**How Can We Hear ‘Others’?: Accountable Representation & Speaking Subalterns of Japanese Military “Comfort Women”**

This presentation explores the active role of life history which can contribute to make sense of the world we live in, based on oral history of Japanese military ‘Comfort Woman.’

Despite the continued arguments by the two governments that the issue has been resolved, neither the survivors, the Korean Council, nor the Korean public has accepted the Dec. 28, 2015 agreement. The survivors no longer remain silent; they voice their thoughts loud and clear. Up until October 2016, the Wednesday demonstration has continued with furious survivors and citizens. Now what can we do as scholars so as not to be colonized intellectuals?

Throughout the process of the women’s movement concerning the issues of Japanese military ‘Comfort Woman’, subalterns finally can speak to each other to go beyond the postcolonial condition, navigating through the ongoing contestations and state denials. Demanding peace and justice for women across the globe, survivors have showed us the significance of a transnational women’s movement based on the embodied understanding of the existing colonial boundaries between/among us, but at the same time, opened up the possibility to transcend these same boundaries.

“Comfort Woman” — once a defiled girl in the colonized Korean territory and a mere prostitute in the Japanese Empire — now identifies herself as a human rights activist troubling our colonized consciousness by asking for social justice for other wartime victims and future generations . The newly emerged decolonial imaginary allows us to recognize the differential part of histories and the importance of alternative points of identification. Along with tracing survivors’ life history and trajectories of identification, I will argue that due to women’s oral history has played a pivotal role for the changes not only in our conception on “comfort women,” but also in institutionalized androcentric notion of history, politics and society nationally and internationally.