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Achievements and Prospects of Korean Studies in France

프랑스의 한국학 교류와 성과

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Abstract:

Korean studies in France have a long history that reflects the specificities of the French interest for East Asia from the 18th century. The relationships between the two countries were marked at the 19th century by tumultuous episodes due to French catholic proselytism and expansionist policy in East Asia but also by remarkable and unexpected scholarly achievements. At the 20th century, the isolated initiatives to promote and study Korea in France randomly taken by missionaries, diplomats, collectors and orientalists have been progressively replaced by institutionalized Korean studies that started to be structured within French universities and other higher education institutions with the help of specialists of other areas (China and Japan). After World War II, Korean studies have been continuously growing in France thanks to a whole generation of specialists holding positions in key institutions. These French Koreanists have actively participated in the building of European Korean studies and trained their successors, most of whom have landed positions in Paris and several large cities and are teaching and researching about Korea today. Following the long democratization of Korea and then the newly acquired visibility and attractiveness of Korean culture on the international stage from the late 1980’s to the early 2010’s, undergraduate students population in Korean studies has increased exponentially in France. Under this stunning
demographic pressure, many Korea specialists have been successively recruited as permanent staff in major Korean studies institutions in Paris and other large French cities, giving the impression that Korean studies have now become a mature and self-sufficient field. However the repeated large-scale reforms of French higher education and research sector that happened to be carried out at the very same time have significantly complicated the task of French Koreanists who might lose the exemplary cohesion that provided their strength so far. Facing many challenges, among which the lack of means and human resources as well as the massification of undergraduate students population, today’s French scholars on Korea try to “form community” through a network of francophone Korean studies (Réseau des études sur la Corée RESCOR). Their goal is to train the next generation while trying to keep the diversity of Korean studies in a more and more standardized and uniform academic world.

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I. The origins of French Korean studies

Korean studies in France have been developed in French universities and other institutions of higher education over the last six decades, from the mid-1950’s right after the Korean war. But Korea was probably known in France, within small circles, as early as the late 17th century and the origins of the Korean studies have to be traced back to the 19th century.

1. Minutoli’s translation of Hamel’s travelogue

The first time Korea was mentioned to a French learned audience is most probably in 1670, when the captivity narrative by Hendrik Hamel (1630-1692) published in 1668 in Amsterdam2 was translated from Flemish into French by Vincent Minutoli (1639-1709) and published in Paris in 1670.3 Despite a few inconsistencies and errors that altered Hamel’s original manuscript, this edition became a reference in Europe and the first English translation of Hamel’s travelogue was done from it and published by John Churchill in 1705.4 It is also
worth noting that this French edition was again chosen preferably among many other editions by Yi Pyŏngdo for his own translation into Korean published in 1954.\(^5\)

2. The M.E.P and French missionaries

But it was not until the 19\(^{\text{th}}\) century that France and Korea came into their first direct contact, when the Catholic missionnaires from the Paris Foreign Missions Society (\textit{Missions étrangères de Paris} M.E.P) started to spread southwards from China into the Korean peninsula. Since then, the rocky cultural exchanges between France and Korea have been largely conditioned by the difficult diplomatic negotiations surrounding the presence and proselytizing of these French missionaries in the Korean kingdom. Missionaries’ activities had caused substantial troubles to Chosŏn Korea. A well-known example is the French campaign against Korea in 1866 in Kanghwa island and the seize of precious books among which the Royal Protocols (Uigye 儀軌) from the Outer Kyujanggak Library. But despite these troubles that have often impaired the relationships between France and Korea until the very beginning of the 21\(^{\text{st}}\) century, one should acknowledge that the first important scholarly work in Western language about Korea was achieved by a French priest.

Charles Dallet (Claude-Charles Dallet, 1829-1878), from the Paris Foreign Missions Society, published in 1874 the first Western work on Korea after Hamel’s \textit{Account}. His \textit{History of the Church of Korea} in two volumes and 1174 pages provides detailed information about Korea in the late 19th century and can be considered as a precious historical document. In particular, the 192-page introduction of the work has attracted the attention of generations of specialists of Korea, for it describes in an anthropological way the geography, history, society, political organization, religions, foreign affairs, oral and written languages of the late Chosŏn Korea. The introduction was translated in Korean in 1947 and 1966, and the whole work in 1980 by the Institute of the History of Korean Church.\(^6\)

One interesting remark is that Dallet was not a specialist of Korea – and not even of North-East Asia. He spent most of his missionary life in India and had never been to Korea himself. After the killing of the “martyrs of Korea” in 1866, Dallet decided to compile the information and materials gathered by several priests who served in the peninsula, among whom bishop Antoine Daveluy (Marie-Nicolas-Antoine Daveluy, An Toni 安敦伊, 1818-1866), apostolic vicar of Korea whose writings were kept at the archives of the Paris Foreign Missions Society after his death. By publishing this work, Dallet’s main purpose was not to
increase public interest in France for Korea. It was rather to justify the missionary task of French priests in Asia, especially in Korea which was seen as a new Christian land.

However, Catholic missionaries in Korea achieved substantial works that paved the way to the birth of Korean studies in France one century later: dictionaries, grammar books, or translations. For example, Bishop Antoine Daveluy compiled the first Korean-French dictionary (Hanhanbul sajŏn 韓漢佛鮮典), wrote a Chronological chart of Korean history (Chosŏn yŏndaep’yo 朝鮮史年代表) and translated several texts related to Korean history into French to be sent to the Paris Foreign Missions Society.

3. Diplomats, orientalists, and collectors

Besides the missionaries, the diplomatic community and especially the interpreters played a key role in developing French knowledge about Korea. The “Friendship and Trade agreement” signed in 1886 not only marked the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and Korea but it provided also a chance to give birth to French Korean studies. Many members of the French diplomatic corps have been trained, in the past but also today, at the École spéciale des Langues Orientales, called INALCO (Institut des Langues et civilisations orientales 이날코 동양어문화대) since the 1970’s. This institution of higher education was created during the French Revolution in 1795 in order to train orientalists, interpreters, diplomats, and scholars.

Léon de Rosny (1837-1914), a professor of Japanese language at the École des Langues Orientales, published three articles related to Korea between 1859 and 1864. In 1889 Camille Imbault-Huart (1857-1897), a French consul who graduated in Chinese from the same school and became a specialist of Formosa, today’s Taiwan, published a Korean language textbook (Manuel de la langue coréenne parlée) in 108 pages after a trip to Korea.

Another famous orientalist diplomat is Victor Collin de Plancy (1853-1923), who graduated from the École des Langues Orientales in Chinese in 1876 and spent 13 years in Korea. He first went to Korea in 1887 to ratify the Friendship and Trade agreement. The year after, he became the Chargé d’affaires in Korea and started collecting about 700 ethnographic objects, including art works and fine porcelains, and rare books until 1891. Collin de Plancy also sent three successive shipments of books in 1889, 1890 and 1891 to the École des Langues Orientales, building up the first library funds about Korea in France. He took the initiative to display a Korean pavillon at the Universal Exhibition of Paris in 1900. All the
books presented at the exhibition were donated later to the *Ecole des Langues Orientales* that had then at its disposal one of the most important collections of Korean books in Europe (630 books, 1400 volumes).

Around the same time, the ethnologist Louis-Charles Varat (1842-1893) arrived in Korea for an ethnographic fieldwork funded by the French Ministry of Education. He also collected various artifacts and books (written in *hangul* and *hanmun*) in Seoul, Pusan, and Daegu that were given in 1893 to the Guimet Museum, which displays Asian arts in Paris. Back to France Varat also wrote a 78-page travelogue in 1892 for the journal *Le Tour du monde* that published writings from famous explorers of the time like David Livingstone (1813-1873). Varat illustrated his text with a map, more than a hundred drawings picturing people and landscapes of Korea, and 39 drawings by the genre painter Kisan 箕山, Kim Chungŭn 金俊根 (dates unknown).

