

NEWS RELEASE
English and Modern Languages Department
Pittsburg State University
September 24, 2020

The English Department and *The Midwest Quarterly* at Pittsburg State University are happy to announce that Dr. Hyeryung Hwang delivered the Twenty-Seventh Annual Victor J. Emmett Memorial Lecture on Thursday, September 24. Because the pandemic made travel impossible, Dr. Hwang produced a video of her lecture, in which she discussed "Peripheral Spaces and Persistent Forms: The Question of Peripheral Neo-Realism in the Age of World Literature." The lecture can be viewed at this address:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLgj8_zY7g8&feature=youtu.be

Dr. Hwang was invited to deliver the Emmett Memorial Lecture as the winner of the Victor J. Emmett, Jr., Memorial Award, which is given each year to the author of the best essay on a literary topic published in *The Midwest Quarterly*. Hwang's essay, "After Magic: Juan Gabriel Vásquez's *The Sound of Things Falling* and Narco-Realism," appeared in the Winter 2020 issue of *The Midwest Quarterly*.

The Emmett Memorial Award and the Emmett Memorial Lecture are sponsored by the Emmett family, the PSU English Department, and *The Midwest Quarterly*. The award and lecture are named in memory of the late Dr. Victor J. Emmett, Jr., who for twenty-three years was a Professor of English at Pittsburg State University.

Dr. Hwang is Assistant Professor of World Literature in the Interdisciplinary General Education Department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She is a multidisciplinary teacher-scholar with research and teaching experience in the fields of world literature and cinema, theories of imperialism and colonialism, and peripheral aesthetics and politics. Her research projects, drawing on both East Asia and South America, investigate what it means that the aesthetic choices of an older realism have been persistently replicated in the global periphery, exploring how the heterogeneous forms of peripheral neo-realism envision an alternative cultural analysis of global capitalism. Her recent publications include "After Magic: Juan Gabriel Vásquez's *The Sound of Things Falling* and Narco-Realism" (*The Midwest Quarterly* 61.2, Spring 2020), "Peripheral Aesthetics after Modernism: South Korean Neo-realism and Chang-dong Lee's *Poetry*" (*The Global South* 11.1, Spring 2017) and "Deleuze, Affect Theory, and the Future of Realism" (*Telos* 181, Winter 2017). She is currently working on her book manuscript, *Thinking Beyond Modernism: Peripheral Realism and the Ethics of Truth-Telling*.

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