



Joseon gogo yeongu: Analyzing and Visualizing the Field of Archaeological Research in North Korea from 1986 to 2019

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Abstract

This paper presents the results of a bibliometric analysis undertaken on Joseon gogo yeongu (Joseon Archaeological Research), North Korea's preeminent archaeology journal, providing information on the researchers, institutions, and research topics that have come to form the field of archaeological research in North Korea since the mid-1980s. Deviating from previous analyses of Joseon gogo yeongu, this paper focuses on the authors that contributed to Joseon gogo yeongu, identifying the archaeologists that have been most active in publishing articles. This particular method of establishing the key figures of North Korean archaeology reveals the presence of certain archaeologists whose importance has been overlooked within the South Korean discourse on North Korean archaeology. In addition, by tracing the research topics of these key figures over time, a broad understanding of the field of archaeological research in North Korea can be obtained. Information on institutional affiliations and co-authorships present within Joseon gogo yeongu also provide valuable insights into the workings of North Korean academia. Finally, by visualizing the results of the bibliometric analysis using word clouds and networks, the efficacy of Digital Humanities approaches to large data sets is demonstrated.

Keywords: North Korea, archaeology, *Joseon gogo yeongu* (Joseon Archaeological Research), North Korean academia, bibliometric analysis, Digital Humanities

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Introduction

North Korea is often referred to as the *hermit kingdom*, and it is deserving of such a title for little is known of the true state of the internal affairs of this isolated and impenetrable country. Various efforts have been made over the past several decades to collect any information on North Korea from the limited sources at hand, and a key source of information has been academic journals published in North Korea.

Academic journals provide a window through which those on the outside can obtain a glimpse of the North Korean academic world. They are a particularly valuable resource for the following four reasons. First, the Information Center on North Korea,¹ run by the Ministry of Unification of the Republic of Korea (South Korea), has in its collection approximately 157 periodicals published in North Korea, which cover a wide range of topics. Second, the Information Center on North Korea has made most of the collection open to the public; the academic journals can be easily accessed, albeit on site. Third, the academic journals of North Korea are generally periodicals, providing data that are evenly spread out over a given period of time, making them an ideal medium for the identification of trends over time. Fourth, the intended audience of the academic journals is the North Korean academic community itself. Due to these reasons, academic journals can provide broad-spectrum, long-term data on the North Korean academic world that is relatively easy to access and objective in nature. Therefore, even taking into account the likelihood of censorship, information obtained from academic journals can be used to sketch an outline of the North Korean academic world, relevant research institutions, key players, and popular research topics.

Therefore, in 2016, the Institute of Humanities at Seoul National University began to build an archive of the representative North Korean academic journals of the disciplines that, according to the South Korean

1. Bukhan jaryo senteo (Information Center on North Korea), <https://unibook.unikorea.go.kr/>.

classification scheme, belong to the *humanities*.² This effort formed part of a wider initiative to identify and establish the common foundations for humanities research on the Korean Peninsula, in hopeful preparation for a future in which academic exchange and co-operation between the two Koreas can take place. A key result of this initiative has been the construction of the North Korean Humanities Data Archive.

The collection and digitization of information on humanities-related North Korean periodicals was undertaken with particular focus on two disciplines: archaeology and history. Accordingly, *Joseon gogo yeongu* (Joseon Archaeological Research), widely acknowledged as North Korea's preeminent archaeology journal and published quarterly by the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Social Sciences of North Korea since 1986, was selected as one of the periodicals to be archived. As a result of this project, the issue and article metadata for *Joseon gogo yeongu* was acquired from 1986 up until 2019.³

The text and metadata of *Joseon gogo yeongu* has since been used for different kinds of research. For example, it has been used to undertake quantitative and qualitative content analysis on articles published in the journal in order to identify recent trends in North Korean archaeological research (Ko 2018). It has also been used alongside data from other archaeology- and ancient history-related journals to produce an alternative history of Balhae research in North Korea (Ko 2020). However, the potential that this dataset has for providing valuable information on topics that are relevant beyond archaeology, such as the workings of North Korean academia or the ecosystem of North Korean research journals, has yet to be fully explored.

The aim of this paper, therefore, is two-fold. First, the bibliographic data of *Joseon gogo yeongu* will be analyzed with the goal of allowing this source

2. According to the North Korean classification scheme, academic disciplines belong to either the natural sciences or the social sciences, while the concept of the humanities does not exist (Y. Lee 2007, 174).

3. North Korea closed its borders in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and at the time of this paper's submission (June 7, 2023), the Information Center on North Korea was still unable to procure issues of *Joseon gogo yeongu* published after 2019.

of data on North Korea to be shared with researchers interested in present-day North Korea. The strategy adopted for this purpose is to focus on the *authors* that published articles in *Joseon gogo yeongu*. It is through these authors that insights will be obtained on the most popular research themes of North Korean archaeology in recent times, of the academic relationship between researchers based at the Academy of Social Sciences and Kim Il Sung University, and on the frequency of academic collaboration in archaeological research. Second, by identifying the authors that have published most actively in *Joseon gogo yeongu* and examining their research topics, an attempt will be made to break away from traditional theme-based overviews of North Korean archaeology, which cannot provide a holistic picture of the entire field of research. It is expected that such an alternative approach will provide new insights that will contribute to future South Korean research on the discourse on North Korean archaeology.