The history of the Guimet Museum is also related to the history of Korean studies in France because of the fascinating figure of Hong Chongu 洪鍾宇 (1850-1913), who assassinated the reformist Kim Okkyun 金玉均 (1851-1894), served in the late Chosŏn administration and was finally relegated because of his strong anti-Japanese stance. In his younger days, Hong Chongu was the first Korean to come to France. He stayed from 1890 to 1893 in Paris, worked at the *Museum* thanks to the network he could build in the French capital city and became the first co-translator of Korean literature in Western language. In 1892 the French translation of the *Ch’unhyang chŏn* 春香傳 done by Séraphin Justin François Boex (J.-H. Rosny ; Rosny Junior) and Hong Chongu was published in a small book format (7.5 x 13.5 cm) at the Dendu collection in Paris. This edition is regarded as the first French translation of an East-Asian literary work in France, since not a single translation of a Chinese or Japanese novel had been published at that time. In 1895, after Hong Chongu had left for Korea, a text titled “The dry wood flourished again” (*Le Bois sec refleuri*) was published by the Guimet Museum. That was a French translation of a manuscript attributed to –and probably written by– Hong Chongu from heterogeneous body of Korean historical texts and literary tales, among which the *Tale of Sim Ch’ŏng* (Sim Ch’ŏng chŏn 沈淸傳).

4. The founding father of French Korean Studies : Maurice Courant

It is widely agreed that the founding father of Korean studies in France is Maurice Courant (1865-1935), another graduate from the *Ecole des Langues Orientales*, who was first
a Chinese interpreter at the French Legation in Beijing. When Collin de Plancy was appointed the Chargé d’affaires in Korea in 1888, Courant became his assistant and stayed in Korea from 1890 to 1892. He was given the task by Collin de Plancy and Mgr Mutel, then the bishop of Korea, to catalogue all the Korean books known and available. After travelling throughout the Korean peninsula and collecting varied information through research conducted in libraries, bookstores, Buddhist temples and catalogues, he achieved the *Bibliographie coréenne* (*Korean Bibliography, Han’guk sŏji 韓國書誌*). The monumental work was published by the *Ecole des Langues Orientales* at Ernest Leroux publishing house in three volumes from 1894 and 1897 and one Supplement presenting the books published until 1899 was added in 1901. The whole work in three volumes lists 3821 books published in Korea from the origins to 1890. Most of these books are minutely described through bibliographical notices and sometimes illustrations. The general introduction of about a hundred pages gives an account of Korean culture and is still read by specialists of Korea.

Maurice Courant became a professor of Chinese at the University of Lyon in 1900, when a new position was created through funding from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the city of Lyon. Courant mainly taught Chinese but also Korean culture. Before getting a severe injury to his right hand in 1910 that prevented him from writing, he left several writings about Korea. For example, he wrote the first travel guide of Korea ever published in the West and authored the 66-page *1900, Souvenir de Séoul, Corée. Le pavillon coréen au Champ de Mars*, which presents the Korean pavilion at the Universal Exhibition of Paris in 1900 (*1900 년 파리 만국박람회*) with a rich iconography. This work was published in a trilingual edition (English, French, Korean) in Seoul in 2010.

But the most remarkable achievement of Courant for Korean studies is certainly the manuscript, in two volumes and 349 pages with an index, called *Répertoire historique de l’administration coréenne* (*Han’guk yŏktae haengjŏng-kwanjik ch'ongnam 한국 역대 행정-관직 총람*). This work consistently translates the administrative structures and nomenclature of the Chosŏn state into French equivalents and is without precedent in either English or Modern Korean. The manuscript has remained unpublished until 1986, when late professor Daniel Bouchez edited and published a fac-simile of it at the Collège de France, in *Cahiers d’études coréennes*. Considering the importance of the work, which has no equivalent worldwide, the Center for Korean Studies at EHESS made efforts to transform the manuscript into a searchable document, available for the academic community. The first step was taken in
2007 when Alain Delissen, then the director of the CKS, charged Pierre-Emmanuel Roux with typing the whole document in a Word document that could be made available on-line and also adding Modern Korean transcriptions and a few commentaries. Then in 2015, as the director of the CKS, Isabelle Sancho also fully supported Eun-joo Carré-Na, the research engineer at the CKS, to ask for funding to the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) in order to make a digital edition of Courant’s revised manuscript with three different indexes. Finally in 2017, Courant’s *Répertoire historique de l’administration coréenne* has been made available in both French and Korean open archive platforms (HAL and AKS).

**II. French Korean Studies from the 1950’s to the end of the 20th century**

1. *The birth of Korean Studies in French universities in the 1950’s*

After Courant who was a professor of Chinese in Lyon, it was a specialist of Japan, Charles Hagenauer (1896-1976) who taught partially Korean language and culture in France in the first half of the 20th century. Hagenauer has been teaching Japanese from 1932 to 1953 at the *Ecole Nationale des Langues Orientales Vivantes* (ENLOV, today’s INALCO) and from 1953 to 1967 at the Sorbonne University. In 1944-1945, he started teaching a small class of five students about Korean history and culture but had to interrupt it when, being a Jew, he had to flee to Southern France. Back in Paris after World War II, Hagenauer taught about religions of Japan and Korea between 1933 and 1967 at the *Ecole Pratique des Hautes études* (EPHE). Thanks to Hagenauer’s efforts, Sorbonne University established in 1959 a national degree in Korean studies (*Certificat d’études supérieures de coréen*) and the Japanese Section was renamed the Section of Japanese and Korean studies.

In 1956, this Section was joined by the historian Li Ogg 李玉 (1928-2001) who was invited to teach by Hagenauer and became the first lecturer in Korean studies. The first two graduates from this degree in Korean studies were André Fabre (1932-2009) in 1962 and Marc Orange in 1964. Both have later become important personalities in Korean studies in France.

In the wake of Sorbonne university, the *Ecole Nationale des Langues Orientales Vivantes* (ENLOV) created its own degree in Korean studies in 1959. This degree was obtained after two years but a third year at the Sorbonne was necessary to obtain the *Licence* degree. Classes at ENLOV and Sorbonne were taught by the same teaching staff. The only
permanent lecturers were Li Ogg and his successor Fabre, who became professor in Korean in 1969 when Li was appointed at Paris 7 University (today’s Paris Diderot University).

2. The 1970’s-1990’s: the beginning of large-scale institutional reforms and the institutionalization of Korean studies in French universities

Following the May 1968 events in France, the institutional landscape of French higher education has been changing rapidly and drastically. As far as Korean studies were concerned, the Section of Japanese and Korean studies was split into two different sections at the Sorbonne in order to form, with the Section of Chinese studies and the Section of Vietnamese studies, a new university component called the unité d’enseignement et de recherche (“teaching and research unit”) “Langues et Civilisations de l’Asie Orientale” (Languages and Civilizations of East Asia), UER LCAO. This UER was part of Paris 7 University. Li Ogg was then the only permanent lecturer and was assisted by a few temporary instructors. Li was a specialist of Korean history, especially ancient history. He defended his PhD in Korean ancient history in 1977 and became full professor in 1983. During his career, he has published several teaching and research materials about Korean history, mythology, and language. In the early 1970’s, another prominent figure of the first generation of Korean studies specialists appeared. Daniel Bouchez (1928-2014), a former catholic priest in Korea, became instructor in Korean studies both at Paris 7 and the EPHE (IVth Section). In 1972 he was recruited in his fourties as a permanent researcher at the National Center for Scientific Research (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS). Bouchez was a specialist of Korean language and literature. While teaching he prepared and obtained a doctoral degree at Paris 7 in 1975. During his late but prolific career as an international specialist of Korea, he published and presented a number of studies that are still regarded as references. His main focus of study was Kim Manjung 金萬重 (1637-1692) and his novels. As the co-author and adapter in French of the History of Korean literature by Cho Tongil, he contributed to a better understanding of Korean literary tradition in France and Europe. Bouchez was also among the founding members and used to be the President of the Association of Korean Studies in Europe (AKSE) and the French Association for Korean Studies (Association Française pour l’Etude de la Corée, AFPEC). In 1983 was also recruited as an assistant professor at Paris 7 University Martine Prost, a linguist specialized in Japanese and Korean, who contributed for many years to the growth of Korean studies in France and inter-cultural understanding between France and Korea.
3. Maintaining the tradition: the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO)

Korean studies at the Ecole Nationale des Langues Orientales Vivantes, which was renamed Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in 1971, developed from the late 1960’s when Fabre obtained his PhD in linguistics and was appointed professor of Korean studies. Among the teaching staff from the 1970’s to the 1990’s were two linguists, Lee Byoung-jou and Shim Seung-ja who have trained undergraduate students in Korean language and culture for many years and became familiar figures among the first generation of Korean studies. In 1995 Patrick Maurus, a specialist of literature and translator, became associate professor at INALCO. He has played a key role in developing Korean studies about literature and translation. They all published books and translations for general audience and scholars, trained undergraduates students, and supervised Master or PhD dissertations, making of the INALCO a renowned institution for Korean studies over the years.

