## Application Form

### Support Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification Code(s)</th>
<th>R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Classification Code: R, C-1, C-2, P, E-1, E-2, D-1, D-2*

### 1. Project (Project)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Gate-Keepers of the Korean Nation: Micro-Sociology of Bureau of Immigration Field Officials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Period</td>
<td>July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of Publication</td>
<td>□ Korean   □ English □ Others ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Grant | $20,000 |

### 2. Applicant Institution (Applicant Institution)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>University of Mary Washington</th>
<th>Country (Country)</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>1301 College Ave Freericksburg, VA 22401</td>
<td>Homepage</td>
<td><a href="http://www.umw.edu">www.umw.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Chair</td>
<td>Dr. Eric Gable</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:egable@umw.edu">egable@umw.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department &amp; Position</td>
<td>Professor, Sociology and Anthropology</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>1-540-654-1504</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Project Director / Conference Director (Project Director) / Conference Director

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nora Hui-Jung Kim</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>South Korea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Department of Sociology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Research Field</td>
<td>Sociology/Citizenship, International Migration, Nationalism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>1) <a href="mailto:hkim4@umw.edu">hkim4@umw.edu</a>   2) <a href="mailto:norakim59@gmail.com">norakim59@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>540-654-1637</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>540-654-1074</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address</td>
<td>1301 College Ave, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of Project

■ Summarized Contents of the Project (no more than one page)

International marriage accounts for about 10 percent of total annual marriages in South Korea and the presence of marriage migrants is literally and figuratively changing the face of the Korean nation. However, there is a growing concern whether marriage migrants enter into a “fake” marriage just for immigration and citizenship purposes. The Korean government is increasingly playing the role of “marriage police” and marriage migrants now have the added burden of getting their private lives under a sever scrutiny of the Korean state. Only those marriage migrants who can successfully prove the authenticity of their marriages can extend their visa and eventually get conferred with Korean citizenship. The field officials of the Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Justice, preform the consequential tasks of verifying the authenticity of an international marriage, thus initially sorting out those who deserve Korean citizenship from those who do not. For this reason, I refer the field officials of the Bureau of Immigration to as the gate-keepers of the nation and propose to study how they make sense of their work and how they decide which marriages are authentic and which are not.

This project builds upon the concept of street-level bureaucrats and their role of embodying the authority of the state. Individual citizens usually encounter the government through interactions with lower-level bureaucrats such as police officers, teachers, and county clerks. These “street-level bureaucrats” embody the authority of the state and exert the power of the state directly on individual citizens. Through a combination of non-participant observation and in-depth interviews, I seek to address the way Bureau of Immigration field officials make decisions and how they make sense of their work. The project will illuminate how state power is exercised and reproduced through the routine work of street-level bureaucrats and make significant contribution to the scholarship on citizenship, immigrant incorporation, and gender and family.

Further, the project draws our attention to the one of the important dimension of marriage migrant incorporation—legal citizenship. The lack of formal citizenship not only deprives one from full political participation but also from the privilege to confer Korean citizenship to one’s offspring. In this sense, lack of citizenship presents a “democratic challenge” in an age of international migration. Despite its significance, either Korean scholars or the government officials have paid much attention to the issue. This is a significant and unfortunate lacuna, especially against the background of the increasing naturalization rejection in recent years. The ratio of approved vs. rejected cases dropped from 3.75 to 1 in 2009 to a mere 1.90 to 1 in 2013. That means that, in 2013, the Ministry of Justice rejected one application for every 1.90 it approved. By empirically testing how naturalization legal requirements are interpreted and enforced at the level of street-level bureaucrats, this project will be able to point to directions of naturalization policy reform.
* 과제 지원분야를 선택하여 작성
* Choose and fill the project budget and plan forms below relevant to your project.

학술연구 (Competitive Research Funding) : R

사업예산 (Project Budget)

- 지원비는 USD로 산정하여 신청 (Amount of requested grant should be calculated in USD.)
- 다년과제 신청의 경우 2차년도 예산 양식 동일 (This form can be used for the second year budget.)