***Joseon gogo yeongu*, a Valuable Dataset on North Korean Archaeology⁴**

Joseon gogo yeongu is North Korea's preeminent archaeology journal. Although archaeology-related articles can also be found in such journals as *Munhwa yumul* (Cultural Artifacts), *Munwha yusan* (Cultural Heritage), *Gogo minsok* (Archaeology and Folk Studies), *Minjok munhwa yusan* (Our People's Cultural Heritage), *Ryeoksa jemunje* (Questions of History), *Ryeoksa gwahak* (Historical Science), *Joseon geonchuk* (Joseon Architecture), *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo—ryeoksa-beomnyul/ryeoksahak* (Journal of Kim Il Sung University—History-Law/History), etc., *Joseon gogo yeongu* is the only North Korean archaeology journal that has been issued without any breaks or changes in its name from its inauguration (in 1986) to the present

4. The bibliographic data of *Joseon gogo yeongu* has been translated into English by the author for the purpose of the current study. The English version of the bibliographic dataset of *Joseon gogo yeongu* will be made open to the public in conjunction with the publication of this article. The dataset can be assessed from http://snuac-hk.snu.ac.kr/?page_id=4643.

day.⁵

The significance of *Joseon gogo yeongu* is attested to by the fact that in 2017 the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of South Korea published two volumes reviewing all the articles published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* up until 2016. Entitled *Collection of Commentary on Joseon gogo yeongu* (National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage 2017a, 2017b), it is an impressive achievement, representing the efforts of approximately 56 archaeologists based in South Korea who provided a summary and commentary on each article belonging to their field of expertise.

Interestingly enough, however, this valuable source on North Korean archaeology has had little impact since its publication. One reason for this may be because the text was analyzed using an ill-suited lens; the analysis was neither detailed enough to provide new insights nor broad enough to present an useful overview of research trends.⁶ Fortunately, other researchers have taken on the task of providing either detailed or broad analyses of *Joseon gogo yeongu*. An example of the former is Yang Si-Eun's overview of Goguryeo research trends in North Korean archaeology based on a detailed analysis of Goguryeo-related articles published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* (Yang 2016). An example of the latter is a previous attempt by this author (Ko 2018), as well as the present article, which represents a further development in the broad-perspective analysis of *Joseon gogo yeongu*.

5. The bibliographic data of all of the archaeology articles published in these academic journals up until 2016, apart from *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo*, can be found in *Bukhan jeonggi ganhaengmul-Gogohak munheon mongnok* (North Korean Periodicals-Archaeology Text List) (National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage 2016). The bibliographic data of the archaeology articles published in *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo* can be obtained from the Kim Il Sung University webpage (www.ryongnamsan.edu). The easiest way to access this information is explained in footnote 20 of Lee Ilgyu's (2023) study on North Korean research trends in ancient history, which was based on an analysis of in *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo*.

6. For example, each article entry in *Collection of Commentary on Joseon gogo yeongu* consists of a 3–4 paragraph summary followed by a single paragraph commentary; in the case of some entries, there is no commentary at all. The summary merely functions as a rather long abstract of sorts (to the author's knowledge, North Korean journal articles do not contain abstracts) and the commentary is too short to allow the commentator to present an in-depth and detailed critique of the article in question.

In this study, the bibliographic data of *Joseon gogo yeongu*, rather than its contents, have been selected as the subject of analysis. This methodological approach was influenced by the philosophy and goals of *distant reading*, a concept that originally emerged in the context of literary criticism but has since been used in the production of intellectual histories in a wide range of disciplines. A central concept of distant reading is that academic writing can be approached as a field of relations that can be deconstructed (Underwood 2016). In the case of this paper, it is the *author*, the agent of research and writing, that will constitute the subject of analysis and interpretation.

Producing Alternative Narratives of North Korean Archaeology

North Korean archaeology has long been a subject of interest to South Korean archaeologists for several reasons. Firstly, the narrative of Korean archaeology cannot be constructed without taking into account the archaeological sites and artifacts located within the territory of North Korea. Secondly, following liberation from colonial rule, the most prominent scholars of Korean archaeology at the time, Do Yu-ho and Han Hungsoo, joined Kim Il Sung University. Their presence, along with the establishment of laws regarding the proper management of cultural properties (which led to a series of important excavations), provided North Korean archaeology with an immediate edge over its South Korean counterpart in 1950s (Yoo 2016, 283). As a result, the scholarship of North Korean archaeology played an important role in overcoming the legacy of the Japanese colonial archaeological discourse up until the 1970s. Thirdly, since the 1970s, the discipline has become a state-sponsored tool used to enrich North Korea's Juche ideology, and South Korean archaeologists have come to actively address this problematic engagement between archaeology and nationalism (e.g. S. Yi 1997).

A considerable amount of research on North Korean archaeology has therefore been conducted by South Korean archaeologists over the past several decades, including overviews of the history of North Korean archaeology (e.g. C. Han 2000; Y. H. Lee 2009; K. Yi 2015; S. Yi 1992; H. W.