4. The democratization of South Korea and the creation of the Centre de recherches sur la Corée (CRC) at the EHESS

Another core institution for Korean studies in France was created in the 1990’s. It is the Centre de recherches sur la Corée (CRC, Research Center on Korea) at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences sociales, EHESS), which is the most prominent research center devoted to Korean studies in France. As a post-graduate research center providing large library resources, mostly in Korean, the center gathers most of the French specialists of Korea as permanent members, affiliates, or associates. In 1989 after the democratic movements of the 1980’s in South Korea, the “Research group on the economy and society of Korea” (groupe de recherches sur l’économie et la société de la Corée, GRESCO) was created at the EHESS thanks to the efforts of Bertrand Chung (Cheong Seongbae, born 1933) and his colleagues at EHESS who supported him. Chung is a political scientist and activist. Primarily trained in Japanese, he graduated from the Seoul National University in Law and obtained a fellowship from the French government to study-policial science and law before being involved in the “East Berlin crisis,” during which he was kidnapped by South Korean secret services, sent back to Seoul,
and imprisoned. After this traumatic episode, he was living in exile in Paris and worked for the *Documentation française*, publishing academic reports and studies about Japan for French government, and then at the EHESS as a specialist of Japan. He obtained a PhD in Law in France and was finally recruited as an assistant professor in 1990 at the EHESS, in Japanese studies. Simultaneously in 1991, the “Research group on Korea” (“Groupe de recherche sur la Corée” URA 1474) was created at the CNRS and hosted by Paris-7 University. It was coordinated by Bouchez and Alexandre Guillemoz (born 1941), an anthropologist who was a research director at the CNRS. The research group was then transferred to the EHESS in 1995 and merged with the GRESCO to form the research Center on Korea (*Centre de recherches sur la Corée*, CRC). The CRC was founded at the EHESS with the help of the Korea Foundation established in 1991 and thanks to the favorable political environment in South Korea leading to the election of Kim Dae-jung. Its first director was Chung. He was followed by Guillemoz who became in 1999 a professor at EHESS. Guillemoz has supervised many PhD dissertations and improved significantly the international visibility of the CRC and its members in the 1990’s and after. In 1995 Delissen, a specialist of colonial, urban, and cultural history, was recruited at the CRC. Taking over much of the scientific policy of the center, he worked closely with Guillemoz to help Korean studies gain academic recognition in France and abroad and grow into a more mature and diversified field. They also both taught seminars that trained several Korea specialists in France.

5. A prestigious institution of Korean studies in France, the *Institut d’études coréennes (IEC)* of the Collège France

Another prestigious institution related to Korean studies in Paris is the *Institut d’études coréennes (IEC)* of the Collège de France, which was created as early as 1530. The IEC was founded in 1959 at Sorbonne University by Haguenauer, based on the personal library resources provided by the latter, and was transferred in 1973 to the Collège de France. It is part of the *Instituts d’Extrême-Orient* (Institutes of the Far East) of the Collège de France that is composed of the Institutes of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indian, and Tibetan studies. It contains a rich library providing today about 30,000 books and periodicals (70% in Korean) about literature, history, philosophy, law, and arts. The IEC also maintains precious books coming from the Maurice Courant collection, contains some material about DPRK from the 1970’s and 1980’s, and runs two academic series published by De Boccard in Paris since 1979: *Memoires de l’Institut d’études coréennes* and *Cahiers de l’Institut d’études*.
The directors of the IEC have been, in chronological order: Li Ogg (Paris 7), Marc Orange (CNRS), Martine Prost (Paris 7), Alain Delissen (EHESS). Delissen, the current director since 2011 works with the IEC librarian No Mi-sug who is also a translator of Korean literature. He has launched in 2016 a new series published at De Boccard, Kalp’i-Études coréennes. Two books have been already published and two more are foreseen for 2018.

6. The establishment of Korean studies in large French cities in the late 1980’s

In the late 1980’s Korean studies have also developed outside of Paris and spread in major French cities. In Lyon, the second largest city in France, Li Jine-Mieung, who was at first a specialist of Japan, has been teaching Korean language and culture from 1983 in the University of Lyon 3 under the recommendation of Li Ogg. In Bordeaux, Korean started to be taught in 1986 by Kim Bona, an artist and poet and a specialist of Korean literature, at the University of Bordeaux 3. She became assistant professor in 1993 and later the director of the Korean Section. In 1987 Korean language and culture started also to be taught at the University of Le Havre. Eun-Sook Choi-Chabal, a specialist of Korean literature, was appointed assistant professor in 1992.

III. Current landscape: 2000’s-2010’s

1. A generational change

At the turn of the new millennium, many among the first generation of Korean studies specialists retired: Li Ogg in 1993, Daniel Bouchez in 1993, André Fabre in 1997, Bertrand Chung in 1998, Marc Orange in 2002 and Lee Byoung-Joo in 2004. They were replaced and even outnumbered in almost every university and higher education institution by younger colleagues, due to the dramatic growth of under-graduates population in Korean studies départements and sections in many places in France. This new generation of Koreanists was partly trained by the first one. Following the steps of their teachers, predecessors, and senior colleagues, its members are currently strengthening Korean studies in France. They are also very active at the international level. Their activities especially reconfirm the pivotal role of French Korean studies within European Korean studies, which foundations had been laid by the first generation.
Generally speaking, the most representative disciplines in French Korean studies are still: history (pre-modern and modern), social anthropology, linguistics, and literature. However, fields such as geography and archeology have also been represented by active colleagues since the late 1990’s. In the 2000’s-2010’s, many successive recruitments of permanent staff in Korean studies have enriched the academic landscape.

Today, the institutional organization and collective dynamics of Korean studies in France are heavily impacted by the important reforms of higher education and research that are still going on nation-wide. Following previous laws that have been enforced successively to the sector of higher education and public research in France in the 2000’s-2010’s, the latest law adopted on 22 July 2013 has created the Communautés d’universités et d’établissements (COMUE or Comue; “Groups of universities and institutions”). These Comues, of which there are 21 today, have replaced progressively since 2013 the 27 Pôles de recherche et d’enseignement supérieur (PRES; Centers for Research and Higher education) that had been created from 2006 to 2013. These associations of universities and higher education institutions are in charge of coordinating educational provision. They are under the umbrella of the Ministère de l’enseignement supérieur et de la recherche (Ministry of Higher Education and Research) and fall under the category of the établissements publics à caractère scientifique, culturel et professionnel (EPSCP; “Public scientific, cultural or professional establishments”), which have legal, administrative, and financial autonomies. As far as Korean studies are concerned, one should notice that the academic community of Korea specialists is now split into different Comues, depending on their home institutions and the choice made by these institutions regarding the possible institutional associations and groups of universities since 2013. The current situation may change in the years to come.

2. The University of Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL)

As for now the Comue Université de recherche Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL Research University) gathers, for Korean studies, the colleagues from the EHESS, Collège de France, and Ecole Française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO).

The CRC at the EHESS is one Center of the EHESS but belongs to a larger “joint research unit” (unité mixte de recherche, UMR) called UMR 8173 “Chine, Corée, Japon.” The two supervisory institutions of this joint unit are the EHESS and CNRS. The University of Paris Diderot (Paris 7) is a partner institution and will become a supervisory institution as well starting from January 2018. As its name implies, this “joint unit” gathers since 2006 the
Centers for Chinese, Korean, and Japanese studies of the EHESS. National research in higher education institutions has been done and funded since 2007 under the terms of research contract agreements established with the State and is now evaluated on a five-year basis instead of a four-year basis. In one decade, the CRC has been led to collaborate more and more with the two other centers of the joint unit.

In 2007 Valérie Gelézeau, a geographer who was already an assistant professor in geography at the University of Marne-la-Vallée, became an assistant professor at the EHESS and joined Delissen and the CRC in 2007. The very same year, Na Eun-joo became a permanent staff of the EHESS as a research engineer and became in charge of the library and the documentation resources of the CRC. In 2009 Isabelle Sancho, a specialist of Confucianism and Korean intellectual history, was hired as a permanent researcher of the History section of the National Center for Scientific research (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS). There had been no researcher on Korea at the CNRS since Orange’s retirement in 2002. Sancho was appointed by the CNRS at the CRC.

