

5-3-2022

Contributing to a Richer View of Korean Queer Popular Culture with Jungmin Kwon

Jungmin Kwon
Portland State University, jungmin.kwon@pdx.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/pdxplores>



Part of the [Film and Media Studies Commons](#), and the [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Repository Citation

Kwon, Jungmin, "Contributing to a Richer View of Korean Queer Popular Culture with Jungmin Kwon" (2022). *PDXPLORES Podcast*. 4.
<https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/pdxplores/4>

This Podcast is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in PDXPLORES Podcast by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible:
pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

Portland State University

PDXScholar

PDXPLORES Podcast

Research & Graduate Studies

5-3-2022

Contributing to a Richer View of Korean Queer Popular Culture with Jungmin Kwon

Jungmin Kwon

Portland State University, jungmin.kwon@pdx.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/pdxplores>



Part of the [Film and Media Studies Commons](#), and the [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Repository Citation

Kwon, Jungmin, "Contributing to a Richer View of Korean Queer Popular Culture with Jungmin Kwon" (2022). *PDXPLORES Podcast*. 4.

<https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/pdxplores/4>

This Podcast is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in PDXPLORES Podcast by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

Contributing to a Richer View of Korean Queer Popular Culture with Jungmin Kwon

Welcome to PDXPLORES, a Portland State University research podcast, featuring scholarship innovations and discoveries, pushing the boundaries of knowledge practice and what is possible for the benefit of our communities and the world.

I am Jungmin Kwon, an Associate Professor of Film and Digital Culture in the School of Film at Portland State University (PSU). My research area is film and media, especially digital media, and I study them through a lens of feminist and queer perspectives. I examine the complicated roles of diverse media digital technologies in the lives of gendered and sexually marginalized groups.

In particular, I investigate how the non-normative identities like women and queer people challenge and disrupt existing hierarchies and how they bring changes by taking advantage of digital media technologies.

Currently, I am writing my second book manuscript, which has thankfully received financial support from Portland State University and the Academy of Korean Studies. It is tentatively titled *The Invisibility/Visibility Dilemma: Queer Media Cultures and Voices in Contemporary South Korea*.

In South Korea where I was born and raised, visibility has been both a goal and a cause of ongoing suffering for queer people. In recent years, they have become visible in media cultures, but they remain invisible in other spaces like political and economic spheres.

Unfortunately, first, there is insufficient research on queer popular culture in Korea, and second the existing work primarily centers on analyzing media representations of queerness and does not perform a systematic correlation to realities.

My book, *The Invisibility/Visibility Dilemma*, aims to first, intervene in the possibly of queer media research with wide texture analysis on contemporary context in Korea, from films to TV shows to web resources, such as the digital comics, web dramas and YouTube content. Secondly, I would like to emphasize the necessity of incorporating queer voices into textual research. I believe in doing so is the best way to unearth the complicated nature and modalities of queer media visibility.

I have conducted more than 40 interviews with real life queer identified media professionals, celebrities, artists, content creators, and audiences. I hope to emphasize that my interviews with these people challenge existing Korean queer media studies that are mostly limited to textural analysis. And I also wish that they could contribute to establishing Korean queer media theories that are more local and reality grounded. For me, theorizing local queer media today beyond the western framework, is crucial because Korean society promotes an idiosyncratic composite of ideals. For example, both Confucianism and conservative Christianity.

Advancing towards these two goals, my book hopes to contribute to a richer view of Korean queer popular cultures in particular, the paradoxical media invisibility/visibility of queer lives in Korea, and to serve as a starting point for new conversations in Korean queer media studies.

Also, I would be very happy if my book could promote more relate-able media representations of queer people and help Korea media and society become more clearly diverse. Ultimately, I hope my book works to fill the gap between representation and marginality.

My name is Jungmin Kwon and my research focuses on highlighting gender and sexual minorities non-compliant use of media technology and incorporating their voices and lived experiences. With this I aim to redirect how the minorities are viewed heard and discussed in the academy and society.