

WRAP-UP

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In association with Toponymy, the main themes of today's ten papers have been Education, Culture, Justice and History, closely followed in significance by Politics, Memory and Identity.

1. TABULATION OF PRESENTERS AND THEMES

Presenter		Toponymy in relation to
Joseph Stoltman	▶	education, culture, justice
Corey Johnson	▶	politics, ownership
Choi Yearn Hong	▶	politics, education
Brahim Atoui	▶	culture, identity
Isolde Hausner	▶	culture, education, justice
Michelle Metro-Roland	▶	culture, memory
Lee Young-Choon	▶	history, physics
Yi Saangkyun	▶	cartographic history
Soh Jungchul	▶	orthographic history
Kim Shin	▶	cartographic history, justice

1) Joseph Stoltman: education, culture, justice

Professor Stoltman focused on the interaction between toponymy and education, leading us through his four 'ships' of education. Names are of great significance to peoples and cultures, to their emotions and traditions, representing baggage from the past but also hope for the future. There are both intellectual and practical reasons for studying

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names in education. There are sound educational reasons for studying the name of the Sea, because it affords an ideal case study for research, critical thought, and considerations of justice and ethics; all vital educational lessons in their own right.

2) Corey Johnson: politics, ownership

Professor Johnson showed how the political aspects of naming and renaming fall into five types: post-transition (as in the post-soviet bloc); post-colonial (as in India); post-conflict (as in South Africa and the southern USA); branding (how for example corporations attach their names to stadiums); and power and sovereignty (such as the island names in the South China Sea). The lesson here is the extent to which a name can imply ownership of a feature.

3) Choi Yearn Hong: politics, education

Mr Choi approached political power in a different manner, in relation to education. We were taken through the course of events leading to the recent legislation in Virginia, which ensures that future school textbooks will be required to use simultaneously both competing names for the Sea. Mr Choi believes that this legislation represents a triumph and victory for Korean-American power. The conclusion is clearly that political lobbying and influence can have a real effect.

4) Brahim Atoui: culture, identity

Monsieur Atoui took us through the course of Algeria's toponymic history, a history influenced and distorted by colonisation. Toponymy has been used at times to assert a truly Algerian identity, and at other times to efface that identity. M Atoui illustrated this by means of street names, which tell a story of revolution, civil war and disillusionment, yet also one of optimism and hope. This demonstrates that all colonial history involves the manipulation of names, and we should be wary of falling into the trap of claiming exceptionalism for our own particular experiences.

5) Isolde Hausner: culture, education, justice

Professor Hausner showed the significance of toponyms as local and global cultural heritage. Studying toponyms fully furnishes us with a story not just of our history, but also of the historical processes at work behind it. Culture and cultural values are overwhelmingly important in toponymy, and Professor Hausner also stressed the interdisciplinary nature of toponymic study. She noted the work of UNESCO & UNGEGN, and discussed the sources, including educational materials, employed in toponymic study. Regarding the Sea, Professor Hausner urged us to consider a centre-periphery model. In this model, which is fluid over time, Japan formed the centre in the period leading up to the mid-20th century, with Korea at the periphery, but today both countries are fully-qualified centres, and the lesson from this is one of justice, that their respective names should be considered equally as a way of living together.

6) Michelle Metro-Roland: culture, memory

Professor Metro-Roland remarked on the nature of toponyms as indicators of place, and their potency as bearers of cultural and historical narratives. The original significance of a name may become opaque over time and may even be superseded by new and initially unintended meanings. One group may consider the name still carries its original meaning; another may believe the name carries a newer meaning. Where one of those meanings becomes contentious, and the followers of that meaning wish the name to be changed, those who attribute the other meaning may object to the proposed change. The lesson is that we must consider the vagaries of memory; that it involves forgetting as well as remembering, and that remembering may in fact be a re-remembering in an altered fashion.

7) Lee Young-Choon: history, physics

Mr Lee gave a fascinating insight into the tidal regime of the Sea, noting that Korean scholars even in the pre-scientific era had noticed how its tides differed significantly from those of other Seas. Today, astronomical physics rather than neo-Confucian theory provides the explanation, but the Sea's undoubted phenomenon of a low tidal differentiation enhances its special significance in the Korean psyche.

8) Yi Saangkyun: cartographic history

Mr Yi related a thorough account of the history of the naming process for the Sea. In short, the Sea has had several labels attached to it over the course of history. The balance of evidence suggests that the traditional long-standing names were those that included reference to Joseon or Korea or Oriental, while reference to Japan in the name came along later and in fact originated in Europe. Japan did not use the name Sea of Japan for this particular Sea until the mid-19th century.

9) Soh Jungchul: orthographic history

Professors Soh & Kim traced the evolution of the name Korea through its geographical and linguistic voyages. Portuguese traders provided the initial contact between the location and its western name. Spellings were inconsistent, particularly among Germanic languages. We can conclude that while orthographic standardization is certainly important, the content of the name has nonetheless remained consistent whatever its form.

10) Kim Shin: cartographic history, justice

Professor Kim has discovered and examined the connections between a 1945 US Map of Korea and the 2014 Virginia dual naming bill. Seven hypotheses were tested and all were validated. The 1945 map provides a very early example of dual naming, with the name Eastern Sea followed in brackets by Sea of Japan. And the International Hydrographic Office set a precedent for dual naming as early as the 1920s and 1930s. This practice of dual naming, as replicated seven decades later by the 2014 Virginia bill, represents the present age, demonstrates scientific truth, and objectively reflects the interests of justice.