Gelézeau works on cultural geography and her most recent focus of interest has been capital cities in Korean world and urban issues in North Korea. She has directed and coordinated several collaborative research projects. The latest one is about “Cities, urbanism and architecture in North Korea” (CITY-NKOR) and is led in conjunction between EHESS, the Cité de l’architecture et du patrimoine (CAPA, Museum of Heritage and Architecture) in Paris, Leiden University, the Seoul Center of the EFEO, and Pyongyang University of Architecture (PUA P’yŏngyang kŏnch’uk chonghap taehak). Delissen’s interests are very diverse and eclectic and he has been taking since twenty year a leading role in many collaborative projects with Korean studies specialists but also historians of other areas. He has supervised several PhD students and has trained many of the newly recruited assistant professors in Korean studies in Paris. He has been working on colonial society and history, the city of Seoul through history and space (especially for the year 1925), urban landscape, historiography, translations, storytelling and indexation, urban culture, massacres and war memories, patrimonialization in Kaesong, Ch’oe Namsŏn, Yi Chungsŏp, Maurice Courant, etc. He has published many articles since 1992. Isabelle Sancho is a specialist of Confucianism and intellectual history. Very active in international networks and conferences, she notably organized in 2016 at the CRC the first international Conference of pre-modern Korean studies in Europe. These past few years, she has been focusing on translations while directing the CKS and co-directing the joint-unit “China, Korea, Japan” at EHESS. She published in 2011 an annotated bilingual translation (hanmun-French) of
Yulgok’s *Kyŏngmong yogyŏl* and achieved recently an annotated English translation of Hwadam’s prose writings for the AKS 100 Classics project. She is preparing a monography on Yulgok taken as a study of Confucian culture and scholars of the Chosŏn period. She is interested in the building of great men in Confucianism, *munjip*, and biographies and self-narratives.

The directors of the CRC have been successively Delissen (2007-2009), Gelézeau (2009-2013) and Sancho (2013-2017). Delissen is currently the director of the IEC at the Collège de France and has also acted as the director of the joint unit “China, Korea, Japan” at the EHESS from 2009 to 2013. The CRC gathers numerous colleagues from other institutions in France and abroad: among its permanent members are colleagues from Paris Diderot University-Paris 7 and University of La Rochelle, and among its associates are colleagues from the EFEQ, INALCO, Guimet Museum, Hongik university, Sungkyunkwan university, Leiden university, etc. It is the core research center for Korean studies in France and is well-known abroad. It invites every year two professors for one-month stays based on two criteria: one scholar from Northern America, one scholar from South Korea, and whenever possible, one woman and one man. It hosts regularly post-doctoral fellows (usually from the Korea Foundation) and visiting researchers from different countries. Many current associate professors at INALCO and Paris Diderot University were trained and obtained their PhD from the EHESS and have been associated to the CRC.

In 2001 Elisabeth Chabanol, an archeologist and specialist of East Asian art history, was recruited at the EFEQ. She became head of “The Seoul Centre” of the EFEQ in 2002 when this branch office, first established by Bertrand Chung in 1994 at the Asian Research Institute of Korea University, was re-opened. She has been conducting since 2003 groundbreaking archeological research in Kaesŏng, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Cultural Property Conservation of the DPRK and North Korean archeologists.

3. Université Sorbonne-Paris-Cité (USPC)

The Comue Université Sorbonne-Paris-Cité (USPC) gathers the two institutions with the greatest numbers of under-graduate students in France: Paris Diderot University (Paris 7) and INALCO.

In Paris Diderot University, Prost retired in 2011 and Choi in 2013. In 2004 Yannick Bruneton, a historian of Koryŏ, was recruited. He has been very active in national and international levels and has published several articles and book chapters. Primarily interested
in Koryŏ history, Buddhism, epigraphy, and translations, he also teaches *hanja*, *hanmun*, *hansi* as well as Korean history, historiography, and epigraphy. He became full professor in 2016. Six new colleagues have been hired within less than a decade at Paris Diderot University. In 2010 Marie-Orange Rivé-Lasan, a historian of modern Korea, was recruited. She works on political networks, South Korean elites, especially those originating from the Northern part of the peninsula, as well as the South Korea democratization and political actors. In 2012 Kim Jin-ok, a linguist, was recruited. She specializes in the Korean language pedagogy, grammar, and difficulties in language acquisition. In 2013 Florence Galmiche, a social-anthropologist, was recruited. She has worked on contemporary urban Buddhism, the relationships between lay Buddhists and monks, and is now exploring new anthropological topics, such as death and ghosts, Jeju massacres, body, health and gender in South Korea. In 2015, Pierre-Emmanuel Roux, a historian of Chosŏn and Sinologist, was recruited. He works on the comparative historiography of catholicism in Asia as well as law in East Asia. He was member of diverse international projects on these topics. He is currently the director of the Korean section of the UFR LCAO at Paris Diderot University. In 2017 Yim Eunsil, a social-anthropologist, was recruited. She has worked on the Koreans of Kazakhstan and Korean diaspora, and she has been recently studying immigrants in South Korea and the notion of Korean-ness and its boundaries. Lastly one new associate professor will be recruited in 2018 at Paris Diderot.

This rapid succession of recruitments reflects the constant growth of student population in Korean studies since the 2000’s. This academic year 2017-2018, there are currently 136 students enrolled in Licence 1, 82 in Licence 2, 48 in Licence 3, 14 in Master 1, 13 in Master 2, and 1 PhD candidate.

The same phenomenon can be observable in INALCO, which is also part of the same Comue Sorbonne-Paris-Cité. The staff at the INALCO is composed by five permanent members. Maurus became full professor in 2009 but has now retired. Kim Daeyeol, a Sinologist and Koreanist, was recruited in 2002 in Korean studies. He became full professor in 2016 and acts now as the head of the Korea Department at the INALCO. He works on religions and the cultural history of pre-modern Korea, with a special focus on Tasan and king Chǒngjo as well as the history of medicine in Korea. Jeong Eun-jin was hired in 2010. She is a specialist of Modern and contemporary literature and is a renowned literature translator and interpreter. She worked for a while with Maurus and continues developing actively translation and literature studies at INALCO. Kim Hui-yeon, who obtained her PhD in sociology at EHESS in 2011 was recruited in 2012. She worked on the transnationalization of
protestant churches from Korea and her recent research is about South Korean missionnaries in South-East Asia as well as South Korean protestant churches, migrations, and multiculturalism. In 2016 Stéphane Thévenet, a sociologist and specialist of media and communication, was recruited. Finally in 2017, Choi Jiyoung, a linguist, was also recruited. There might be another recruitment at INALCO in 2018 or 2019. The students at INALCO are more numerous than in Paris Diderot. For this year, there are 183 in Licence 1, 132 in Licence 2, 97 in Licence 3, 20 in Master 1, 35 in Master 2 and 2 PhD candidates (co-supervision).

