Organised by:
Department of Comparative Literature, The University of Hong Kong
Department of English Language and Literature, Yonsei University

2026 Situations International Conference

22 Thurs Oct 2026

SOVEREIGNTIES IN CRISIS
Human, Environment, Technology, and the Pharmakon

Schedule

CRT-4.36, 4/F, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Morning Session

9:15AM-9:45AM **REGISTRATION**

9:45AM-10:00AM **OPENING REMARKS**

Nicole Huang The University of Hong Kong **and**
Suk Koo Rhee Yonsei University

10:00AM-10:50AM **KEYNOTE I**

CHAIR: **Winnie Yee** The University of Hong Kong

Prof. Koonchung Chan Novelist and Scholar
Sovereignty or Ousia or Just (Western) Metaphysics: Striving to Philosophize with Spinoza

DISCUSSANT: **Eli Park Sorensen** The Chinese University of Hong Kong

11:00AM-12:20PM **SESSION 1: Pharmacologies of Power**

CHAIR: **Fiona Law** The University of Hong Kong

Shivani Gautam Shiv Nadar University
(Un)Belonging in Delhi: Necropolitics and Affective Infrastructures in *Trickster City*

DISCUSSANT: **Jeremiah Estela Magoncia** Ateneo de Manila University

---

Đặng Công Cường and Lê Văn Cao Huế University
Platform Labor and Fragmented Sovereignty in Vietnam: Contractual Power, Algorithmic Management, and the Limits of Worker Protection

DISCUSSANT: **Min Sung Park** University of Hawaii, Manoa

Mạnh Hà Lê and Thị Phương Thư Bùi Huế University
The Digital-Green Heritage City as Pharmakon: Productive Forces and Public Justification in Huế

DISCUSSANT: **Xiao Zhang** Yanbian University

12:30PM-1:50PM **LUNCH**

For enquiries, please contact:
malcsmne@hku.hk
situations@yonsei.ac.kr

Schedule | Learn More | Registration

香港大學 THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
比較文學 COMPARATIVE LITERATURE HKU
YONSEI UNIVERSITY English Language and Literature
BK21 FOUR English Studies as Future Humanities

Organised by:
Department of Comparative Literature, The University of Hong Kong
Department of English Language and Literature, Yonsei University

2026 Situations International Conference

22 Thurs Oct 2026

SOVEREIGNTIES IN CRISIS
Human, Environment, Technology, and the Pharmakon

Schedule

CRT-4.36, 4/F, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Afternoon Session

2:00PM-3:20PM **SESSION 2: Cultural Imaginaries of Sovereignty**

CHAIR: **Jason Coe** The University of Hong Kong

Min Sung Park University of Hawaii, Manoa
Reflecting on 1960s South Korean Reality and Dreaming of the Future–Han Nak-wŏn's *Venus Expedition*

DISCUSSANT: **Lê Văn Cao** Huế University

Hee Seng Kye Hanyang University
The Voice that Stops the Shot: Acoustic Triage and the Senses of Sovereignty in Korean Outbreak Cinema

DISCUSSANT: **Sihem Bensalah** Yonsei University

Fangtong Xu Independent Scholar
Public Space and Private Intimacy in The Park：The Expulsion and Resistance of The Marginalized Homosexual Community in Chinese Cinema

DISCUSSANT: **Shuya Zhang** Wuhan University of Technology

3:30PM-4:50PM **SESSION 3: Ecologies and Technologies of Attachment**

CHAIR: **Kelly Walsh** Yonsei University

Xiao Zhang Yanbian University
"Even the Ghosts Agree": Toxic Attachment, the Pharmakon, and the Post-Industrial Sacrifice Zone in Ocean Vuong's *The Emperor of Gladness*

DISCUSSANT: **Mạnh Hà Lê** Huế University

Nehl Rehan Independent Scholar
The Pharmakon in the Air: Kretek, Toxic Ecologies, and Ecological Sovereignty in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek*

DISCUSSANT: **Li Xiao** Yonsei University

Shuya Zhang Wuhan University of Technology
When Absence Becomes Responsive: Pseudo-Attendance and AI Grief Chatbots

DISCUSSANT: **Fangtong Xu** Independent Scholar

6:00PM-8:00PM **DINNER**

For enquiries, please contact:
malcsmne@hku.hk
situations@yonsei.ac.kr

Schedule | Learn More | Registration

香港大學 THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
比較文學 COMPARATIVE LITERATURE HKU
YONSEI UNIVERSITY English Language and Literature
BK21 FOUR English Studies as Future Humanities

Organised by:
Department of Comparative Literature, The University of Hong Kong
Department of English Language and Literature, Yonsei University

2026 Situations International Conference

23 Fri Oct 2026

SOVEREIGNTIES IN CRISIS
Human, Environment, Technology, and the Pharmakon

Schedule

CRT-4.36, 4/F, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

9:00AM-9:30AM **REGISTRATION**

9:30AM-10:20AM **KEYNOTE II**

CHAIR: **Suk Koo Rhee** Yonsei University

Prof. Yuk Hui Erasmus University Rotterdam
Automatization and Deautomatization

DISCUSSANT: **Steve Choe** The University of Hong Kong

10:30AM-11:50AM **SESSION 4: Precarious Bodies and (De)Automatized Life**

CHAIR: **Winnie Yee** The University of Hong Kong

Li Xiao Yonsei University
Flying Low: Algorithmic Sovereignty, Deautomatization, and the Pharmakon of China's Delivery-Rider Poetry

DISCUSSANT: **Nehl Rehan** Independent Scholar

Jeremiah Estela Magoncia Ateneo de Manila University
Disposable Visibility: Migrant Labor and the Pharmakon of Sovereignty in Korean Media Industries

DISCUSSANT: **Shivani Gautam** Shiv Nadar University

Sihem Bensalah Yonsei University
Bodily Sovereignty in Crisis Under Technological Biopatriarchy

DISCUSSANT: **Hee Seng Kye** Hanyang University

11:50AM-12:00PM **CLOSING REMARKS**

Suk Koo Rhee Yonsei University **and**
Winnie Yee The University of Hong Kong

12:00PM-2:00PM **LUNCH**

For enquiries, please contact:
malcsmne@hku.hk
situations@yonsei.ac.kr

Schedule | Learn More | Registration

香港大學 THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
比較文學 COMPARATIVE LITERATURE HKU
YONSEI UNIVERSITY English Language and Literature
BK21 FOUR English Studies as Future Humanities