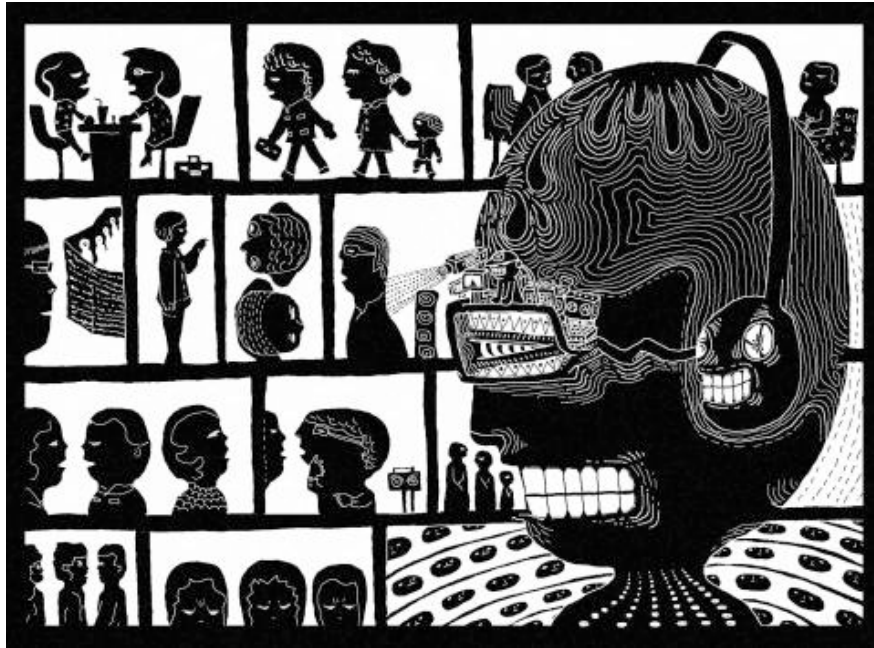


THE EAST ASIAN POLICING STUDIES FORUM PRESENTS A LECTURE AND
DISCUSSION ON

The Political Neutrality of the Korean Police: What Happened on the 16th of December?



Abstract: The Korean War of the 1950s divided the Korean peninsula in two, leaving a legacy of trauma and fear. Fear of the North continues to affect the democratic process in the South; if a politician is suspected to be 'North Korea friendly' his or her political career is over. In the 2012 presidential election, rumors circulated accusing the opposition party candidate of being 'North Korea friendly'. One week before the election, an officer of the National Intelligence Agency was accused of being a source of the rumors. The Seoul police raided her apartment and confiscated her computers. Then, three days before the election, the Seoul Metropolitan Police called an emergency press conference to announce that the accusation was unfounded, no evidence of propaganda was found on the seized computers. Based in part on this exoneration, the ruling party went on to win the election. However, subsequent investigations by the Prosecution Service revealed that the police were lying. Their raid had actually recovered erased files containing 40 different IDs and tens of thousands records of 'log-in' to internet communities for politically motivated and election related internet postings. Not only was the accused officer involved in spreading propaganda, but other NIA officers and civilian aids were as well. This talk will explore the issue of political neutrality of police in democratic countries. Are the Korean police politically neutral? If not why and how have they become politicized? What can be done to regain the political neutrality of the police in Korea?

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 3-5PM ROOM 813 JOCKEY CLUB TOWER, UNIVERSITY OF
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About the speaker: Dr. Chongwon Pyo holds a Ph.D. in Police Studies from Exeter University and is a former professor at Korea National Police University. He is one of the founding members of the Association of Asian Police Studies, and was for many years the executive secretary of that organization. He has also served as president of the Korean Association of Police Studies. He is an advisor to the Korean parliament and various executive agencies on policing related matters, and has authored eleven books.

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