4. Other institutions and structures where Korean studies are taught

Following the same dynamics as in Paris and the growing attractiveness of Korean culture on French youth, the Korean Studies in large French cities have also developed significantly in the 2000’s-2010’s, mainly at the under-graduate level. Lyon, La Rochelle, Le Havre, Bordeaux, Aix-en-Provence (University Aix-Marseille), which are parts of different Comues today, recruited several Korea specialists as permanent staff. In 2002 was recruited at the University of La Rochelle Evelyne Chérel-Riquier, a modern historian who is a member of the CRC at the EHESS in Paris. She works on the relations between the Catholic Church and politics in South Korea and the construction of national identities. At the same university was recruited in 2007 a linguist, Kwon Yong-hae. He is an active member of the promotion of the Korean language education. At the University of Lyon 3, Le-Wang Minsook, a literature specialist, was recruited in 2012 after Li Jine-Mieung’s retirement the same year. Li Jine-Mieung, as a professor emeritus, has been authorized to keep supervising the PhD students that were under his direction at Paris Diderot University until 2017. Le-Wang Minsook works on literary criticism, primarily of French literature and more recently Korean literature, with a special focus on Kim Dong-ri. At the University of Bordeaux 3 was recruited Stéphane Couralet, a linguist. He works on syntax and semantics of Korean. Le Havre had already recruited in 1992 Choi-Chabal Eun-sook, a literature specialist. Kim-Cresenzo Hye-gyeong, a specialist of literature and translator was recruited in the University of Aix-Marseille at Aix-en-Provence in 2011. She works on the reception and translation of contemporary Korean literature. With her husband, she has an active collaboration with the KLTI (Korean Literature Translation Institute), runs a publishing house and operates an online journal specialized in Korean literature.
For most of these places in French large cities, the main issues at stake in Korean studies are the recruitment of permanent staff to meet the students’ demand one the one hand and the creation and development of the Licence in Applied Foreign language Korean-English (*Licence Langue Etrangère Appliquée*, LEA) on the other hand. The LEA specialization program proposes multidisciplinary and professional courses and is thus more oriented to job search than research and in-depth studies. Under students’ demands for courses in LEA and the efforts of the colleagues who were recruited as permanent staff, the universities of La Rochelle and Lyon have succeeded in establishing this curriculum. Students enrolled in Master programs (1 and 2) at La Rochelle are more than a hundred every year and Lyon has successfully started from this fall 2017 a Master program in Applied Foreign language Korean-English. As for the University of Bordeaux 3, students and colleagues are currently trying to implement an LEA program to replace the existing University Degree. This Degree (*Diplôme universitaire* (DU) “*langue et culture coréenne*”) is issued only by the university and is not a national diploma issued on behalf of the Ministry.

Most of the French universities and higher education institutions where Korean studies are taught (INALCO, Paris Diderot, Lyon, La Rochelle) have international agreements and student exchange programs with Korean universities: Seoul National University, Sungkyungkwan University, Sogang University, Sookmyung Women’s University, Ewha Womans University, Kyung Hee University, Dongguk University, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Busan University of Foreign Studies, Dongeui-University, Inha Univeristy, Pusan National University, Chon Buk National University, and Kim Il-Sung University in Pyongyang. As a post-graduate research center, the CRC at EHESS doesn’t have any exchange student agreements but has several partnerships or collaborative projects with Korean institutions, such as Hanyang University, Hongik University, the Seoul Institute, the Pyongyang University of Architecture, etc.

Some French institutions are hosting the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) examinations, levels I and II, that are organized by the Education Section of the South Korean Embassy in France in seven cities: Paris (Paris Diderot University), La Rochelle, Rouen (Camille Saint-Saëns high-school), Strasbourg, Aix-en-Provence, Bordeaux, and Lyon. Some of the institutions also have Korean studies student’s associations.
As the brief previous overview has shown, French Korean studies in higher education institutions have been growing extremely rapidly over the past two decades in a difficult environment of constant reforms. At the turn of the new millenium, this sudden growth has required to take time for self-reflection and make some decisions for the future. Korean studies scholars in France had to “form community,” by organizing themselves beyond the constraints imposed by French institutional reforms, setting up common goals, and preparing together the future developments of the field. After a collective reflection about the history, characteristics, and national and international environments of the French Korean studies, several conclusions have been drawn. The first observation was that French scholars have always payed a special attention to translations. Translations have been considered not only as means of promoting Korean culture and literature in France and as necessary working tools for teaching and researching, but they were also regarded as hermeneutical practices and subjects for study for themselves, raising questions such as “how to translate social sciences” (from French to Korean, from Korean to French, from English translations of Korean into French, etc.) and thus leading to other questionings like “what are Korean studies ?” or “Which Korean studies ?”. Whatever their disciplines and the periods of time they were specialized in, all French Koreanists have been extensively translating and thinking in many languages (hanmun, old and modern Korean, colonial period Korean, South Korean, North Korean, diaspora’s Korean, academic English, French but also Chinese, Japanese, German, Russian for instances). A second observation was that, with the growing internationalization of academic exchanges and the hegemony of a certain way of doing Korean studies coming from the anglophone sphere, French scholars felt that the globalized Korean studies tended to fall into the pitfalls of uniformisation in its practices, methods, and topics. A third observation, related to the previous ones, was that the French students who wanted to study Korea needed to be provided urgently with various teaching materials in French. They needed to be given an easier access to existing materials or future materials that could to be circulated widely. Even though the growth of under-graduate students population had been progressively met by an increased number of recruitments over the past few years as it has been explained, teaching materials and tools are still sorely lacking (sources books, grammars, hanmun and hanja methods, chronologies, maps, translations of Korean primary sources and social sciences). Considering all this, Korean studies scholars in France have perceived the need to
preserve and develop different ways of doing Korean studies world-wide while maintaining a scientific community using French language by sharing information and materials. This led, thanks to the generous support of the AKS, to the creation in 2010 of the “Network of francophone Korean studies,” called Réseau des études sur la Corée (RESCOR).

The RESCOR is a multi-year research project that aims to maintain a collaborative network of Korea specialists in France but also abroad. The first consortium, called RESCOR 1 (or “Paris Consortium”), lasted from 2010 to 2015 thanks to a five-year grant from the Korean Studies Promotion Service (KSPS). It was first based on existing networks such as the French Association of Korean Studies (Association Française pour l’étude de la Corée AFPEC) or the Association for Korean studies in Europe (AKSE). It was directed by a board composed by four members from three different parisian institutions: Paris Diderot University (Bruneton), EHESS (Gélèzeau and Delissen), and INALCO (Kim Daeyeol), and the supervisor was Bruneton. The RESCOR 1 created and operated a collaborative website hosted at Paris Diderot University (http://www.reseau-etudes-coree.univ-paris-diderot.fr/) and a scientific blog hosted by one platform of OpenEdition, hypothes.org (http://parisconsortium.hypotheses.org/). It organized five international workshops and conferences to delineate the objectives of the network, develop collaborative tools, identify the possible partners, and deepen the interactions between its members on national and international scales. The main outcomes of the RESCOR 1 were the creation and maintenance of the network’s website, the getting online of many existing materials (unpublished translations that can be edited online on a collaborative platform, free copyright articles, archives from the first generation of Korean studies scholars), a better sharing of information about any academic events, publications, and posts related to Korean studies in French, and the mapping of francophone Korean studies worldwide. A survey carried about the countries interested by the RESCOR showed that the francophone community of Korean studies was spread over large areas. One could cite in Europe the UK and Germany of course, but also Bulgaria and Romania for instances. In Africa, contacts were made with Algeria, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, and Benin and some of these exchanges look very promising for the future (academic exchanges between the University Paris Diderot and the University Félix Houphouët Boigny in Côte d’Ivoire). Besides, the traffic statistics for the RESCOR website have shown increasing accesses over the years from Northern America, especially the USA, and Asia (South Korea and China).

The on-going program of the RESCOR 2 (2015-2020), renewed thanks to another KSPS funding, pursues a slightly different purpose. While maintaining and enriching the
website and digital library, it focuses on the strengthening of francophone Korean studies through the funding of students (Master and PhD fellowships) and the publication of teaching and research materials in French by the founding members of the RESCOR. These materials can be put online and/or published in printed formats. The founding members of the RESCOR 2 are more numerous than in the previous consortium, since they are composed today by all the permanent teaching staff of Paris Diderot University (Bruneton, Rivé-Lasan, Kim J.-O., Galmiche, Roux, Yim), EHESS (Delissen, Gelézeau, Sancho), and INALCO (Kim D., Jeong, Kim H.-Y., Thevenet, Choi). These 14 people take group decisions on all matters: recruitments of RESCOR staff (contractual service suppliers, trainees), budgetary management, student fellowships, scientific activities, communication and promotion, international relations, publications. The director of the RESCOR 2 is Kim Daeyeol.

Conclusion

After developing at different speeds for more than a half century in French academic institutions, Korean studies in France have now reached a new level where its members are collectively and individually faced with real difficulties but also exciting challenges. Thanks to the efforts made by all of its members, past and present but also inside and outside academia, French Korean studies have been changed from a tiny group of individuals who tried to promote Korea in France according to their personal trajectories and contexts, into a coherent, cohesive, and dynamic field that has gained a certain academic visibility in French area studies. Beyond national borders, French Koreanists have always been visible and active and are among the pillars of European Korean studies.