1. 예산신청내역 (Requested Budget Breakdown)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>항목별 산출내역 (One-year Project Cost Computation)</th>
<th>신청예산 (Grant Amount Requested)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 인건비 (Personnel)</td>
<td>$12,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Course buyout for Project Director</td>
<td>12,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Flights for field research (Economy, US-Korea, 1 person, 2 flights)</td>
<td>3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Accommodation ($700/month * 6 months) during fieldwork</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Books and Materials ($20* 5 books)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>합계 (Total)</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. 연구책임자 인건비 책정 사유 및 금액 산출근거
(Specification for the need of Project Director's personnel and budget cost consumption)

The project director is obliged to teach three courses per semester at the University of Mary Washington. To conduct fieldwork in Korea for six month, the project director needs to buy out teaching obligations, which amounts to $11,205 for three courses for one semester plus $895 to cover the institution’s share of the Federal Insurance Contribution (FICA), a total of $12,100.
3. 기타 재원 (Other Financial Sources)
   a. 신청자 소속기관이 제공하는 경비, 시설, 기타사항(구체적으로)
      Expenses, facilities and other items provided by the applicant institution (Describe in detail)

   After returning from the fieldwork, the application institution will provide administrative assistance and
   office space necessary for processing the fieldwork data. The application institution will also provide
   support in the form of sabbatical leave from January 2018 to May 2018, during which I will complete a
   book manuscript based on the proposed project.

   b. 동일과제로 다른 기관에 신청해 놓았거나 또는 신청예정인 재원 (구체적으로)
      Grant application submitted or to be submitted to other organizations for the same project
      (Describe the name of the organization, requested budget, and grant period in detail.)

I have not applied for any other grants for this project.

사업계획 (Project Plan)

▶ 아래 내용을 순서대로 작성하십시오.

(Please state the plan in the following order. There is no limit in length or format.)

1. 연구목적 및 필요성 (Objectives and Necessity)

   International marriage accounts for about 10 percent of total annual marriages in South Korea
   and the presence of marriage migrants is literally and figuratively changing the face of
   Korean nation. However, there is a growing concern whether marriage migrants enter into a
   “fake” marriage just for immigration and citizenship purposes. The Korean government is
   increasingly playing the role of “marriage police” and marriage migrants now have the added
   burden of getting their private lives under a sever scrutiny of the Korean state. Only those
   marriage migrants who can successfully prove the authenticity of their marriages can extend
   their visa and eventually get conferred with Korean citizenship. The field officials of the
   Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Justice, preform the consequential tasks of verifying the
   authenticity of an international marriage, thus initially sorting out those who deserve Korean
   citizenship from those who do not. For this reason, I refer the field officials of the Bureau of
   Immigration to as the gate-keepers of the nation and propose to study how they make sense
   of their work and how they decide which marriages are authentic and which are not.

   This project builds upon the concept of street-level bureaucrats and their role of embodying
   the authority of the state.1 Individual citizens usually encounter the government through
   interactions with lower-level bureaucrats such as police officers, teachers, and county clerks.
   These “street-level bureaucrats” embody the authority of the state and exert the power of the
   state directly on individual citizens. The role of street-level bureaucrats is not limited to
   passively implementing state policies, however. They have a relatively high degree of

autonomy from the organizational authority and exercise considerable discretion in performing their tasks. In this sense, street-level bureaucrats are policy makers as well as policy implementers, and studying street-level bureaucrats can illuminate the micro-mechanisms through which state power is legitimated and actualized.

The proposed research project has developed from my earlier project on marriage-based naturalization litigation cases. I have collected and analyzed over 250 court cases challenging the denial of naturalization applications or visa extension requests. In the course of analyzing court cases, I found that Bureau of Immigration field officials play possibly the most important role in deciding which immigrants deserve to become naturalized Korean citizens. Field officials of the Bureau of Immigration conduct interviews with naturalization applicants and their spouses and make home visits to determine the genuineness of marriages. Their case reports are the main documents that the Ministry of Justice uses either to accept or reject an immigrant’s naturalization application.

Through a combination of non-participant observation and in-depth interviews, I seek to address the way Bureau of Immigration field officials make decisions about each case and how they make sense of their work. Instead of presuming that immigration field officials are guided simply by ethnocentric attitudes and prejudice, I will pay particular attention to the “bureaucratic thought-work”—the routine product of thoughts about and consequent actions aimed at the control of their clients and other members of the bureaucratic organization (e.g. colleagues and subordinates). I hypothesize that two main factors direct the bureaucratic thought-work of Bureau of Immigration field officials: bureaucratic worldviews and professional ethics. The project will illuminate how state power is exercised and reproduced through the routine work of street-level bureaucrats and make significant contribution to the scholarship on citizenship, immigrant incorporation, and gender and family.

