

Sung, Minkyu, University of Iowa, United States

When Liberal Human Rights Meet Nationalism

This paper aims to illuminate the shift of the popular-political discourse from the frightening spectacle of starving North Koreans to the problem of North Korean settlers' social adaptation in South Korea. In so doing, I critically evaluate the way in which psychiatric interventions in those settlers' troubled minds help render their life narratives situated within the therapeutic tactics of citizenship politics in an advanced liberal society. In this process, those settlers are also confronted with the identity marker of nationalism that is posited as a legitimate source of exercising humanitarianism for them. I examine how those settlers become confounded at the intersection of liberal human rights and nationalism. South Korean TV documentaries such as *SBS Special: Lulling Flower Music Band's If Tomorrow Is Coming* (broadcast on 19 November 2006) are presented to show how the televisual domain of documentary serves the market-driven citizenship criteria of self-autonomy and self-promotion that are problematically attached to identity formation.