



ORGANIZED LABOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MULTICULTURALISM

**A SOLIDARITY
SUCCESS STORY
FROM SOUTH KOREA**

JOON K. KIM

Organized Labor and Civil Society for Multiculturalism

This page intentionally left blank

Organized Labor and Civil Society for Multiculturalism: A Solidarity Success Story from South Korea

BY

JOON K. KIM

Department of Ethnic Studies Colorado State University, USA



United Kingdom – North America – Japan – India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2020

© 2021 Joon K. Kim.

Published under exclusive licence by Emerald Publishing Limited.

Reprints and permissions service

Contact: permissions@emeraldinsight.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-83982-389-3 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-83982-388-6 (Online)

ISBN: 978-1-83982-390-9 (Epub)



Certificate Number 1985
ISO 14001

ISOQAR certified
Management System,
awarded to Emerald
for adherence to
Environmental
standard
ISO 14001:2004.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Table of Contents

List of Tables and Figures	<i>vii</i>
List of Abbreviations	<i>ix</i>
About the Author	<i>xi</i>
Acknowledgments	<i>xiii</i>
Introduction	1
Chapter 1 Manufacturing Unauthorized Workers and Advocacy in South Korea	7
Chapter 2 Labor Unions, Civil Society, and Immigrant Labor: The Exceptional Case of South Korea	25
Chapter 3 Sex Workers, Marriage Migrants, and Gender Formation in Migrant Advocacy	45
Chapter 4 North Korean Defectors, <i>Koryoin</i>, and the Korean Chinese: The Ethnic Question and the Role of Advocacy Organizations	69
Chapter 5 Internal Orientalism and Multicultural Acts: The Challenges of Multicultural Education in Korea	91
Chapter 6 From Labor Rights to Multicultural Human Rights: Migrant Advocacy Organizations and Praxis Multiculturalism	107
Appendix	129
References	131
Index	141

This page intentionally left blank

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1.1.	Chronology of NGO Activism.	18
Table 2.1.	Migrant Populations and Union Density in Select European Union Countries.	30
Table 2.2.	A Brief History of KCTU Solidarity Projects with Migrant Workers, 1994–2005.	36
Table 3.1.	Scope and Types of Sex Industry in Korea, 2002.	49
Table 3.2.	E-6 Entertainment Visas by Select Countries and Sex, 2006–2017.	52
Table 3.3.	F6 Marriage Migrants Visas by Select Countries and Sex, 2011–2017.	53
Table 3.4.	Interethnic Marriages from Select Countries, 2000–2018.	54
Table 3.5.	Marriages and Interethnic Marriages in Korea, 2008–2018.	57
Fig 3.1.	Key Stakeholders of Marriage Migrants and International Sex Workers.	61
Table 4.1.	Overseas Koreans by Country, Select Years.	71
Table 4.2.	Major Laws Impacting Korean-Heritage Migrants in Korea.	73
Table 4.3.	North Korean Defectors Resident in South Korea.	76
Table 4.4.	Korean-Heritage Residents in Korea by Visa Types, 2006–2018.	76
Table 4.5.	Korean-Heritage Immigrants Resident in Korea.	77
Table 4.6.	Korean Nationality Recovery, Naturalization, Renunciation, and Loss.	82
Table 5.1.	Internet Search Results: Articles with the Word “Multi-culture” in the Heading.	95
Table 5.2.	Constructing Vulnerabilities Through the Use of the Word <i>Damunhwa</i> in an Internet Search Engine.	98
Table 6.1.	Migrant Advocacy Organizations.	110
Table 6.2.	Principles, Modes, and Orders of Multiculturalism.	122
Chart 6.1.	Domains of Multicultural Praxis.	123

