



EAS 40: Korean Animation

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With the release of a slate of Crunchyroll produced anime based on Korean webcomics, the growing popularity of Naver Webtoon, and international distribution of Korean animated movies, Korean animation is finally becoming a topic of interest apart from Japanese anime and American animation. But Korean animation actually has a long history, growing to the third largest producer of animation by the early 1990s as a source of animation labor for Japanese and American studios. This course will interrogate that history in order to ask major theoretical questions: what does it mean to speak of “Korean” animation in an era of globalized animation labor? What are the strategies that South Korea has developed to develop its national animation strategy and how does this strategy fit into the economic “miracle” of South Korea? What is the history of North Korean animation and what does this history say about ideological commonalities and differences across the DMZ? What do we mean by “animation” and does Korea produce animation, anime, or something different? What is the role of Korean animation in the Korean wave and why does it get less attention?

