

Researcher

Eunhae Cho
The Pennsylvania State University
epc5303@psu.edu



Title of Project

From the Provinces to the Capital: Geographic and
Sociocultural Transitions for Korean Learners of English

Research Supervisor

Prof. Celeste Kinginger
The Pennsylvania State University

TIRF Research Topic Investigated

Plurilingualism in Business, Industry, the Professions, and Educational Contexts

Project Summary

There is a widespread social phenomenon of Korean exodus from the provinces to Seoul in search of opportunities and quality education. This issue has not been studied in depth concerning its psychological consequences, varieties of adaptation, and conflicts that need to be resolved. This study examines how young provincials in South Korea negotiate crises that arise from geographic and socio-cultural transitions. Through Vygotskian narrative case studies, I aim to study how the combination of familial values, rural/urban differences, and the meaning of English shape provincial students' perceptions of transitions and opportunities for college education. The study will also involve intervention to help college students develop a language learning narrative which will be sustainable in relevant future experiences, by better understanding cultural elements that affect students' dynamic learning experiences originating in regional migration. The research will also advance into the broader topic of educational mobility's ethical costs. Social inequality associated with unbalanced development as a result of the "province-exodus" or "in-Seoul" movement must be addressed. This qualitative study will help policymakers develop resources for students in provincial secondary education as they prepare for the transition to an urban university. It should also assist colleges in recruiting students from a diverse range of origins across the country.