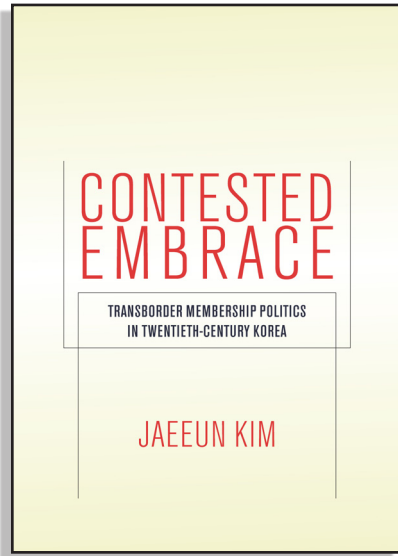


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Contested Embrace

Transborder Membership
Politics in Twentieth-Century
Korea

by JAE EUN KIM

Scholars have long examined the relationship between nation-states and their “internal others,” such as immigrants and ethno-racial minorities. *Contested Embrace* shifts the analytic focus to explore how a state relates to people it views as “external members” such as emigrants and diasporas. Specifically, Jaeun Kim analyzes disputes over the belonging of Koreans in Japan and China, focusing on their contested relationship with the colonial and postcolonial states in the Korean peninsula.

Contested Embrace illuminates the political and bureaucratic construction of ethno-national populations beyond

the territorial boundary of the state. Through a comparative analysis of transborder membership politics in the colonial, Cold War, and post-Cold War periods, the book shows how the configuration of geopolitics, bureaucratic techniques, and actors’ agency shapes the making, unmaking, and remaking of transborder ties.

“Kim’s theoretically agile and ethnographically vivid account shows how ordinary people and governments across Northeast Asia have wrestled over the question of who is Korean, and what that means in practice.”

*—David Scott Fitzgerald,
University of California, San Diego*

JAE EUN KIM is Assistant Professor of Sociology and the Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of Korean Studies at the University of Michigan. Kim was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University from 2012 to 2013.

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