Lee 2013). These studies have been based on solid scholarship and have contributed greatly to our understanding of the nature of the discipline in North Korea. However, it can be observed in these studies that certain topics or certain sites or the names of certain researchers have tended to be prioritized. For example, the paleolithic researchers of South Korea have shown a particular interest in North Korean archaeology, and therefore the Paleolithic period has featured prominently in the South Korean discourse on North Korean archaeology (e.g. H. W. Lee 2020). The same can be said for the Bronze Age, which provides the cultural context for Dangun and Gojoseon; these are the two topics that have been integral to the issue of nationalism in North Korean archaeology, and of which South Korean archaeologists have been critical (e.g. K. Yi 2020). In contrast to this, the research trends on Nangnang or Goryeo, for example, have not been addressed thoroughly in South Korean overviews of North Korean archaeology.

It can be proposed, therefore, that an alternative narrative of North Korean archaeology that represents the entire reality of North Korean scholarship, rather than the parts that are of interest to South Korean archaeologists, needs to be produced. One way to do this would be to analyze the titles of all of the articles of *Joseon gogo yeongu* using the techniques used in the present study. However, in this case, the interpretations of the results would be too specialized, with the significance and utility of the findings presented in this paper being recognized only by readers with an in-depth knowledge of North Korean archaeology; this would not fit with the aims and scope of this journal. As such, this paper presents the results of analysis undertaken on the *author* data of *Joseon gogo yeongu*. It is proposed that such an author-based narrative of research trends, institutions, and collaboration networks in North Korean archaeology has the potential to provide new insights for North Korean studies.

Analyzing *Joseon gogo yeongu*

Article Types, Authors, and Themes

Joseon gogo yeongu features 1656 articles⁷ between 1986 and 2019 that can be categorized into the following eight types for the purposes of this study: (1) research article; (2) site report; (3) lecture; (4) data; (5) news; (6) knowledge; (7) political rhetoric; (8) guidelines. Of these, types (1)–(6) have been established based on the section titles that appear in the table of contents pages of Issue No. 1986-1 to Issue No. 1987-4 (belonging to the first two years of the journal's publication) and of Issue No. 2001-3 and later (Fig. 1, ①).⁸ “Political rhetoric,” on the other hand, is a category that was identified by the author based on the following grounds: political rhetoric pieces (1) always appear before “research papers” in the table of contents page but do not feature any section titles, (2) contain terms such as Kim Il-sung, *ryeongdo*, *suryeong*, etc. in their titles, and (3) act as a mouthpiece for the party in terms of their content. Finally, in 1988, an article with the title “Prescriptive Guidelines for the Preservation of Historic Sites and Artifacts” was published which had neither a section title nor an author name (Academy of Social Sciences Institute of Archaeology 1988). This piece was categorized by the author as the single example of government “guidelines” published in *Joseon gogo yeongu*.

Using the above framework, the author also undertook categorization of the articles published from Issue No. 1988-1 to Issue No. 2001-2 that do not feature any section titles in the table of contents page (Fig. 1, ②). In the case of some articles, “*jaryo mit sogae*” or “*hakgye sosik*” were marked out using brackets in front of the title presented in the contents page, allowing the articles to be categorized, respectively, as “data” and “news.” In addition,

7. This number does not take into account the compilation pieces of the annually published article titles.

8. A total of 19 different expressions can be identified for the section titles but, in terms of content, they fall into these six categories. For example, articles featured under the section titles “*balgul mit dapsa sosik*,” “*balgul mit josa bogo*,” “*balgul bogo*,” and “*balgul sosik*,” have all been categorized as “site reports.”

조선고고연구	사회과학원 고고학연구소 1986년 제2호	조선고고연구	주 제 88(1999)년 제1호 (부 제 제110호) 사회과학원 고고학연구소
차 례		차 례	
목 록			
우리 나라 구석기시대의 포유동물상..... 윤학사 부교수 정영환(2) 귀족무덤에 주된사람의 실물에 대하여..... 최정인(6) 주요 인물의 전통적인 시정물상과 배열..... 남정현(13)		《대동강문화》의 기본개념과 우주상에 대하여..... 부교수, 학사 미순진 (3)	
자료와 연구		단강조성의 작가적 성격에 대한 고고학적 고찰..... 학사, 부교수 박진옥 (8)	
장상지동석의 절구돌상층에서 대하여..... 열사정, 안정환(16) 경상남도 벽동무덤의 구조형식과 그 변형..... 원인택(24)		대동강문화권 선계기시대문화의 중심지..... 학사, 부교수 김동수 (13)	
발굴 및 조사 보고		대동강문화권 인종의 발생지이며 조상문화의 발전지..... 부교수, 학사 장두진 (17)	
계성리의 고려무덤발굴보고(2)..... 김종혁(32) 순흥지석무덤발굴보고..... 중앙대학교박물관 이철남(37)		대동강문화권 생활기시대문화의 발전지이며 중심지..... 부교수, 학사 제왕순 (21)	
학계소식		대동강문화 고고학의 성격..... 경북대학교 부교수, 학사 남일홍 (25)	
화북(중국북부)구석기시대인문화를 대하여..... 윤학사 부교수 김동진(39)		대동강문화권의 고대무덤유적에 대하여..... 학사 김종혁 (28)	
감 람		대동강문화권의 도기문화의 발생원인..... 학사, 부교수 정영진 (33)	
고려무덤의 제작방법의 열거..... 윤학사 정영진(45)		대동강문화권은 좋은농업문화의 발생지..... 조선중앙대학박물관 학사 이철남 (38)	
발굴 및 조사 소식(2)..... (47)		대동강문화권의 금속가공기술에 대하여..... 노철수 (29)	
		대동강문화권은 고고학문화의 발전지..... 학사 김동진 (42)	
		주 제 87(1998)년 《조선고고연구》 지체물..... (47)	

Figure 1. Table of contents from *Joseon gogo yeongu* Issue No. 1986-2 (①) featuring section titles such as “ronmun,” “jaryo-wa yeongu,” “balgul mit josa bogo,” “hakgye sosik,” and “gangjwa” and ② Issue No. 1999-1, in which such section titles are absent.