Generally speaking, the main assets of French Koreanists are their strong sense of community, a teamwork based on a remarkable cohesion, their collective status of government civil servants enjoying permanent positions, and their fierce will to establish their field in French higher education and research. These characteristics also explain the high
pressure that is currently felt by French Koreanists. Firstly they have to face grand institutional reforms in France that are likely to threaten their team cohesion and put their home institutions in competition with one another. Secondly, because of the official ban of any selection of students at under-graduate level and the low tuition fees, there is an increasing massification of students in Korean studies with the growing attractiveness of South Korea in France. This massification imposes in turn a great workload on colleagues teaching at under-graduate levels who are already overwhelmed by their administrative duties. The reforms in French academia have dramatically increased in recent decades the administrative tasks assigned to all teachers-researchers. The proliferation of decision-making structures, the reduction in staff for supporting functions, and the general complexification of the tasks (teaching, research, representation, communication and enhancement, financial and human resources management), and the budget reductions all cause extreme fatigue and stress. This also explains why it takes now more time for junior scholars to become senior scholars by passing their habilitation thesis (habilitation à diriger les recherches HDR) that is a prerequisite for any position of full professors or senior researchers. The lack of habilitation holders among Koreanists (there are only four today in France) explains the lack of professors authorized to supervise PhD dissertations in Korean studies. The main problem concerns thus the training and prospects offered to students who would like to pursue in post-graduate studies. To try to answer these challenges, the RESCOR has been created and there are good prospects. But its future maintenance and development are already a real matter of concern, when the South Korean funding will end.

As a still young field compared to Chinese, Japanese or Indian studies, Korean studies are still understaffed in France despite the impressive recruitment waves of recent years, and its members are both enjoying and suffering from the recent boom of their field. While enhancing the achievements of the first generation of Koreanists, current French Koreanists have now to train properly the next generation in order to continue building and consolidating their community.

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1 Dr. Isabelle Sancho is a permanent researcher at the National Center for Scientific Research in France (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique CNRS ; 프랑스국립과학연구센터) and has been acting as the Director of the Research Center on Korea (Centre de Recherches sur la Corée CRC ; 한국학연구센터) at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales EHESS ; 사회과학고등연구원) from September 2013 to December 2017.

2 The first edition of Hamel’s work is Journal van de ongeluckighe Voyagie can’t Jacht de Sperwer van Batavia ghedestineert na Tayowan in’t Jaer 1653, Amsterdam, Jacob Van Velsen, 1668.


4 An Account of the Shipwreck of a Dutch vessel on the coast of the isle of Quelpaert, together with the description of the Kingdom of Corea, in A Collection of Voyages and Travels, 4 vols., London, John Churchill, vol IV, pp. 607-632. This edition was reprinted in the Transactions of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. IX, 1918, and reprinted anew in The Dutch Come To Corea by Gari Ledyard, pp. 168 ff. published


7 J.-H. Rosny is a pseudonym used by Joseph Henri Honoré Boex (1856-1940) and his younger brother Séraphin Justin François Boex (1859-1948). They were French authors of Belgian origine who wrote, together or separately, science fiction. *The Quest for Fire* (La guerre du feu), published in 1911, is attributed to J.-H. Rosny but was written by Joseph Boex. After 1908, the two brothers put an end to their collaboration and started to use sometimes two different pen-names: “Rosny Aîné” (Rosny Senior) for Joseph and “Rosny Jeune” (Rosny Junior) for Séraphin. The French translation of the *Ch’inhyang chŏn* was signed J.-H. Rosny but was probably done by Séraphin Boex in cooperation with Hong Chongou.


10 These two texts, introduced by An Sonjae (Brother Anthony of Taizé), has been published in 2016 by *Atelier des Cahiers*, Collection Seonbi, in collaboration with *sallim* publishing house in South Korea on the occasion of the France-Korea Years 2015-2016.


13 모리스 꾸랑의 서울의 추억, 서울역사 박물관조사 연구과, 2010, 127 pages. This work was published in Korea thanks to the efforts of the Seoul Museum of History and Elisabeth Chabanol, the head of the Seoul Centre of the Ecole Française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO; 프랑스국립극동연구원). The EFEO Seoul branch office (The Seoul Centre), created in 1994, is hosted by the Asian Research Institute of the Korea University (고려대학교 아세아문제 연구소).

14 See below, “2. The 1970’s-1990’s: the beginning of large-scale institutional reforms and the institutionalization of Korean studies in French universities.”

The unités d’enseignement et de recherche (UER; “teaching and research units”) were created by the Faure Law in 1968 to create a new university component that would be multi-disciplinary and replace the former facultés (the French equivalents of the “faculties,” “schools” or “colleges” in the UK or the USA). They were renamed unités de formation and the recherche (UFR; “training and research unit”) in 1984 after the Savary Law.


To the South (Namjŏng ki 南征記) and Dreams of nine clouds (Kuunmong 九雲夢).


Martine Prost (born 1951) defended her PhD dissertation in linguistics in 1980 at Paris 7 University. The title was “Quelques questions de grammaire japonaise avec références au coréen (A few issues in Japanese Linguistics with references to Korean).” She wrote several articles on Korean linguistics in academic journals, such as Faits de langue, as well as a couple of articles about Korean culture but also French-Korean relationships in journals and newspapers in France and South Korea. Besides she has been a prolific writers for non-academic writings about France and Korea: Martine Prost, Scènes de vie en Corée: essai d’interprétation (Scenes of everyday life in Korea: an attempt at interpretation), L’Asiathèque-Maison des langues du monde, 2011; Martine Prost, Halabeoji, L’Asiathèque, 2016; 마틴 프로스트, 우리 아이들을 동양인의 눈을 가졌어요, 눈빛, 1996; 마틴 프로스트, 홍뇌프에서도 잠수교가 그립다. 금토, 2000. In 2015 she received
the certificate of Korean nationality from the Ministry of Justice for her contribution to the country. In 2010 she had formed a civic group to urge French government to return the Uigte 儀軌. After decades of difficult negotiations, these archives were finally returned in 2011 on a five-year renewable loan basis.

28 The ENLOV first became part of Paris 3 University in 1971, under its new name INALCO, before being acknowledged as a grand établissement in 1985.


32 Patrick Maurus (born 1950) obtained a first PhD in sociology in 1984 at the University of Paris-8, “Indices du roman populaire” (Indications of popular novel). He then got a PhD in Korean studies under Daneil Bouchez’s supervision at Paris-7 in 1994. “Nationalismes et modernités, la mutation de la poésie coréenne moderne, 1894-1908-1927 : recherches sociocritiques.” (Nationalisms and modernities, the change of modern Korean poetry, 1894-1908-1927 : research in socio-criticism). He is a productive translator of modern literature from South and, more recently, North Korea. He translated works by Ch’ae Mansik, Yi Munyŏl, Kim Chuyŏng, Yi Ch’ŏngju, Ch’oe Yun, Kim Sŏnjong, Cho Sehui, Pak Wansŏ, Yi Kyun-yŏng, Yi Ō-Ryŏng, Ch’ŏn Myŏnggwan, Choi In-Hoon, and Im Ch’ŏrun. He also authored many personal essays and scholarly works, such as La mutation de la poésie coréenne moderne ou les onomatopées fondatrices, L’Harmattan, Paris and Montreal, 1999 ; La littérature coréenne devant le modernisme et le colonialisme ou l’ère des revues (Modern Korean literature faced with modernism and colonialism, or the era of journals), L’Harmattan, Paris, 2000 ; Histoire de la littérature coréenne (History of Korean literature), Ellipses, Paris, 2005. As the managing editor of a collection about Korea called Tan’gun at l’Harmattan, he edited several collective works : Patrick Maurus (ed.), Le jour où les coréens sont devenus blonds (The day when Koreans became blond), L’Harmattan, Paris, 2007 ; Patrick Maurus (ed.), Comment peut-on être coréen ? (How can one be Korean ?), L’Harmattan, Paris, 2008.

33 The resources are about 10 000 books (80% in Korean) and 270 journals and periodicals (60% in Korean). The CRC was chosen as a Hub-library for Korean Film Studies by the Korean Film Council (KOFIC) and holds Korean film funds. The Center makes subscriptions to academic databases in South Korea every year : DBpia, KISS-KSI, KRpia, KOSSDA, RISS international., National Assembly Library (NAL) of Korea, National Library of Korea (NLK), etc. These subscriptions are partly funded by the Korea Foundation.
Among Bertrand Chung’s publications, one could cite the following ones related to South Korea:


This most prestigious research establishment, firstly called Collège Royal (Royal College), was created in 1530 in a humanist inspiration by king Francis 1 of France. Renamed Collège de France in 1870, it is composed and managed today by a faculty of about fifty professors, elected by the professors themselves. The Collège de France does not grant degrees and all lectures by professors are free and open to anyone. There is one Chair of Chinese studies and one of Japanese studies. There has never been a Chair for Korean studies.

