

Paper ID	080
Author(s)	xiang chi
Title	War, Rafting, and Economic Change in the Yalu River Basin in the 20th Century
Abstract	
<p>This article delves into the intersection of traditional Japanese raft-building techniques, the impact of war, and their encounter with traditional Chinese rafting methods, catalyzing an ecological-economic transformation within the Yalu River basin during Japan's imperial rule. From the late Qing era, Chinese raftsmen selectively logged the old-growth Changbai forests, employing Chinese-style rafts—long wooden rafts bound together and navigated by six to seven rafters. This method aligned with ecological and technical limitations while sustaining raftsmen communities. However, during the Russo-Japanese War, Japanese-style rafting technology was introduced to the Korean Peninsula and Northeast China for the first time. The introduction of Japanese raft technology contrasted with the traditional rafting techniques of Chinese raftsmen on the Yalu River, sparking a significant economic and ecological transformation in the Yalu River Basin. This shift brought efficient timber harvesting, fundamentally altering the timber transportation ecology. The “Japanese-style raft,” a traditional craft weaving technology that originated from the Edo period, inadvertently impacted the Yalu River Forest's ecology and economy through war, reflecting both the modernizing influence and limitations of traditional Japanese rafting technology within an extractive imperial political economy.</p>	
Keywords	raft-weaving; raft-driving; Yalu River; Chinese-style raft; Japanese-style-raft

Paper ID	072
Author(s)	Taehyun Kim
Title	Imperial Priorities and Colonial Economics in Japanese Forest Policy: The 1926 Chosun Forestry Plan and the Failure of Timber Self-Sufficiency in Chosun
Abstract	
<p>As imperialist nations expanded their colonies, they exploited forests across Asia, the Americas, Africa, and other regions to stabilize timber supplies for their empires by utilizing vast colonial resources. By directly controlling forestry policies in their colonies, these nations prioritized the preservation of their own forests at the expense of the colonial resources. This study examines the impact of imperial forestry policies on colonial economies and environmental sustainability, focusing on Japan's forestry policies in 1926 colonial Chosun. In response to a significant timber trade deficit, Japan restructured its forestry policies across its colonies and occupied territories to secure timber supplies for the mainland. Chosun, lacking sufficient forest resources to meet Japan's growing timber demand, implemented the Chosun Forestry Plan to achieve timber self-sufficiency. The Japanese Government-General of Chosun viewed the success of this plan as critical for securing financial resources. However, duty-free timber imports from Andong, Manchuria, quickly flooded the Chosun market, eroding the competitiveness of local timber production. To counter this, the Government-General of Chosun proposed the abolishment of timber duty exemptions for Andong imports to the Japanese Imperial Diet. Despite repeated debates in the Imperial Diet and among Japanese forestry associations, Japan ultimately prioritized profits for Manchurian Andong mills over Chosun's self-sufficiency by providing tariff subsidies to Andong mills through the Kwantung Bureau. Consequently, large quantities of Andong timber continued to enter Chosun, undermining the goals of the Chosun Forestry Plan. This study reveals how colonial forestry policies were shaped by the timber supply needs of the imperial homeland, illustrating how resource management in colonies was orchestrated to serve imperial interests at the expense of colonial economies and environmental sustainability.</p>	

Keywords	Imperial, Colonial, Forest, Timber
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Paper ID	055
Author(s)	Jaeyoung Ha
Title	“A Good Tree is a Fast-Growing Tree”: South Korea’s Soil Conservation and Reforestation in the 1950s

Abstract	
<p>In this presentation, I revisit the mid-1950s as the watershed moment in the environmental history of Korea, when forestry shifted from exploitive forestry in the premodern and colonial periods to forestry for permanent preservation. I first show how U.S. and South Korean forest scientists and foresters selected three species to reforest the country—<i>Pinus rigida</i>, <i>Alnus sibirica</i>, and <i>Robina pseudoacacia</i>—based on their soil retention, growth rate, and fuel efficiency to address the estimated disappearance of South Korean forests in 25 years. Next, I highlight how the U.S. funded the South Korean government to establish a system in which the state purchased seedlings of these three fast-growing species from communal nurseries owned by local Village Forestry Association (VFA: <i>sallimgye</i>) units. Finally, I illuminate how the South Korean government distributed these tree seedlings to other VFA units around deforested areas, and motivated locals to make their living and fuel from these trees. In this way, my presentation highlights how the forced cooperation and contestation over tree use and forest management between American scientists, South Korean state actors, and villagers contributed to the reforestation of South Korea's mountains. Ultimately, this presentation argues that this nuanced relationship reversed the declining trend of South Korea's forest stock for the first time in decades in 1957, putting an end to centuries-long exploitive forestry in the Korean Peninsula.</p>	
Keywords	Forest, Forestry, VFA, Reforestation, Deforestation.

Paper ID	003
Author(s)	Max Altenhofen
Title	(Re-)Configuring Transnational Forest Research in 1950s South Korea

Abstract	
<p>The reforestation campaigns in 1970s South Korea received worldwide attention, because the government under President Park Chung Hee managed the greenification of its denuded forests in a relatively short time. The efforts were mainly based on fast growing trees, top-down tree planting campaigns and strong enforcement of forest protection. While the research literature so far mostly credited Park’s regime for the success, the establishment of a transnational forest research network dates to the 1950s and early 1960s, when the research on fast growing trees started. Key institutions were Seoul National University (SNU)’s College of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Forest Genetics Institute located in Suwon. With their roots in the colonial period, the post-1945 forest researchers had to navigate the new influences from US and UN development organizations, research institutions as well as domestic politics. By taking a closer look on the cooperation between Seoul National University and the University of Minnesota and the transnational network around SNU forestry professor Hyun Shin Kyu and his Forest Genetics Institute, this presentation highlights the role of forestry scientists as agents of science diplomacy. It also critically examines the Korean reforestation as a transnational campaign under the banner of the ‘green revolution’, by utilizing genetically modified fast growing trees rather than domestic ones, and attempts to overcome overly positive and one-sided narratives of Park’s reforestation campaigns.</p>	

Keywords	Plants, Forest Science, Forest Genetics, Minnesota Project, South Korea
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Paper ID	068
Author(s)	Manyong Moon and Yeonhee Kim
Title	Cedar Pollen Allergy on Jeju Island and Changes in the Policy of Tree Planting in Korea

Abstract	
<p>Native to Japan, cedar trees were introduced to the Korean peninsula during the Japanese occupation and were planted in warmer areas such as Jeju Island. In the 1960s, cedar trees were planted in large numbers in the Jeju National Forest as part of a large-scale tree replacement project, and their numbers increased as they were favored as windbreaks for mandarin orchards. In the Korean government's 10-year plan for reforestation project, which began in 1973, cedar was selected as one of the 10 recommended tree species and became the representative tree of Jeju Island. Although cedar was chosen as a long-term tree and timber forest, it was welcomed by the locals because of its fast growth rate, and by the 1980s, the cedar forest had become the largest artificial forest on Jeju Island. However, around this time, research into spring pollen allergies began to emerge, and a decade later it was confirmed that cedar trees were responsible for severe pollen allergies. While there was criticism of the limitations of the quantitative tree planting project, the recommended tree species themselves were not a problem. However, when pollen allergies to cedar trees became a social issue, the ecological threat to native plants was raised in earnest. This led to a new awareness of the government-led reforestation project and a change in policy. In this talk I will argue that the late discovery of the new properties of cedar trees has led to a reassessment of government policy, which focused on quantitative planting.</p>	
Keywords	cedar trees, Jeju Island, pollen allergies, new landscapes