

Call for Papers

Quotidian Cultures of Reading and Writing

- Date: Friday, April 22, 2016
- Venue: Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea

History has shown that since mankind began to adopt written communication, writing has expanded itself from the selected few to many, from the elite classes to the common people. In Asian and European cultures already before the settlement of compulsory education “pragmatic literacy” seems to have rapidly facilitated writing and reading activities in everyday private lives as well as in public spaces. By the early modern period, writing became an indispensable medium of communication, and in turn literate activities bursted in quotidian practices to form the “Gutenberg galaxy.” Today, with the advent of the digital era, we are experiencing another turn in the field of communication. Literacy has become a second nature for most cultures, but the new smart machinery, evolving at a hectic pace and assuming unprecedented roles, is creating a new “digital illiteracy” to those who are accustomed to the traditional written communication and slow or reluctant to adapt themselves to the fast-evolving communicative technology.

“Quotidian Cultures of Reading and Writing,” an international conference hosted by the Institute of Humanities at Yonsei University on 22 April 2016 (Friday), will seek to explore varying forms and contents of reading and writing practices that have been practiced in everyday lives of people in the past and the present, by both the common readers and eminent writers, in the East and the West, to reflect on how humanity has coped with the changing material conditions of communicative media.

Topics that will be discussed at the conference may include but not limited to the following:

- Private and domestic reading and writing practices, such as diaries, memoirs, letters, etc.
- Urban display writings, such as street signs, graffiti, advertisement, etc.
- Ephemeral messages
- Pragmatic literacy
- Digital literacy/illiteracy

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