

SUFFERING AND SMILE: EVERYDAY LIFE IN NORTH KOREA

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VIA ZOOM

<https://bit.ly/SUFFERINGSMILE>

"Smile Broadly!" is the title of a dynamic performance by children in the Arirang Festival. The scene symbolically shows the culture that can command a smile to breathless children, and actually train them to do so. It is this cultural background that makes it possible to advance the slogan "March with a smile though the roads are rough!" to the people suffering from severe famine. To comprehend the present changes and anticipate future developments in North Korea, we should understand their past experiences and socialization processes of their values, norms, and lifestyles. During the period of famine, I visited North Korea, met North Korean refugees in China near the border, and taught refugee youths in the South. As an anthropologist, famine relief activist and educator, I would like to share my experience with North Koreans and their culture.

SPEAKER

BYUNG-HO CHUNG



Dr. Byung-ho Chung is professor emeritus at Hanyang University, South Korea, and special advisor to the president of Korean Red Cross. He was professor of the department of cultural anthropology and founded the Institute for Globalization and Multicultural Studies at Hanyang University ERICA Campus. While keeping one foot in the university and sustaining a career as a researcher and writer, he has extended his reach to social activism and reform. As a public intellectual and action anthropologist, he is the founder or co-founder of seven social justice organizations for equality and multiculturalism in Korea and East Asia, including Cooperative Childcare and Communitarian Education, Okedongmu Children (NGO for relief of North Korean famine), and Hanadul School for North Korean Refugee Children. He is the author or co-author of a number of works on inter-Korean affairs and multicultural issues including *North Korea: Beyond Charismatic Politics*, *Welcome to Korea: North Koreans in South Korea*, *Multicultural Spaces in South Korea*, and *Suffering and Smile*.



This virtual event is co-organized by the Centre for the Study of Korea (CSK) at University of Toronto and the Korean Office for Research and Education (KORE) at York University which is funded by the Academy of Korean Studies.

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