These Institutes of the Far East is itself part of the Institut des Civilisations (Institute of Civilizations) of the Collège de France that gathers the Institutes of Egyptology, Ancien Middle East, Byzantine studies, Arabic, turkish and islamic studies, and the Laboratory of social anthropology.

The library catalog can be consulted online at [http://bude.college-de-france.fr](http://bude.college-de-france.fr).


pp. 36-38; Marc Orange, 한불수교 120 년사의 재조명 (120 ans de relations diplomatiques entre la France et la Corée), 국사편찬위원회, 11. 2007, pp. 269-298.

43 No Mi-sug studied French, Japanese, European literature and Classics. She obtained a Master degree in Literature in 1986 and another one in 1991 in Classics at the University of Dijon. She has been teaching Korean in several places in Paris (Korean Cultural Center) and became in 2011 a research engineer at the IEC. With Alain Génetiot, she has co-authored several translations about Korea and Korean literature: Carlo Rossetti (translation from italian), La Corée et les Coréens, Maisonneuve et larose, Paris 2002. Recently, they translated Korean poetry, especially Ko Un: Qu’est-ce ? poèmes zen (What is it ? zen poems), Maisonneuve et Larose, paris, 2000; Chuchotements (Whispers), Belin Paris, 2011; Poèmes de l’Himalaya (Poems from Himalaya), Decrescenzo, 2015. They received the France-Korea cultural Award in 2015 for their promotion and translation of Korean poetry.

44 Kalp’i is the transliteration of 갈피. It is a play with words and a reference to three possible meanings of the word in Korean, as can be seen in the following compound word and expressions: 갈피갈피, 책갈피, 갈피를 잡을 수 없다.


46 Li Jine-Mieung 李鎭明 (or Li Jin-Mieung, born 1946) studied literature at the Seoul National University, before obtaining a fellowship from the French government. He came to France in 1971 and studied history at the University of Caen from 1971 and 1973. He achieved his PhD at Sorbonne University Paris 4 in History in 1977, “Les relations économiques et financières entre la France et le japon de 1859 à 1914” (Economical and financial relationships between France and Japan from 1859 to 1914). He worked for the South Korean ambassy in Paris, he was invited to teach at the University of Lyon 3 since 1983. He became full professor and supervised many PhD dissertations at Paris 7 and thus contributed to the building of new generations of Korea specialists. In 2009, he created with nine colleagues the Association Française des Enseignants de Langue et Culture Coréennes (AFELACC ; French Association of Teachers of Korean language and culture). As the president of this association, he made serious efforts to help developing the teaching of Korean language in French high schools. He was made in 2015 Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes académiques (Knight of the Order of Academic Palms). Among his publications, there are many collaboration with Maurice Coyaud (1934-2015), a linguist and specialist of Asia: Li Line-Mieung and Maurice Coyaud, Aubergines magiques. Contes érotiques et légendes de Corée (Magic eggplants. Erotic tales and legends from Korea), P.A.F (Pour l’Analyse du Folklore), 1980 ; Initiation au coréen, écrit et parlé (Introduction to written and oral Korean), P.A.F, 1982 (reprint 1990) ; Peintures érotiques de Corée (Erotic paintings from Korea), Philippe Picquier, Paris, 1995 ; Li Line-Mieung and Maurice Coyaud (trans.), Tigre et kaki, et autres contes de Corée (Tiger and persimmon, and other tales from


Choi Eun-sook (Eun-Sook Choi-Chabal) obtained her PhD in French literature in 1984 at the University of Grenoble 3, “L’image de la mort dans l’œuvre de Charles Nodier” (*The image of death in Charles Nodier’s work*). She translated a few short novels of Korean literature with her husband, Pierre Chabal, in political scientist at the University of Le Havre : Ho-chul Lee, *Gens du Sud, Gens du nord* (*People from the South, people from the North*), Autres temps, Marseille, 2003, Ho-chul Lee, *La vallée vide* (*The empty valley*), Gémenos, Autres temps, 2005. She co-authored and edited the language textbook for schoolchildren and beginners with Kim Bo-na and Li Jin-mieung in 2013 and 2014. In 2015 she received the prize from the President of South Korea for her credit to disseminate and develop *hangul* on the occasion of the celebration of the 569th anniversary of the promulgation of the *hangul*.

The Association for Korean studies in Europe (AKSE) was created in 1976 by Frits Vos (The Netherlands), William Skillend (Great Britain) and Li Ogg (France). The first AKSE conference was held in 1977. French is among the official languages of AKSE (other languages are German, English, and Korean). Among French scholars of the first generation, Li Ogg, Daniel Bouchez, André Fabre, and Alex Gui lemoz have acted as the presidents of the AKSE. Besides, there have always been at least one representative of France sitting in the AKSE council, as well as in the committee for the Korea Foundation Fellowships in Europe.

“The loi de programme pour la recherche” (Research Program Law) of April the 18th 2006.

The joint unit “China, Korea, Japan” runs a website (*http://umr-ccj.ehess.fr/ ; English version : http://umr-ccj.ehess.fr/?lang=en*) and operates an academic blog on the OpenEdition platform (*http://ccj.hypotheses.org/*). But each center has its own website and has its own social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter). The CRC’s
website is: http://crc.ehess.fr/ and its academic blog is http://korea.hypotheses.org/. The Chinese studies center is called the Centre d’études sur la Chine Moderne et Contemporaine (CECMC, Study Center about Modern and Contemporary China; http://cecmc.ehess.fr/) and the Japanese studies center is the Centre de recherches sur le Japon (CRJ, Research Center about Japan; http://crj.ehess.fr/).

52 Loi du 10 août 2007 relative aux libertés et aux responsabilités des universités (L.R.U.). Law of Liberties and Responsibilities of Universities of the 10th of August 2007, also called “law on the autonomies of universities” or “Law Pécresse,” after the name of the Ministry of Higher Education Valérie Pécresse under the presidency of Nicolas Sarkozy.


54 Every CNRS researcher, once hired by one of the sections of the CNRS, is appointed by the CNRS in a joint research unit where they became a permanent statutory member of the staff of that unit. Appointed by the CNRS at the CRC, which is part of the joint unit CNRS-EHESS “China, Korea, Japan,” Isabelle Sancho is thus a statutory member of the CRC which is a EHESS research center. The CNRS recruits a few researchers every year in each of its sections (disciplines). These recruitments are based on national recruitment procedures and researchers, who become French civil servants, are permanently recruited for the life-time research project for which they had been selected. The CNRS researchers can accept teaching assignments if they want but they are evaluated only on their research activities (including administrative duties), not on teaching. Their status is slightly different from that of the assistant professors, maîtres de conférences, who are recruited as permanent staff by universities or other higher education institutions such as the INALCO or EHESS to do both teaching and research, while taking their share of administrative responsibilities.

55 For example, the project “North/South Interfaces in the Korean Peninsula” was carried out from 2006 and 2013 and was finalized with a significant publication: Valérie Gelézeau, Koen De Ceuster, Alain Delissen (eds), De-.Bordering Korea. Tangible and Intangible Legacies of the Sunshine Policy, Routledge, London and New York, 2013, 238 pages.

56 Valérie Gelézeau (born 1967) is a former student of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, a French Grande école, and a specialist of geography (Agrégation de géographie). She obtained her PhD in 1999 in Geography at Sorbonne University, “Habiter un grand ensemble à Séoul : formes contemporaines du logement et pratiques de l'espace résidentiel en Corée du Sud” (Living in an apartment complex in Seoul: contemporary forms of housing and practices of residential space in South Korea). Her work on South Korean apartment complexes was published in Korea: 발레리 줄레조 (translated by Kil Haiyon), Ap’at’ŭ Konghwaguk. P’ŭlangsŭ chirihakcha-ga pon han’guk-ŭi ap’at’ŭ 아파트 공화국. 프랑스 지리학자가 본 한국의 아파트, Humanitas 후마니타스, Seoul, 2007, 269 pages. She received many awards and distinctions and has published articles and books. For a more detailed CV and bibliography of Gelézeau, see http://crc.ehess.fr/index.php?170.