Sources: ① Academy of Social Sciences Institute of Archaeology (1986, 1); ② Academy of Social Sciences Institute of Archaeology (1999, 2).

“lecture” pieces could clearly be identified as such based on their format and contents. In the case of “research articles” and “site reports,” articles featuring the terms “excavation,” “investigation,” and “report” were mostly categorized as the latter; in less than five cases, such articles were categorized as research articles instead, based on theme, content, location within the issue, etc.

As can be seen from the results of the categorization, presented in Table 1, “research article” account for around 2/3 of the articles published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* (n=1,062), followed by “site reports”: (n=252). “Political rhetoric” (n=35) account for less than 2 percent of the articles published in the journal. Compared to *Ryeoksa gwahak*, the history journal published by the Institute of History of the Academy of Social Sciences, the percentage of

Table 1. Eight Different Article Types Published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* and Total Number of Published Articles per Type (1986–2019)

No.	Article Type	No. of Articles
1	Research article	1,062
2	Site introduction/investigation/excavation report	252
3	Lecture	137
4	Data	99
5	News	42
6	Knowledge	28
7	Political rhetoric	35
8	Guidelines	1
Total number of articles		1,656

Source: Author's compilation.

overtly political articles is extremely low.

The authors of the respective article types (apart from ‘guidelines’) were analyzed in order to establish whether a division of intellectual labor existed within the North Korean archaeological community. The results were visualized using word clouds of the author names, with font size representing the author’s publication frequency (Fig. 2).

An examination of the word cloud for “research article” authors (Fig. 2, ①) reveals that two contemporaries, Seo Guktae and Jang Woojin (who both published their first research articles in 1986 and their most recent research articles in 2016) have produced the greatest number of research articles in *Joseon gogo yeongu* ($n > 30$). Due to the longevity of their careers, both names will be familiar to South Korean archaeologists specializing in the Paleolithic Period (in the case of Jang Woojin, he specializes in human evolution and fossilized human remains) or the Neolithic Period and Bronze Age (in the case of Seo Guktae, he began his career as a Neolithic specialist, but from 2000 has come to focus more on the Bronze Age). Interestingly enough, neither have been actively involved in producing site reports (as illustrated in Fig. 2, ②). From 2016 to 2019, however, Seo Guktae published excavation



Figure 2. Word clouds of the authors for the different article types featured in *Joseon gogo yeongu* (1986–2019)

Source: Author.

logs of important Bronze Age sites, such as Misong-ri, Geumya, and Chimchon-ri. Another commonality shared by these two eminent archaeologists is that both have contributed political rhetoric pieces: twice in 1992 for Jang Woojin and once for Seo Guktae in 2012.

Kim Incheol, who is the third most active figure in publishing research articles (n=25), has also produced the greatest number of site reports (n=14) (see Fig. 2, ②). Given that Kim Incheol began to publish in *Joseon gogo yeongu* from 1994, his research output and intensity is in fact greater than both Jang Woojin and Seo Guktae. However, very few South Korean archaeologists would recognize Kim Incheol as a leading figure in North Korean archaeology. The reason for this, I would argue, is because Kim Incheol's research covers Goguryeo, Goryeo, and Balhae. South Korean overviews of North Korean archaeological research tends to focus on a specific time period, and so it is unlikely that Kim Incheol's research on Goguryeo would be considered alongside his work on Goryeo and Balhae. For example, in a recent South Korean overview of North Korean Goguryeo research trends (Yang 2016), Kim Incheol placed eighth in terms of the number of publications on Goguryeo archaeology from 2010 to 2016 (n=8).

Of course, this is not to suggest that the overview presented by Yang was problematic in any way. In Yang's study, Choi Seungtaek was identified as the most active Goguryeo specialist, leading the discourse on Nam Pyeongyang (South Pyeongyang), spearheading research on Goguryeo fortresses, and even undertaking research on Goguryeo tombs (Yang 2016, 98). In the present study, Choi Seungtaek was identified as the fourth most active figure in publishing research articles (n=20), which is to be expected considering his vigorous research output on Goguryeo archaeology.

