

As a scholarly collective of young Sinologists and Koreanists, Sino-NK is not only the publisher of a digital periodical on the dynamics between China and North Korea, it is also a dynamic platform for academic research and the exchange of ideas and expertise. Since Sino-NK acts as the root, the stage and a tool for our individual and co-authored research, we would like to highlight the work that our analysts published above and beyond <http://sinonk.com> in the first half of 2013.

## > GRANTS & BOOKS

### Editors Awarded AKS Research Grant

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In April, the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) awarded Sino-NK editors a substantial Research Grant. This grant allows Dr. Adam Cathcart (Editor-in-Chief), Christopher Green (Co-Editor) and Steven Denney (Managing Editor) to accurately document the cultural and political strategies used by the DPRK government to promote its policy agenda and create strategic discord abroad.

Kim Il-sung did not create the DPRK the international community knows today; rather, it was built by his son and successor, Kim Jong-il. From the 1970s, when he was being anointed to succeed as leader, Kim began the creation of a successor state that would, in large part, attempt to give meaning to the lives of its subjects through the use of art and performance above all. In the process, Kim Jong-il made broad rhetorical reference, but did not practically adhere, to the state structures he inherited from his father. Kim Il-sung travelled widely, and sought to transform the DPRK state ideology of the day, “Juche,” into a developmental approach for the entire Third World. In contrast, Kim Jong-il’s own approach to the outside

world—and, most significantly, to policy-making—can best be characterized with reference to a statement he made at the time of his father’s death in 1994.

As testified by former Korean Workers’ Party secretary Hwang Jang-yop: Not long after the death of Kim Il-sung, the ‘Dear Leader’ gathered a number of key Information Department cadres together and proceeded to praise them for their sterling efforts to glorify the Party. However, Kim is said to have cautioned, “That is only fine for the domestic audience.” Internationally, he urged, “Choson must be wrapped in a fog.”

This project aims at theoretically supporting the notion that DPRK policy-making is indeed wrapped in fog for international audiences. This research will utilise this “fog” as a prism through which to analyse state actions.

The investigators will commence field research in South Korea and China during January 2014. The team will travel to these destinations in order to ground their research in traditional textual sources, mainly stemming from the DPRK.

## Robert Winstanley-Chesters to Publish PhD Thesis



> Image: Rodong Shinmun

Sino-NK Director of Research Robert Winstanley-Chesters (University of Leeds) will publish his PhD thesis with Rowman & Littlefield's Lexington Press. His manuscript —“Ideology and the Production of Landscape in North Korea”—is the first work to address North Korean issues from an institutional or developmental direction rooted in analysis from a geographic and environmental perspective.

The book will analyze North Korea's claim to be a geographic space in which revolutionary utopian potentialities have been fulfilled. Using both internal and external material, it focuses specifically on those narratives addressing the developmental fields of tidal reclamation and forestry/afforestation. It will also seek

to investigate and critique these narratives within the wider context of environmental and development approach in East Asia as a whole, and touch upon North Korea's place within the spectrum of developmental transition. Finally, the book will analyze, investigate and review the material gathered during both narrative investigation and fieldwork in the DPRK order to assess the importance of any regional impacts upon North Korean policies and approach and ultimately the utility, validity and reality of North Korea's claims to be a place of geographic “lived” utopia in a developmental sense.

Winstanley-Chesters has written many [articles](#) on these topics for Sino-NK, all rooted in this ground-breaking research agenda.

## Published Research by the Numbers

Peer-reviewed content produced by Sino-NK editors and analysts for the first half of 2013, including journal articles, books, and chapters

ADAM CATHCART

3

CHRISTOPHER GREEN

3

STEVEN DENNEY

3

ROBERT  
WINSTANLEY-CHESTERS

3

ROGER CAVAZOS

1

NATHAN  
BEAUCHAMP-MUSTAFAGA

1

SHERRI TER MOLEN

3

MATTHEW BATES

1

TOTAL

18

## > CONFERENCES & PANELS

### Engage Korea at Oxford University

In May this year, Sino-NK was widely represented at the [Engage Korea conference at Oxford University](#). As an organisation, Engage Korea gathers experts from a wide range of disciplines to create a holistic approach to discuss the historical, political, social and economic complexities on the Korean Peninsula. The conference at Oxford University was their flagship event and featured former ambassadors to the DPRK, academic scholars and graduate students. The panels on the characteristics of the North Korean government, international relations of the DPRK, economic development, and humanitarian engagement were aiming to educate and to facilitate the discourse on North Korea. A recurring theme was the 2011 leadership change and what we can extrapolate from this period when looking at the future. In terms of finding a suitable approach to engage North Korea, the day concluded with a general consensus that humanitarian initiatives by non-governmental actors, instead of hard-line policies by sanctioning countries, should be the way forward to work towards peace in Korea.

The following analysts from the Sino-NK team presented at this conference:

- > Adam Cathcart on the Chinese-DPRK Relationship
- > Christopher Green on Marketization and Yuanization
- > Matthew Bates on Information and Interpretations of the DPRK Economy
- > Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga on Bureaucratic Politics and China's North Korea Policy
- > Robert Winstanley-Chesters on Ideology and Production of Landscape in the DPRK
- > Sabine van Ameijden on Economic Reform and SEZs

The report on these presentations can be found [here](#).



