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The Seoul of Los Angeles: Korean Diaspora and the Construction of Transnational Identity and Memory in Digital Space

This presentation explores diasporic space and transnational flows of digital media arts between the United States and Asia, looking specifically at the modes of cultural exchange between Los Angeles and Korea. Nicknamed the “L.A. district of Seoul City”, Los Angeles’ Koreatown is examined through an excavation of its layered cultural, economic and ethnographic history and explores the evolution of the relationship between Koreatown, Korea and its diverse immigrant communities by juxtaposing archival historical narratives with the personal narratives of its inhabitants and visitors. These narratives will be presented in a media project combining a website with mobile technology to navigate personal and historical narratives distributed in geographic locations in Los Angeles. This interactive cultural history examines diasporic spaces, asking how a sense of place is created by the transnational inhabitants of Los Angeles and Seoul and the role that digital media occupies in the creation of cultural memory and identity.