Son Suho has been the Director of the Institute of Archaeology of North Korea's Academy of Social Sciences from 2002.⁹ He has also published many research articles (n=20), mainly on Goguryeo archaeology, but it is

9. According to the *List of Persons Affiliated with the Institutions and Groups of North Korea*, published annually by the Ministry of Unification from 1999, Son Suho has been the director of the Institute of Archaeology of North Korea's Academy of Social Sciences since 2002 (Ministry of Unification 2002, 286). In the 2001 list, Kim Yongnam is listed as the director (Ministry of Unification 2001, 254).

the fact that he also authored five political rhetoric pieces that is of particular interest (see Fig. 2, ⑦). His first rhetorical piece was written in 2002, the year he became director; his most recent was written in 2019. It should also be noted that he also published ten academic articles in his capacity as director. In contrast to this, Kim Yongnam, who was the predecessor of Son Suho, did not publish any rhetorical pieces in *Joseon gogo yeongu* during his tenure as director, which began in 1972 at the latest.¹⁰

The active publication of site reports appears to have been carried out by two types of archaeologists (see Fig. 2, ②). First, there are those archaeologists whose research output has consisted mostly of site reports, such as Kim Namil, who co-authored two research articles with Han Indeok in 2000, but since then has gone on mainly to publish site reports on Goguryeo and Balhae tombs (n=10). In Ko Yongnam's case, he mainly wrote research articles on Neolithic skein-patterned pottery prior to 2010, but from 2010 has been involved in the publication of eight site reports on various sites in Pyongyang. Second, there are those archaeologists who have been active in publishing *both* site reports and research papers. For example, Kang Seungtae has published ten site reports and six research articles related to Joseon pottery production. Cha Dalman, who has headed the Ancient Sites Excavation Unit from 2014,¹¹ mainly wrote research articles on Bronze Age archaeology prior to 2000, but since then has been active in publishing both site reports (n=6) and research articles (n=9) relevant to sites excavated in Pyongyang that date from the Neolithic/Bronze Age to the Nangnang period.

Kim Jonghyuk also appears as a key figure in the "site report" word cloud (n=9), but there appear to have been two researchers named Kim

10. This fact can be inferred from a news article published in *Rodong sinmun* in May 1972 entitled "Director Kim Yongnam of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Social Sciences of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Presents a Statement on the Recent Discovery of a Mural Tomb at the Asuka Village in Nara Prefecture, Japan" (*Rodong sinmun*, May 2, 1972).

11. According to the *List of Persons Affiliated with the Key Institutions and Groups of North Korea*, Cha Dalman has been head of the Ancient Sites Excavation Unit since 2014 (Ministry of Unification 2014, 327).

Jonghyuk affiliated with the Institute of Archaeology.¹² Indeed, a close examination of the information relating to author status and post which appears in the table of contents page of each issue of *Joseon gogo yeongu* (see Fig. 1) shows that the Kim Jonghyuk, who published 15 articles during 1986–1996, had a Master’s degree (*junbaksa*), but the Kim Jonghyuk that published 9 articles during 1997–2003 had only a Bachelor’s degree (*haksa*). The articles written by Kim Jonghyuk during 1986–1996 consist mainly of an eclectic collection of site reports, whereas those written during 1997–2003 are mainly research articles associated with the Bronze Age site of Pyodae.

The three names that stand out in the “lecture” word cloud are Han Myeonggeol, Ji Hwasan, and Kim Chunjong. Han Myeonggeol is North Korea’s premier researcher of archaeological science, having published lectures (n=6), research articles (n=9), and one knowledge piece on various topics pertaining to archaeological science. Ji Hwasan, who has been the head of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Social Sciences since 2012,¹³ is an archaeologist specializing in the archaeology of the Bronze Age and Gojoseon, having been involved in the excavation of key sites in Pyongyang, such as Richeon-ri. His research has played an important role in supporting the idea of the Daedong River Culture as one of the cradles of human civilization, and he has actively published lectures (n=6) on this topic. Kim Chunjong is an archaeologist specializing in human evolution, but unlike his senior, Jang Woojin, his research output has not been limited to research articles, but also comprises site reports (n=2) and lectures (n=6). He also wrote a political rhetoric piece in 2017.

Of the 99 data pieces published in *Joseon gogo yeongu*, 37 did not feature author names. The named author that produced the greatest number of data

12. In the *List of Persons Affiliated with the Key Institutions and Groups of North Korea* published from 1999 to 2002, there is one Kim Jonghyuk that is listed as “head of the Ancient Sites Excavation Unit,” and another Kim Jonghyuk listed as “researcher.” From the 2003 list, the names of researchers are no longer provided.

13. According to the *List of Persons Affiliated with the Key Institutions and Groups of North Korea*, Ji Hwasan has been the head of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Social Sciences since 2012 (Ministry of Unification 2012, 310).

pieces is Gung Seonghee, who was responsible for publishing the “Korean Historical Sites and Artifacts Place Name Table (Northern Half)” in 21 parts during the period 1993–2000.

Jang Cholman has been one of the most active North Korean archaeologists since 1994, having published, in addition to the five news pieces in *Joseon gogo yeongu*, multiple research papers (n=13), site reports (n=7), and data pieces (n=3). Jang Cholman’s research interests have also been broad, covering Bronze Age dolmens, Goguryeo and Balhae archaeology, and Buddhist archaeology.

The political rhetoric pieces published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* have been a subject of interest (or rather chagrin) for South Korean archaeologists. The authorship of such pieces was previously examined by the author (Ko 2018, 122), and more recently, the author has also analyzed the rhetorical elements of these pieces (Ko 2023). As mentioned above, the key figures of North Korean archaeology have participated in the production of such political rhetoric, with Son Suho being the most compliant. Han Inho has also been active in producing such political rhetoric, publishing three pieces in 1995–1997.