> Image: Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga



- > In May, Managing Editor Steven Denney, Assistant Editor Darcie Draudt, and Analyst Brian Gleason served as rapporteurs at the Asan Plenum 2013 in Seoul, where they also chatted at length with Blaine Harden, author of *Escape from Camp 14*

Image: Steven Denney

## Adam Cathcart and Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga at IISS, London



> Image: International Institute for Strategic Studies

In July Dr. Adam Cathcart and Nathan-Beauchamp Mustafaga featured on the panel “China’s Evolving Relationship with North Korea” at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. [Lora Salmaan of Carnegie-Tsinghua](#) in Beijing, and Adam Ward, the [Director of Research at IISS](#), joined the Sino-NK team.

Cathcart’s discussion wove together the origins, progress, and prospectus for the Special Economic

Zones near Dandong/Sinuiju, arguing that the North Korean leadership continues to drag its feet in creating tangible conditions for the zone’s success for a diverse range of reasons that span from traditional distrust of Sinuiju citizens to Kim Il-song’s directives on food production in North Pyong’an, and the inability to engage in flood control on the Yalu. Then, shifting the analysis from the borderlands to Beijing, Beauchamp-Mustafaga approached

China’s relationship with North Korea by looking at the Chinese policy management structure. He argued that the most important actors in China’s decision-making on North Korea policy have little incentive to advocate for a more aggressive policy of denuclearization if such a policy would threaten the stability of the Kim regime.

The report and full-length audio of this event can be found [here](#).



## Darcie Draudt at CSIS Pacific Forum, Seoul

On September 2-4, our Assistant Editor, Darcie Draudt, was invited to attend a US-ROK-Japan Extended Deterrence Trilateral Meeting, organized by the [Center for Strategic and International Studies Pacific Forum](#) and held at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul. She participated in the subsequent Pacific Forum Young Leaders Program to collaborate with other Young Leaders on a trilateral project related to post-collapse DPRK contingency plans.

> Image: CSIS Pacific Forum

## > UNIVERSITY DEGREES & THESES

### Darcie Draudt's MA Thesis and Graduation at Yonsei University

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In June, Darcie Draudt successfully defended her Master's thesis, "Locating the Indie Café in Seoul: Space and Alternative Spatial Capital in Hongdae's Coffee Shops." Based on ethnographic research culled over a 18-month period, she argues that some young adults of the Korean middle class today reject a pervasive tendency for Korea's middle class is the pursuit of status via conspicuous consumption based in southern Seoul (Kangnam) and the neighborhoods in which they imagine it takes place. Instead, they decode and consume at indie cafés in Hongdae to exert an "indie" status through the accumulation of *alternative spatial capital*.

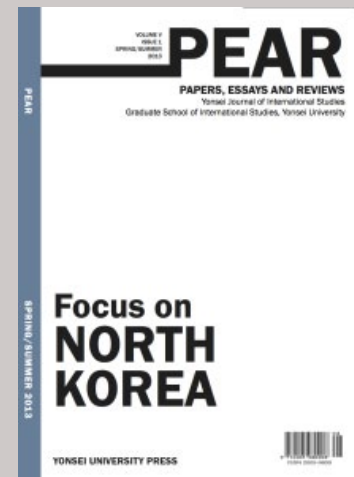
In August, Darcie received her MA in Korean Studies from the Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies. She was the recipient of the Korean Studies Program Award for finishing first in her department.

### Steven Denney's MA Thesis and Graduation at Yonsei University

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In June, Steven Denney also successfully defended his Master's thesis, "Nation, State, and National Economy: the Early 19th Century American Developmental State." Using theories devised to explain the developmental states of East Asia, Denney "went east and looked back" at the early American state to find that it, too, was developmental. Using the latest in research on American internal improvement plans in the early 1800s and archival material on Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin, Denney conceived of a new narrative to explain how the young American state embedded itself within the nation via the national economy.

In August, Denney received his MA in Global Policy and Studies (a degree in the Program in International Cooperation, PIC) along with Darcie Draudt at the Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies. He was the recipient of the International Cooperation Program Award for finishing first in his department.



## > FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

### Yonsei Journal of International Studies "Focus on North-Korea"

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The Spring/Summer 2013 issue of the Yonsei Journal of International Studies' journal was dominated by Sino-NK analysis. Entitled, "Focus on North Korea," it contained five papers, three essays, one interview and three reviews, including pieces by Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga (with Jenny Jun), Christopher Green, Mycal Ford, Adam Cathcart, and Matthew Bates.

The entire issue can be found [here](#).

## ABOUT SINO-NK

Sino-NK is a scholarly collective of young Sinologists and Koreanists dedicated to documenting and analyzing the borderland dynamics, transnational ties, and history of Northeast Asia. Sino-NK has been quoted in such outlets as *The Economist*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and is utilized frequently by scholars and journalists. Sino-NK endeavors to better understand North Korea's relations with the world and to chart a path forward for digital (and) academic analysis.

## STAFF

Editor-in-Chief	Dr. Adam Cathcart
Co-Editor	Christopher Green
Managing Editor	Steven Denney
Assistant Editor	Darcie Draudt
Coordinator	Roger Cavazos (currently on leave)
Director of Research	Dr. Robert Winstanley-Chesters
Research Coordinator	Sabine van Ameijden
Social Media Coordinator	Sherri Ter Molen



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