The medieval East Asian sea was a place of transnational, trans-ethnic exchanges. The author escapes from a single-state or nationalist perspective to approach the substance of the maritime trade of Koryo and Song. The author, who majored in the social-economic history of Tang and Song Dynasties, reconfigured the backbone of East Asian trade history using new sources that Chinese or Japanese academia did not focus on. Such an attempt of the author supports the effort of the Korean academic to read Koryo as a society of diversity and openness and earns the significance of filling in the missing link of East Asian maritime history which has been parted to the trade between China and Japan.

This book examines the formation and development of Peranakan society in Penang, Malaysia, from the late 18th century to the early 20th century with the keywords: opium, tin, and rubber. The idea of history as suggested by this book is shaped by various classes in the global peripheries and shows the possibility of a world history that transcends the existing one. Further, the significance of this book is more than just being Korea’s first full-fledged historical study overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia. Upon reading, one would look forward to the stimulation and contribution of an Asian’s view on Asia to Asian studies around the world.

This is an exceptional empirical study that thoroughly explains the structural mode of the neoliberal financial economy that instigates prostitution in Korea. The author illuminates how the prostitution industry exceeds the scale of the private economic trade of prostitutes and becomes rationalized and legalized in the neoliberal financial system. The book boasts a practical research objective that allowed successful observation and analysis, as well as wide theoretical knowledge, thoughtful interviews, detailed narratives, and the informational strength that probed the financial economy of prostitution. It overcomes the limitations of the feminist perspective that criticizes the industry within the frameworks of human rights and ethics. Instead, this book offers a new perspective to reconfigure the prostitution problem as a problem of women in the era of financial capitalism.