One observation that can be made based on the results of the examination of the seven different types of word clouds is that the names of certain well-known North Korean archaeologists, such as Park Jinwook, Hwang Gideok, and Seok Gwangjun, are hard to find. The reason for this is likely due to the *unit of analysis* that has been adopted; by dividing the articles into seven different types and producing word clouds for each, the output of archaeologists that have published various types of articles in *Joseon gogo yeongu* has come to be under-represented. As such, two author word clouds were additionally produced for all of the articles published in *Joseon gogo yeongu*, respectively for the time periods before and after 1994.

Previous studies on the history of North Korean archaeology have regarded 1994 as an epoch-marking year, since the events associated with the discovery of the Tomb of Dangun culminated with the publication of several articles in 1994 on the excavation of this tomb and the dating of the tomb based on scientific methods. As a result, the period from 1995 to the present-day has been defined as the period in which the overtly nationalistic



of the Korean Bronze Age). In relation to this, it should be noted that the South Korean archaeological community's general perception of North Korean archaeology is that the excavation and subsequent interpretations of the Tomb of Dangun marked a point of no return, in which North Korean archaeology became overly politicized to the extent that it became an object of distrust. This is why North Korean research published prior to 1994 is more likely to be discussed and disseminated within the South Korean archaeological community.

Author Affiliations, Posts, and Qualifications

A distinctive feature of *Joseon gogo yeongu* is that in the table of contents page, information on posts¹⁴ and qualifications¹⁵ have been provided for approximately 1/3 of the authors (see Fig. 1). In addition, from Issue No. 1986-1 to Issue No. 2006-4, author affiliations were provided for institutions other than the Academy of Social Sciences. In the case of certain archeologists, it is therefore possible to trace academic and career developments using post and qualification data. However, the presence of some errors observed in the data¹⁶ indicates that interpretation should be undertaken with caution. Institutional affiliation data, on the other hand, can lead to valuable insights into the workings of the North Korean archaeological community. In particular, it can provide information on the relationship between the archaeologists of the Academy of Social Sciences and Kim Il Sung University, as well as the role of researchers based at other national institutions and museums.

From the author affiliation information of articles published in the 21 years between 1986 and 2006, 46 researchers based at 14 institutions other than the Academy of Social Sciences could be identified. Assuming that

14. The following posts have been identified: corresponding member of the Academy (*hubo wonsa*), professor (*gyosu*), and associate professor (*bugyosu*).

15. The following qualifications have been identified: Bachelor's degree (*haksa*), Master's degree (*seoksa*), and PhD degree (*baksa*).

16. For example, Son Suho's qualification in the 1994-2 issue is listed as "Master's degree" but in the 1997-3 issue is listed as "Bachelor's degree."

these author affiliations remained the same after 2007, unless established as otherwise, it was possible to identify 167 articles (of which 31 were co-authored) that had been produced with the involvement of researchers based at these 14 *other* institutions.

Archaeologists from Kim Il Sung University, the University of Construction and Building Materials, the Cultural Preservation Institute, the Central History Museum, and the Folk Museum were the most active contributors to *Joseon gogo yeongu*, publishing 152 articles, of which 128 were research articles. In the case of site reports, 23 were published by or

Table 2. Number of Authors Confirmed to have been Based at Institutions other than the Academy of Social Sciences who have Published in *Joseon gogo yeongu*, and their Number of Articles

Institution	No. of Authors	No. of Articles
Kim Il Sung University	16	74
Folk Museum	6	21
Cultural Preservation Institute	6	19
Central History Museum	6	25
University of Construction and Building Materials	6	15
Hyejoo History Museum	1	3
Hamgyeongbuk-do Scenic Places and Cultural Sites Management Place	1	3
Pyeongannam-do History Museum	1	2
Academy of Sciences	1	1
Hamheung History Museum	1	4
Myohyangsan History Museum	1	1
Sinuiju History Museum	1	2
Gyeseong History Museum	1	1
Goryeo Museum	1	1
Total	49 (46)	172

Note: Articles co-authored by researchers who were both based at institutions other than the Academy of Social Sciences were counted twice, which is why the sum of the number of articles (n=172) in Table 2 is greater than the total number of articles (n=167) mentioned in the text.

with contribution from archaeologists based at institutions other than the Academy of Social Sciences. Archaeologists affiliated with the regional museums and heritage management places produced some research articles, in addition to site reports, data, and news pieces.

