

**Lee, Na-Young**, Chung-Ang University, Korea; **Jung, Min Woo**, Chung-Ang University, Korea

### **The Spatial Constructions of ‘Strangers’ in/between Boundaries: Post/Colonial Space of Hierarchy, Itaewon in Korea**

We analyze the historical constructions of Itaewon in South Korea, in relation to the multi-layered interactions between/among various subjects and national politics. Itaewon, a center of Yongsan in Seoul, which has continued to house the headquarters for the U.S. military since independence, has been signified as a military camptown including red-light district till 1980s. From the late-1980s, however, Itaewon has been reorganized and represented as a ‘multicultural’ space where encountering between global agents and national subjects ‘freely’ happen. In effect, Itaewon functions as a symbolic and practical boundary to include/exclude national, gendered, and sexual ‘others,’ who are identified as ‘strangers’ with ontological nature. In this context, we explore how prostitutes, gays, Muslims, and other ‘poor’ and ‘exotic’ migrants in this seemingly postmodern ‘global’ space are (re)constituted as ‘strangers’ to Korean national culture and society, and how they become spatially rearranged by the gendered, racialized, and sexualized symbolic orders.