathy) fears over the import of US beef have risen so rapidly and widely in Korea. The SARF, mainly proposed by Roger E. Kasperson, provides multi-leveled and interactional analytic tools for handle the risk related social controversies like BSE. The main concerns here are the reasons of risk communication failure, the properties of social rallies(candlelight demonstration), and the role of main actors in this event. In this paper, it will be argued that the BSE fears do not represent a special event but a normal social mechanism associated with a risk problem. We also adopt to 'interconnected approach' rather than 'disconnected approach' for bridging over the gap produced by the conflict between blaming-political-reason side and claiming-health right side. This approach, relying heavily on STS findings, tries to read the context and contingency of the risk communication based on the 'co-production' of risk, and brings political issues and scientific knowledges together. Four basic analytic categories - identities, institutions, discourses, and representations - and four characteristics of risk problems - the degree of uncertainty, expertise, public sensitivity, and the trust of institution - are used to describe and explain the BSE case.