

Social relationships and the occupational mobility of Korean STEM professionals

Associate Professor Ann Kim
(York University in Toronto)

Date: Thursday, 14 May 2026

Time: 4 pm - 5 pm (NZST)

Venue: Building 206-Room 315 (UoA City Campus)

Online available via Zoom: Registration required



Abstract

Whether referred to as a glass ceiling (credited to Marilyn Loden, 1978) or the controversial bamboo ceiling (credited to Jane Hyun, 2006), anti-Asian discrimination and the model minority myth persist in different social and occupational fields which affects racialized and gendered professionals. In this presentation, we review the literature on migration, gender, and race and occupational mobility in STEM fields and situate our current study of working Korean Canadians in this scholarship. I spotlight a professional organization that builds social structural capital among Korean Canadian STEM professionals and explore how some members view the impact of cognitive and relational capital for occupational mobility. Drawing from preliminary qualitative data from focus group discussions, I discuss the implications of these experiences and understandings for career satisfaction and mobility.



About Associate Professor Ann Kim

Ann H. Kim is Associate Professor of Sociology at York University in Toronto and current Director of the Korean Office for Research and Education. She is co-editor of three books: *Korean Immigrants in Canada: Perspectives on Migration, Integration, and the Family* (UTP 2012), *Outward and Upward Mobilities: International Students, Their Families and Structuring Institutions* (UTP 2019), and *International Students from Asia in Canadian Universities: Institutional Challenges at the Intersection of Internationalization, Racialization, and Inclusion* (Routledge 2024).

All are warmly welcome to the seminar room. Online joining is also available, but registration is required. Please scan the QR code above. For any inquiries, please contact ch.song@auckland.ac.nz.