The year 2023 is significant in the history of Korea and the relations between South Korea and the United States. It marks the 70th anniversary of the formal alliance between South Korea and the United States, which began when the two countries signed the Mutual Defense Treaty in 1953; the 75th anniversary of the founding of South Korea itself, established in 1948; and the 120th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States in 1903, which launched the long and illustrious history of the Korean American community. In commemoration of these milestones, we invite you to join us for a special lecture series examining this complex history of Korean-American relations.

Although South Korea and the United States have long been allies, as with most friendships, their relationship has undergone many challenges both from within and without. Speakers will review how the alliance has been tested many times not only in terms of diplomatic, economic, and military ties, but also in the Korean public’s perception and imagination of America throughout the twentieth century. In addition, speakers will also discuss the Korean-American relationship from the perspective of marginalized populations, whose voices have not often been heard previously in this history. Finally, speakers will also examine the recent influx of K-Pop and the Korean Wave in the United States and what it means not only for Korean-American relations but also for the Korean American community and Korean American identity.

Register here: specialevents.asu.edu/shprskoreausconference