57 For a more detailed bibliography and CV of Alain Delissen, see http://crc.ehess.fr/index.php?167.

58 Isabelle Sancho (born 1978) studied Chinese and Korean at the University of Bordeaux 3 and then at INALCO. She obtained her PhD at INALCO in 2006, “Chongsim (‘rendre droit son cœur’) : une notion cardinale de l’interprétation coréenne du neo-confucianisme. Etude centrée sur Yulgok, Yi I (1536-1584)” (Chongsim (‘straightening one’s heart’) : one of the central ideas of the Korean interpretation of Neo-
confucianism). She was a Korea Foundation post-doctoral fellow at the Korea Institute at Harvard University and the research assistant (attaché temporaire d’enseignement et de recherche ATER) of Anne Cheng, professor of Chinese Intellectual History at the Collège de France. For more information about Isabelle Sancho, see http://crc.ehess.fr/index.php?193.

59 “Pre-Modern Korean Studies in Europe : Results, Projects, and Prospects,” Paris, 20-22 January 2016, CRC, funded by the AKS, the CRC and the IEC of Collège de France. The objective of the conference was to bring together in an unprecedented academic event most of the European or Europe-based pre-modernists in Korean Studies.

60 *Principes essentiels pour éduquer les jeunes gens* de Yulgok, Yi I (bilingual translation with introduction and annotations), Bibliothèque Chinoise, Les Belles Lettres, Paris, 2011. This is the first Korean title of the bilingual collection dedicated to important East-Asian works written in Classical Chinese that was created in Spring 2010 at Les Belles Lettres, the reference publishing house for academic translations from Latin and Greek.


63 Antoine Coppola, a film director and foreign professor at SungKyunkwan University.

64 Koen De Ceuster, associate professor in Korean studies at Leiden University, collaborate regularly with members of the CRC. He co-authored and edited the collective publication from the CRC : Valérie Gelézeau, Koen De Ceuster, Alain Delissen (eds), *De-Bordering Korea. Tangible and Intangible Legacies of the Sunshine Policy*, Routledge, London and New York, 2013, 238 pages.

65 EHESS PhD holders : Marie-Orange Rivé-Lasan (PhD in 2004, recruited in 2010 at Paris Diderot), Kim Hui-yeon (PhD in 2011, recruited in 2012 at INALCO), Florence Galmiche (PhD in 2011, recruited in 2013 at Paris Diderot), Pierre-Emmanuel Roux (PhD in 2013, recruited in 2016 at Paris Diderot), Yim Eunsil (PhD in 2012; recruited in 2017 at Paris Diderot). Isabelle Sancho (PhD 2006 at Inalco, recruited in 2009 at CNRS) was an associate at the CRC when she was a doctoral student and was even chosen as the representative of the CRC PhD students.

66 See also note 13.

67 Mission Archéologique à Kaesŏng (MAK).

Kim Jin-ok (born 1964) obtained her PhD at the University of Sorbonne Nouvelle in 2003, “Etude des verbalisations métalinguistiques d’apprenants coréens sur l’imparfait et le passé composé en français” (A study of the metalinguistic verbalizations of Korean learners on the imperfect and passé composé tenses in French).


Project directed by Jérôme Bourgon (CNRS- École Normale Supérieure of Lyon-University of Geneva) from 2011 to 2014, “Legalizing space in China : the shaping of the imperial territory through a layered legal system”, and “Korean Law and History,” a project funded by the Korean Society for the Promotion of Science (KSPS) and directed by Jérôme Bourgon and Marie Seonghak Kim (an attorney at law and professor of history at St. Cloud State University in the U.S.A).


This doctoral student, Damien Peladan, who is supervised by Yannick Bruneton and Guillaume Carré (CRJ of the joint unit China, Korea, Japan at EHESS) had been receiving a highly competitive doctoral fellowship from Paris Diderot University for three years (contrat doctoral) and is now funded by a Korea Foundation fellowship for his last year. He works on the maritime history of East Asia (“Piracies and circulations in East Asia, 14th-16th centuries”) based on sources written in Classical Chinese, Korean, and Japanese, as well as the most recent results of South Korean and Japanese maritime archeology.

Kim Daeyeol (born 1964) studied chemistry and the history of religions at Seoul National University in the 1980’s and 1990’s. Then he came to France and studied art history and archeology as well as the history and anthropology of religions at Sorbonne University (Paris 4). He obtained his PhD in anthropology of religions at Sorbonne university in 2000, “Symbolisme de la force vitale en Chine ancienne : Modèles et significations dans l’alchimie taoïste opératoire (études des pratiques alchimiques du Baopuzi neipian 抱朴子內篇 (4e siècle après J.-C. en Chine))” (Symbolism of vital force in ancient China: models and meanings in the operative Daoist alchemy (studies of achemic practices of the Baopuzi neipian)). He published articles in French, English and Korean. For a more detailed CV and bibliography of Kim Daeyeol, see [http://www.inalco.fr/enseignant-chercheur/daeyeol-kim](http://www.inalco.fr/enseignant-chercheur/daeyeol-kim).

Jeong Eun-jin obtained a PhD in French literature in 1998 at the University of Paris Nanterre, “Les jeux de l’autobiographie dans les romanesques d’Alain Robbe-Grillet” (The plays of autobiography in the fictions by Alain Robbe-Grillet), as well as a second PhD, in Korean studies, atINALCO in , “Traduire la Corée : réflexions linguistiques et littéraires sur la traduction des représentations de l’histoire contemporaine à l’tavers l’exemple des fictions de Ch’oe Yun” (Translating Korea: linguistic and literary reflections about the translation of the representations of contemporary history through the example of fictions by Ch’oe Yun). She translated with Jacques Batillot several novels by Oh Jung-hi, Hwang Sok-yong, Yi Ch’ŏngjun, Shin Kyung-sook, and Han Kang. She received the Daesan Translation Award in 2006 for her translation of the Old garden by Hwang Sok-yong and in 2012 she also received with Jacques Batillot the Cultural Award France-Korea for their contribution
to the international translations of Korean literature. For a more detailed CV and bibliography, see http://www.inalco.fr/enseignant-chercheur/jeong-eun-jin.


81 Evelyne Chérel-Riquier (born 1967) obtained her PhD in Asian Studies in 1999 at Paris 7 University, “Politique et religion en Corée du Sud : Jeunesse catholique et les élections générales de mai 1948. Un exemple de politisation d’une revue catholique,” (Politics and religion in South Korea : Kat’ollik ch’ongnyon and the general elections of May 1948. An example of the politisation of a catholic journal). Her latest publications are: Evelyne Chérel-Riquier, “The South Korean Catholic Church’s Attitude towards North Korea: from


85 See above, note 48.

86 Hye-Gyeong Kim-De Crescenzo studied at the Hankuk University of Foreign Language in the late 1980’s and obtained a PhD in 2000 a PhD at the University of Franche-Comté in Besançon. She translates Korean literature with Jean-Claude De Crescenzo (Kim Ae-ran, Lee Hyeon-joo, Pak Teok-Kyu). They have a family-run publishing house, Decrescenzo Editeurs, created in 2011 and also operate an on-line journal about Korean literature : [www.keulmadang.com](http://www.keulmadang.com). They regularly organize literary events with South Korean writers in France.

87 This only concerns the INALCO. The organizer and contact for these exchanges is Maurus. Several INALCO students who are currently enrolled in Master or PhD programs in Paris have been to the DPRK for a one-month summer program. They did not get any credits or funding for that, but they have got some ideas, materials, and personal experiences that may be useful for their research projects.


89 Several colleagues teaching Korean language and culture in African countries have accepted to participate at the 2015 international workshop of the RESCOR 1 : Ms. Aminata Fall from Dakar University in Senegal, Mr. Assi Kimou from the University Félix Houphouët Boigny (UFBH) of Abidjan in Côte d’Ivoire, and Mr. André Corneille Zanou from the University of Cotonou in Bénin. They all expressed their strong interest for the
RESCOR and considered creating a trans-african network of francophone Korean studies in order to share materials, exchange students and teachers, raise funding, and organize academic events related to Korea in francophone Africa.

90 Because of its narrow focus on Korean studies within French academia, this paper has not presented the activities of Korea specialists in France who do not hold permanent positions or are no longer in academic circles. These people are doing much for the promotion of Korea and Korean studies would not have growned without their constant and passionate efforts.