It was also possible to identify three instances of change in affiliation. First, Jang Sangryeol was based at the Cultural Preservation Institute from 1986 to 1993, but from 1998 became an Associate Professor at the University of Construction and Building Materials. Second, Wang Seongsoo's affiliation was changed from the Gyeseong History Museum to Goryeo Museum in the period between 1988 to 1990. Third, Rhee Jeongnam was first based at the Cultural Preservation Institute but moved to the Central History Museum in the period between 1991 and 1999.¹⁷

Article Co-authorships

Another notable characteristic of *Joseon gogo yeongu* is that 198 articles were co-authored. This accounts for approximately 12 percent of published articles. Of these, 108 were research articles and 75 were site reports. The remainder were either lectures (n=11) or political rhetoric pieces (n=3). No

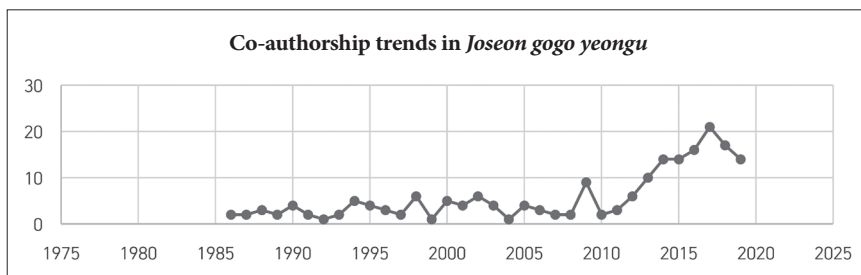


Figure 4. Co-authorship trends in *Joseon gogo yeongu* over time (1986–2019)

Source: Author's compilation.

17. These three authors were counted twice in Table 2, which is why the sum of “No. of authors” is 49, rather than 46.

particular pattern could be identified for the co-authored works in terms of content; they covered most periods and types of archaeological data. However, a marked increase in co-authored articles could be observed from 2010.

Co-authorship networks were produced, respectively, for the research articles and for the site reports in order to identify key academic partnerships or clusters. It was noted when compiling the data that co-authorships were not limited to researchers based at the Academy of Social Sciences; researchers from the other institutions examined in the previous section were also found to have contributed to co-authored papers. As such, these authors were expressed using differently shaped nodes in the co-authorship networks. In addition, in order to establish the presence of continued collaboration, additional networks were produced in which multiple co-authorships were expressed. The results are presented below, in Figures 5 and 6.

The network with all co-authorship links for research articles expressed (Fig. 5) features 22 groups, of which 9 involve authors not affiliated with the Academy of Social Sciences. In most of these cases, the other co-author was based at the Academy of Social Sciences. The large group located to the upper right of the network, consisting of 41 nodes demonstrates the intertwined nature of research at the Academy of Social Sciences, particularly centered around Seo Guktae, Ji Hwasan, and Cha Dalman. Interestingly, although Seo Guktae was involved in the greatest number of co-authored research articles ($n=9$), only one co-authorship (with Rhee Gyeongcheol of Kim Il Sung University on Neolithic archaeology) was maintained multiple times. On the other hand, the co-authorship between Ji Hwasan and Cha Dalman has produced seven research articles on the interpretation of the Richeon-ri site, a key site of the Daedong River Culture in the period of 2005–2016. Other notable co-authorships include the five research articles on Gojoseon by Seong Cheol and Kim Gwangmyeong (2014–2018), and the three research articles on scientific ceramic analysis by Han Myeonggeol and Woo Cheol.

The excavation and reporting of archaeological sites is a collective practice and so it is not surprising that approximately 30 percent of the site



Figure 5. Co-authorship network of research articles published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* with all co-author links expressed (above) and only multiple all co-author links expressed (below). Differently shaped nodes represent the different institution affiliations of the authors (circle: Academy of Social Sciences; square: Kim Il Sung University; up triangle: Central History Museum; square outline: Folk Museum; plus: University of Construction and Building Materials; two converged triangles: Academy of Sciences; diamond: Central History Museum/Cultural Preservation Institute).

Source: Author's compilation.



Figure 6. Co-authorship network of site reports published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* with all co-author links expressed (above) and only multiple all co-author links expressed (below). Differently shaped nodes represent the different institution affiliations of the authors (circle: Academy of Social Sciences; square: Kim Il Sung University; up triangle: Central History Museum; square with plus inside: Hamheung History Museum; down triangle: Sinuiju History Museum).

Source: Author's compilation.

reports published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* were co-authored. As can be seen in Figure 6 above, the network for all co-authored site reports consisted of several smaller groups (which, with the exception of one example, involved at least one author from the Academy of Social Sciences) and a large group that also consisted of archeologists from the Academy of Social Sciences. Of these collaborations, the most persistent one was between Kim Incheol and Park Dongmyeong, which produced nine excavation reports on sites in Gaeseong (Kaesong) and in the regional areas in the period of 2014–2019. The co-authorship network between Ji Hwasan, Cha Dalman, Ko Youngnam, Ahn Chunseong, and Kim Jongcheol, which was maintained for multiple publications, on the other hand, was responsible for numerous excavation reports on sites located in Pyongyang, including Richeon-ri and the Nangnang tombs (Fig. 6, bottom).

Insights from the Author-centered Analysis of *Joseon gogo yeongu*

The results of the authored-centered analysis presented above provide some valuable insights into the field of archaeological research in North Korea. Firstly, it was possible to observe that several North Korean archaeologists did not focus on one specific time period or theme but rather adopted a broad chronological and thematic perspective to research. This was pointed out as the reason why Han Inho and Kim Incheol, identified as the archaeologists that had published most frequently in *Joseon gogo yeongu*, were relatively less known to South Korean archaeologists; they had both published works on multiple periods (comprising Gojoseon, Goguryeo, Balhae, Goryeo) which within South Korean academia are researched by different groups of archaeologists, making it difficult for South Korean archaeologists to appreciate the research of Han Inho or Kim Incheol in its entirety.

