

Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium
Asian Studies Session
April 20, 2017

7:20 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Trauma, Memory, and Korean Literature

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Trauma, generally speaking, is a difficult or unpleasant experience that causes someone to have mental or emotional problems for an enduring period. It differs from grief in the way that it is lasting and has such a great impact on a person, it has the power to change one's personality and outlook on life as a whole for the rest of one's life. Personal narratives may be the most effective form of literature in depicting and assuaging trauma. In this paper, I consider the way in which trauma is approached as a theme in Yi Sang's "Wings," Yi Kwang-su's "Maybe Love" and "What is Literature?" and Lady Hyegyong's "Memoirs."

7:50 p.m. – 8:20 p.m.

Does China Have a True Face?

Panel: Morgan Brost, Madison Williams, and Victoria Raymond

Faculty Advisor: Ronnie Littlejohn

China is arguably one of the least understood countries in the world; in fact, one of the most misunderstood. Possessed of the longest continuous civilization among human cultures, China has changed so greatly in recent decades that it is almost unrecognizable to both the rest of the world and even its own older population. Much of this change was dramatic instead of gradual, brought on by war, struggle and revolution. But a great deal of the crisis of China and the Chinese identity is very much in flux because of current social, political and cultural challenges. American media often present China benignly as the land of "smart Asians" who are good at math and fried rice, or sinisterly as the next great U.S. adversary, which will soon rule the world, as the work by Martin Jacques would have it. But is it possible to capture some "essence" of China or the Chinese? Can we offer descriptions that are fundamental and undeniably true of this vast land and its massive population? In this panel, each presenter will offer her an analysis of this quest and join with other panelists and the audience in a discussion of its manifold permutations.