The project draws our attention to the one of the important dimension of marriage migrant incorporation—legal citizenship. The lack of formal citizenship not only deprives one from full political participation but also from the privilege to confer Korean citizenship to one’s offspring. In this sense, access to citizenship presents a “democratic challenge” in an age of international migration. Despite its significance, either Korean scholars or the government has paid much attention to the issue. This is a significant and unfortunate lacuna, especially against the background of the increasing naturalization rejection in recent years. The ratio of approved vs. rejected cases dropped from 3.75 to 1 in 2009 to a mere 1.90 to 1 in 2013. That means that, in 2013, the Ministry of Justice rejected one application for every 1.90 it approved. By empirically testing how naturalization legal requirements are interpreted and enforced at the level of street-level bureaucrats, this project will be able to point to directions of naturalization policy reform.

\[\text{\textsuperscript{2}} \text{See The Janus Faced Court of Naturalization: Marriage and Kinship in Naturalization Litigation in South Korea.} \textit{Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies}\]


2. 연구 내용, 규모 및 방법 (Subject, Scale and Methods)

To acquire insight into field officials’ daily decision-making processes, the project combines non-participant observation and semi-structured interviews of field officials of the Bureau of Immigration. There are 38 branches of the Bureau of Immigration across Korea, with 12 of them located in Seoul Metropolitan area. After consulting and getting approval from chief of the Bureau of Immigration, I will choose two branches in Seoul Metropolitan area where I will conduct non-participant observation.

Non-Participant Observation: Once I select the branches to conduct fieldwork, I will conduct non-participant observation at the branches. I will visit each branch twice a week (a few hours during each visit) and observe and take notes of their daily activities during their regular operating hours. I will document their interactions with clients (marriage migrants and their Korean spouses). I will also note on interactions with peer field officials and their supervisors. Finally, I will accompany them on their visits to marriage migrants’ residences and observe their interviews with migrants, provided that the migrants consent to my observation.

Semi-structured Interviews: I will conduct semi-structured interviews with field officials. I want to know how they make sense of their job. Questions will cover the challenges and award from their work and their views on immigrants and immigration policies. Interview participants will be recruited not only from the two branches where I will conduct non-participant observation but from other branches in the Seoul Metropolitan area. Interviews will be conducted at a location and time that interviewees find convenient and comfortable. Interviewees will be audio-recorded with the respondent’s consent. After completing each interview, I will transcribe them verbatim for analysis. Respondent names or the specific branch that they work for will not be associated with the interview data, transcript or digital file. I will plan to interview at least 40 officials.

Interview transcripts will be analyzed using critical discourse analysis method. Major themes and frames will be identified through careful and critical analysis of the interview data. Findings from the interview data will be triangulated using the fieldwork notes. I am uniquely qualified to conduct the proposed research. I have published widely on the issues of immigration and citizenship in Korea. As a native Korean speaker, I am competent in conducting and analyzing interviews in Korean.

3. 연구 일정 (다년도 과제일 경우 연차별로 작성)

Timetable (Timetable for multi-year research should be done in a yearly order)

I am requesting financial support to conduct a preliminary fieldwork during the summer of 2016 and the extended fieldwork from January to June 2017. I envision the completion of the project taking the following stages:

Preliminary Fieldwork (July 2016): This preliminary work is crucial in gaining entry to the Bureau of Immigration and arranging future fieldwork at the Bureau. The preliminary fieldwork will be devoted to establishing contacts with people and arranging extended fieldwork. The main goals of the preliminary fieldwork are twofold. First, I will look for an academic institution that can support my research during the extended fieldwork, with office space, access to a library, and the opportunity to share my work and get feedback from other
scholars. Second, I will secure support and permission for my research from the Bureau of Immigration. In consultation with high-ranked officials at the Bureau, I will identify two branches of the Bureau where I will conduct non-participant observation. I plan to mobilize my professional connections with immigration scholars in Korea to gain access to the Bureau of Immigration and secure the support of an academic institution. Finally, I will conduct preliminary interviews with a few immigration field officials. The interviews will guide my literature review and planning for the extended work.

