

In Memoriam

Ji-Hyung Cho,
1963-2015



JI-HYUNG CHO, President of the Asian Association of World Historians, editor of the *Asian Review of World Histories*, and Professor of History at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, died on 31 January 2015 in Seoul, of complications of heart disease, at the age of 51. He had gained high praise from his colleagues in Korea for his scholarship and academic leadership in AAWH and its journal, and high praise from historians throughout Asia for his leadership of AAWH and its journal. He was widely recognized as a scholar of remarkable breadth, energy, and skill—an inspiring academic leader.

He completed his BA (1985) and MA (1987) in History at Sogang University, Seoul. He moved to the United States for graduate study, and completed his Ph.D. in U.S. History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1995, under the direction of Prof. Winton U. Solberg. His dissertation title, “The Transformation of the American Legal Mind: Habeas Corpus, Federalism, and Constitutionalism, 1787-1870,” foreshadowed much of his later work in U.S. history and Korean public affairs.

He accepted the position of assistant professor of History at Ewha Womans University, Seoul, in 1995, and remained there throughout his career. He advanced to associate professor in

2000 and professor in 2005. At Ewha Womans University, he served as chair of the Department of History, 2004-2006; director of the Historical Studies Institute 2007-2008; Vice President for Research from 2008 to 2010; and Director of the Institute of World and Global History from 2008 to 2015. He served on three commissions convened by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; he also had two visiting appointments at the University of Missouri-Columbia: a Fulbright fellowship at the School of Law in 2003-2004 and a Visiting Scholar position at the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs in 2008.

In academic organizations, he was a member of the Korean Society of American History, the American Studies Association of Korea, the Asian Association of World Historians, and the Korean Association of Big History. In leadership positions, he served as editor-in-chief of the *Korean Journal of American History* (1999-2003), Executive Secretary of the Asian Association of World Historians (2009-2012), President of the Asian Association of World Historians (May 2012-January 2015), founding editor-in-chief of the *Asian Review of World Histories* (2012-2015), and President of the Korean Big History Association from August 2012 to January 2015.

Professor Cho was extremely active in publishing in the various fields of his expertise: United States history, Korean law and politics, world and global history, and historiography. He published thirteen books, all in Korean language (6 single-authored, 6 co-authored, and 2 co-edited) and published translations of another 6 works (two of them multi-volume) from English. Four of his books won prizes in Korea. His single-authored books were on the independence of the judiciary (2011), the birth of the American Presidency (2008), a comparison of the Korean and United States constitutions (2008), a work on historians Leopold von Ranke and E. H. Carr (2006), and a study of presidential impeachment (2004).

In addition to this long list of books, Professor Cho published 30 articles in peer-reviewed Korean journals: 17 of these addressed issues in United States history, 5 addressed political and constitutional issues in Korea, and 7 addressed world history, big history, and historiography. World and global historians

will find it of interest that his first two articles on world history were published in 2002 and 2007.

Professor Cho participated in the founding meeting of the Asian Association of World Historians, which met in Tianjin in May 2008. That meeting of eight scholars from seven countries, hosted by Zhang Weiwei of Nankai University, selected Shingo Minamizuka of Hosei University, Japan, as the founding president of AAWH, and selected Shigeru Akita of Osaka University as Executive Secretary. At the founding meeting, Ji-Hyung Cho was very effective on the constitutional issues on naming and structuring the organization. Later in 2008 he participated in meetings of the World History Association (in London) and the European Network In Universal and Global History (Dresden). At Dresden he represented the AAWH in the formation of the Network of Global and World History Organizations (NOGWHISTO).

Professor Cho had already led in writing the application to the National Research Foundation of Korea which brought major support for the formation of the Ewha Institute for the Humanities, a center that has been successful, for instance, in its international humanities journal. As a further step, he became director of the university's Institute of World and Global History.

As a member of the AAWH board of directors, he ensured active Korean participation in the first congress of AAWH, in Osaka in 2009. He participated as a member of AAWH in the founding 2010 congress of Network of Global and World Historians (NOGWHISTO) in Amsterdam. He succeeded Shigeru Akita as Executive Secretary of AAWH in order to direct the second congress of AAWH. That meeting, in Seoul in 2012, was extraordinarily successful. In May, 2012 he became President of AAWH.

As president, Professor Cho took on another task in building world and global historical studies in Asia: the creation of an international journal. He led a broad discussion that resulted in the creation of the *Asian Review of World Histories*, a peer-reviewed journal with a very distinguished editorial board and high standards for selection of articles. With Hyun Hur as man-

aging editor, with support from others at the Institute of World and Global History, and with Professor Cho as editor-in-chief, *ARWH* first appeared in January 2013. By the time of its fifth issue, in January 2015, *ARWH* had gained a very positive reputation in Korea, in Asia, and worldwide.

Ji-Hyung Cho is survived by his wife, Soo-Yeon Cho, who serves as Research Project Analyst at University of Missouri – Columbia and by two daughters. His elder daughter, Connie Cho, 24, is a graduate of Yale University and the London School of Economics and Political Sciences and works as an urban fellow for the City of New York. His daughter Kristine Cho, 15, Rock Bridge High School, lives in Columbia, Missouri.

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