Such a multi-period approach can be interpreted as deriving from the influence of Juche ideology on archaeology, which stressed the narrative of continuity from Gojoseon to Goguryeo to Balhae to Goryeo. For example, Kim Incheol wrote a research article in 2005 entitled “Goryeo is a Country

that Inherited Goguryeo Culture” (I. Kim 2005). This focus on continuity between the four states (explicitly using the term ‘gyeseung’ [inherit]) can also be observed in 14 other articles published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* by other authors. However, in the case of Cha Dalman and Ko Youngnam, who also actively published articles on multiple periods (spanning from the Neolithic to the Nangnang period), it was the Daedong River Culture theory that generated such a multi-period research perspective. Their research focused on sites located in Pyongyang, regardless of period, which could prove the cultural continuity and superiority of the Daedong River region. In other words, it can be said that whether it be Juche ideology or the Daedong River Culture theory, factors external to scholarship have led some North Korean archaeologists to broaden their research scopes.

It is known that the Institute of Archaeology at the Academy of Social Sciences and the Faculty of History at Kim Il Sung University both offer degrees in archaeology, both have the capacity to carry out excavations, and both publish in-house research journals. As such, it is interesting to note that 16 authors from Kim Il Sung University contributed to 77 articles in *Joseon gogo yeongu*. The nature of interactions between researchers based at the two institutions is the second insight obtained from this analysis. Given that 100 articles related to archaeology were published in *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo—ryeoksa-beomnyul/ryeoksahak* in the period between 2001 and 2019 (I. Lee 2023, 163), this does not appear to be a particularly high number.

The articles published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* by researchers based at Kim Il Sung University are mainly on Goguryeo, but Goguryeo-themed works also account for 45 percent of archaeology-related papers published in *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo* from 2001 (I. Lee 2023, 163). However, it can be noted that the results of paleolithic research undertaken at cave sites by the Human Evolution and Development History Research Group (Illyu jinhwa baljeonsa yeongu jipdan) of the Faculty of History at Kim Il Sung University have been exclusively published in *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo*, with the exception of one lecture piece entitled “Cultural Significance of the Excavation of the Cheongpadae Cave Site” published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* (Han 2014). This indicates that *Joseon gogo*

yeongu was regarded as an important medium for the sharing of archaeological knowledge, not only by members of the Academy of Social Sciences and other central and local cultural heritage-related institutions, but also by researchers based at Kim Il Sung University, who could have published in *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo*. A related topic which merits future examination is whether publication in *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo* was open to archaeologists not affiliated with the university. One possible avenue of researching this topic may be to interview North Korean defectors based in South Korea that may have in-depth knowledge of the workings of Kim Il Sung University.

The formation and dynamics of academic collaboration has been explored using various frameworks, such as homophily (i.e., the tendency for *birds of a feather to flock together*) (e.g. Feng and Kirkley 2020). As such, the nature of academic collaboration in a highly controlled and collectivist society such as North Korea is a topic of interest. The results of the analysis on co-authored articles published in *Joseon gogo yeongu* illustrates that, in terms of institutional affiliation, homophily may not be the driving force behind academic collaboration.

Seventeen cases of collaboration between authors of different institutions could be identified in the case of research articles (of which three cases were maintained multiple times), and three cases (of which one was multiple) were identified for site reports (see Figs. 5 and 6). Although this accounts for less than 10 percent of all co-authored articles in *Joseon gogo yeongu*, the fact that intra-institutional co-authorship took place in itself is notable, given that co-authorship is a practice rarely seen *Ryeoksa gwahak* or *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo*—*ryeoksa-beomnyul/ryeoksahak*. In the case of the latter, an examination of articles published since 2001 reveals only three cases of academic collaboration (Kim and Cho 2009; Rhee and Kim 2016; Woo and Han 2018), all of which were written by archaeologists. As such, it is possible to suggest that the discipline of archaeology, and particularly *Joseon gogo yeongu*, has provided an arena for academic collaboration in North Korea. Whether or not this tradition will play a crucial role in facilitating research collaboration between North and South Korean archaeologists in the future remains to be seen.

Conclusion

At the time of this writing, the geopolitical situation makes it unrealistic to hope for a détente between the two Koreas. At the same time, as the COVID-19 pandemic has come to an end and North Korea appears to have relaxed its border controls, the Information Center on North Korea has begun to acquire publications from North Korea once more. Post-pandemic issues of *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo* can now be accessed and it is hoped that the same will soon become possible for *Joseon gogo yeongu*. As has been sufficiently illustrated in this article, *Joseon gogo yeongu* is a treasure trove of information on the North Korean archaeological community, as are other journals such as *Kim Il-seong jonghap daehak hakbo* and *Ryeoksa hakbo*. The author intends to carry out further analyses on these journals as well, and aims to visualize the field in which archaeological knowledge is produced and reproduced using the tools of the North Korean Humanities Semantic Data Archive. It is hoped that visualization using word clouds and semantic networks will make it possible to identify important elements concerning the production and reproduction of archaeological knowledge in North Korea that may be further pursued using more traditional methods of qualitative analysis. Through such an endeavor, it will become possible to join on-going efforts (e.g. Noh et al. 2016) to build a better understanding of the ecosystem of North Korean academia and its research journals.

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