This page intentionally left blank

List of Abbreviations

CCEJ	Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice
CCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EPS	Employment Permit System
ETU-MWD	Equality Trade Union – Migrant Worker Division of Seoul-Kyeongin-Inchon-Area
GongGam	Human Rights Law Foundation (translated from Korean)
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IWRAW	International Women's Rights Action Watch
JCMK	Joint Committee with Migrants in Korea
KCTU	Korean Confederation of Trade Unions
KIC	Korea Institute of Criminology
KIS	Korea Immigration Service
Korea	Republic of Korea or South Korea
KWAU	Korea Women's Associations United
MFA	Migrant Forum in Asia
MINBYUN	Lawyers for a Democratic Society (translated from Korean)
MTU	Migrant Trade Union (Korea)
MWSH	Migrant Worker Struggle Headquarter for Achieving Complete Labor Rights and Actualizing Freedom of Movement and Employment
NGO	Nongovernment Organizations
NOW	National Organization for Women
PSPD	People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNHR	United Nations Commission on Human Rights
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women (translated from French)

This page intentionally left blank

About the Author

Joon K. Kim is a Professor of Ethnic Studies at Colorado State University. Born in Seoul and educated in New York and California, he acquired an academic interest in international migration and multiculturalism in the United States, Korea, and Latin American countries. As a Fellow of the Fulbright Fellowship and the Korea Foundation Field Research, his research focuses on the political economy of immigrant labor, Korea's migrant advocacy and civil society activism, the politics of race via immigration and citizenship, and multicultural education. His strength as a comparative and interdisciplinary scholar is demonstrated by publications in diverse fields and disciplines, including ethnic studies, sociology, history, education, and population studies. His focus on international and comparative labor migrations sprang from his earlier work, "The Political Economy of the Mexican Farm Labor Program, 1942-1964" (*Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies*), which won the ABC-CLIO America: History and Life Award from the Organization of American Historians. He is currently pursuing a new research project on Korean communities of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

This page intentionally left blank

Acknowledgments

This book would not have been completed without the support of many people and institutions. First and foremost, I would like to recognize the Association for Foreign Workers' Human Rights in Korea and its past director, Park Seok-Woon, and the present director, Seok Won-Jung, who provided me with invaluable fieldwork experience when I first began research on migrant workers in Korea. My initial field research from 1995 to 1996 was funded by the Fulbright Program, with an institutional affiliation from Seoul National University's Department of Sociology. I would like to extend my thanks to graduate students and professors who supported me during my residence in Seoul.

In 2007–2008, I returned to Korea during my first sabbatical leave. I am indebted to the Korea Foundation Field Research Fellowship for their financial support and to Yonsei University's Korean Studies Program for the institutional affiliation. I am especially grateful to the Program Chair, Professor Kim Hyuk-Rae, for his guidance, generosity, and collaboration. I have also had a tremendous fortune in meeting numerous students and professors while presenting my findings at many institutions in Korea, including Sogang University, Korea University, Seoul National University, Cheongju University, and Changwon University. I extend my appreciation to professors Lee Jung-Hwan and Pyon Bo-Ki for their precious support and friendship. Finally, I am also delighted to serve the Korean Association for Multicultural Education under the leadership of professor Mo Kyung-Hwan, a long-time colleague since our graduate school days, and contribute as an Associate Editor of its journal, the *Multicultural Education Review*. I appreciate very much the encouragement and collegiality of the editors, professors Cha Yun-Kyung and Lee Moo Sung.

As well, numerous migrant advocacy organizations encouraged my research for the past 25 years. Among many, I am truly grateful to the Joint Committee with Migrants in Korea (JCMK) for providing me with an office space and to its then director, Wu Sam-Yeol, for his enthusiasm and confidence. My volunteer experience at the Korea Migrant Human Rights Center also allowed me to work in collaboration with the then director, Choi Hyun-Mo. Finally, I deeply appreciate all of the other JCMK member organizations, their directors, and, most importantly, to practitioners who work tirelessly in advocating for and solidarity with migrants and their families in Korea.

As my home institution, Colorado State University in Fort Collins has afforded me many opportunities to pursue my research abroad. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Department of Sociology, my initial department in which I was tenured, and to the Department of Ethnic Studies, my current academic home. Lastly, I am thankful to my department colleagues and to so many other colleagues both in the United States and in Korea for taking part in reviewing my work over the years.