*Literature Review & Fellowship Proposal (August - December 2016):* Based on the findings from the preliminary fieldwork, I will conduct a more comprehensive literature review and refine my research and interview questions. I will draft and submit a proposal for a sabbatical leave (January to May 2018), during which time I plan to complete a book manuscript based on the proposed research.

*Extended Fieldwork (January – June 2017):* I plan to conduct extended fieldwork from January to June 2017. During the fieldwork, I will observe field officials’ routine activities at their offices; I will document their interactions with clients (migrants and their Korean sponsors). I will also note on interactions among peer field officials and interactions between them and their supervisors. In addition, I will conduct semi-structured interviews with field officials.

*Analysis and Writing (July 2017 – May 2018):* Upon completion of the fieldwork, I will return to University of Mary Washington and embark on data analysis and writing. I will be writing a few research articles as short- and medium-term writing projects, but I envision the ultimate product of this research will be a book manuscript which will be completed during a sabbatical leave.

4. **연구결과 출판 계획 및 학문적 기대효과** (Publication Plan and Academic Contribution)

The findings of the project will shed new light on how citizenship laws are applied to naturalization application cases and thus reveal the micro-bureaucratic processes of sorting immigrants into those who deserve citizenship and those who do not. In doing so, the project will demonstrate how the interpretation and application of citizenship laws are contested and negotiated by bureaucratic organizational rules, professional ethics, and cultural idioms of nationhood and belonging.

The findings of this project will yield a few journal articles. Since the project builds upon several bodies of literature—the anthropology of bureaucracy, organizational sociology, citizenship, family and marriage, and immigrant incorporation—and makes a unique contribution to each, it will be easy to turned some findings into independent journal articles. Some possible article topics include; the role of immigration bureaucrats in making de-facto citizenship policies (possible journal titles: citizenship studies and journal of ethnic and migration studies), the role of immigration bureaucrats in constructing “real” and “fake” marriages and the role of gender plays in the construction (possible journal title: gender and society), how the state power is actualized through actions of state-level bureaucrats (possible journal title: sociological inquiry). I envision the ultimate outcome of this project as a book manuscript. The book will be a useful textbook for both undergraduate and graduate courses that focus on contemporary Korea, citizenship, and bureaucracy, international migration, and family and marriage.
In addition to scholarly contribution, the findings of the project will have important implications for naturalization policy reform. Naturalization is an important political decision with significance consequence of shaping the characteristics of Korea as a national community. This project will provide valuable empirical data and insight on naturalization policy and its implementation.

5. 기타 재원이 있을 경우 분담 계획(Cost sharing plan if there is another financial source besides the AKS grant)

I have not applied for any other grant for this project.

6. 출판 예정 학술지 또는 출판사(Three Projected Publications)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>학술지명 또는 출판사 Journal Title or Publisher</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship Studies</td>
<td>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</td>
<td>Gender and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCI, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, Scopus, CSSCI, KCI Index 등재 여부, 저서일 경우 전문가 심사 여부 Please inform us whether your expected journal is indexed in the SCI, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, Scopus, CSSCI, KCI database. If it would be a book form, please inform us whether your publisher would conduct peer-review</td>
<td>SSCI</td>
<td>SSCI</td>
<td>SSCI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>위에 해당이 안될 경우 학술지 및 출판사의 우수성에 대한 소명 Otherwise, justify excellence of journal(s) or publisher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 과제 선발자는 결과물 제출 기한 내에 위의 세 곳 중 한 곳에 학술지를 게재하거나 출판사를 통해 출판해야 함.

* The grantee should publish their project results on academic journal or through a publishing company from one of the three publications indicated above.
7. 과제참여자 (Project Participants)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>과제책임자 (Project Director)</th>
<th>성명 (Name)</th>
<th>소속 및 국가 (Affiliation and Country)</th>
<th>학력 및 약력 (Curriculum Vitae)</th>
<th>최근 4년간의 대표적 연구업적 (Major scholastic performances over the last 4 Years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Nora Hui-Jung Kim            | Univ of Mary Washington, USA | Associate Professor, Univ of Mary Washington  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Phd. Sociology | Refer to [Appendix 1] |

8. 기타 정보 (Other Information)

9. 첨부자료 목록 (*첨부자료 제목을 기재) (List the titles of the attachment)

9-1. Appendix 1. Research Result
KOREAN STUDIES GRANT APPLICATION FORM for 2016