Annotated Bibliography

Annotated Bibliography-Yoo Young-Chul

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Yoo Young-Chul was born on April 18, 1970 on a small village in the north Cheolla province called Waha. Alike many blue collar family babies he too was an unexpected baby, it was later revealed by Yoo’s grandmother later revealed to him that his parents didn’t want him and at one point his mother had considered terminating his life. After parents separation Yoo went to live with his father, a Vietnam War veteran that although had large funds from his combat pay had managed to lose most of it by gambling it away. The district in which his father resided was such an impoverish area that the only access to water was from a public well. Although Yoo was born colorblind that did not stop him from his passions which included reading, painting, poetry and most of all singing to the point where he was in a gospel group at a church. His criminal history began as his sophomore year in high school when he stole a guitar along with a Sony cassette player from one of his neighbor's house. As year passed his criminal activity increased going in and out of jail however that did not stop him from meeting the masseuse named Ms. Hwang the woman that would become his wife. It is known that Yoo’s little brother was a manic depressive and at the age of 32 he had committed suicide. Ms. Hwang, Yoo’s wife divorced him during his prison sentence for raping a 15 year old girl in 2002. By this point in time Yoo had been convicted 14 times adding up to 11 years in prison with his offenses varying from fraud, theft, battery and sexual assault.

Yoo was a child that at a very young age had to face the hardships of life. He was brought up in an unwanted home where his very presence reminded his mother he was a mistake. This is in reference to Yoo’s fixated hate towards woman could have began at such a young age. Yoo coined a starving artist making reference to his disability was the only obstacle that starved him from pursuing his profession as a painter. The publication on Yoo’s childhood development pertains to the environment in which he was immersed in created the man he is today. He was deprived of all his opportunities, the abandonment of his wife and the potential idea that that he too may have Manic Depressive disorder were reasons enough for Yoo to rationalize his murders according to him as nothing more than restoring moral balance into South Korea. The lack of control he had in his life is related to the inner drive of Yoo that pushed him into taking matters into his own hands. Prostitute’s symbolized everything that is impure about a woman, according to Yoo all reminders of the woman in his life who had deserted him. Yoo’s society as appertaining to the journal created Yoo in its image.


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This article provides the understanding of the treatment of women in South Korea during the twenty-first century. It examines lives of two different groups of women which are prostitutes and migrant wives. In South Korea there was a distinct gender role where women
were seen as crating a family or be disowned by the country. Prostitution was seen as criminals and migrant workers were not seen as part of the country. There was lack of protection for these women and little rights as well. Unmarried women had to participate in the workforce in order to show responsibility to their nation. There was a lot of violence done to these women including four women burning in a fire so in 2000 there was an anti-prostitution movement in order to gain women rights and seek protection for these women. In 2004 there was the Punishment Act and Protection Act which would help the human rights for prostitutes in the recognition of women rights they promoted the idea that they didn’t want daughters being lost.

In relation to Yoo Young-Chul chose prostitutes as his victims this article shows perhaps why he chose his victims. Prostitutes were seen as garbage and weak so he may have chosen them because he knew they did not have rights or power. Since there was a gender role problem in Korea men were seen as having the power. These women became prostitutes for survival. They lost their innocence which Young-Chul saw as uplifting. By choosing these victims he was reinforcing that these women will continue to not have the rights they deserve. Since these women were already prone to violence Young-Chul may have thought that by killing these women it would have not caused so much of a scene. By looking at the background of these women we can understand that Young-Chul was trying to perhaps prove something. It could be that maybe he did not want these women to have rights or even power.


In 2010 the Amnesty International announced how deeply disillusioned they were at the Constitutional Court’s verdict to maintain South Korea’s death penalty. The court ruling indicated that the death penalty did in no way devalue the worth nor the dignity of the human being that is guarded by the Constitution. Although the capital punishment has not been executed in over 10 years this is still a huge setback for South Korea. The Amnesty International commented on how the ruling goes hand on hand to the present-day abolitionist trend in South Korea. Many argue and vow that the country is an abolitionist in practice; due to that no execution had been carried out since February 1998 when President Kim Dae-Jung took office. Ironic how the President then had years ago in 1980 been sentenced to death. Nevertheless, at present day the capital punishment is still being passed along with 57 individuals still remaining on death row. Following 2010 news reports have revealed that currently there are 60 human beings who are at this time sentenced to death. Following the year there were 4 more individuals added to death row however no executions were held.

For the most part of the world’s history, the death penalty has been used for a wide range of crimes, over the years however the capital punishment has been subjected to those who commit numerous aggravated murders executed by those who are mentally competent. This indicates that in South Korea Yoo’s crimes must have achieved all requirements to qualify and be convicted with the death penalty. It is said that the continuing custom of subjecting a person to the death penalty takes away from South Korea’s economic leadership as a country; Yoo’s trial took a substantial amount of time to carry out, which insinuates the state’s point of view regarding whether or not to associate the country’s economic standing with Yoo’s case.
Shouldn’t such an influential country as itself lead by example, acknowledging and valuing their resident’s rights to life? The death penalty issue has been debated all over the world with those in favor stating how the capital punishment will deter crime, while those who oppose the matter assert that it’s just a state sectioned murder. Oppositions like these make reference to how Yoo may rationalize and assume that which such debate he would never be at the mercy of the capital punishment. Currently South Korea is a leading country, retreating their cruel verdict would only subdue the country to be seen as weak and unable to establish conformity in its residents. However unjust their ruling may be the consideration taken by many is on how on over a decade now the country has not carried out any executions or as the Amnesty International states it “slayings”. This attributes to how serial killers undermine the sentence to the death penalty, Young-Chul may be aware no death row execution had been carried out in more than 10 years.


The key point to this article was poverty and the effect it had on the people of South Korea. It was a study done in between 1999 through 2003. In 1997 there was an economic crisis and the impact of social security transfers for different households and if there is any poverty reduction. In order to test this, the analysts conducted a survey for different households. The results showed that for the five year period there was only a 7.9 percent effectiveness of poverty rate reduction. Compared to other countries it is about one-seventh to one-tenth of western welfare states. The article goes further into explain that a possible reason for such little poverty reduction based on social security has to do with culture factors. These factors include that South Korea is mostly dependent on transfers of money made in between family member and friends and do not rely too much on the social aspect. One way that South Korea can improve society is that they can try to improve their effectiveness with expenditures rather than improving efficiency. Also they can try to work on creating more programs for the social aspect in order to implement more help to the poor. This can help reduce poverty.

Poverty was a big factor in South Korea. People struggled to survive including Young-Chul. In order to survive he stole from the rich. Since South Korea was trying to improve the country by offering social security compensations, the poor was still not getting the help that they needed. This can imply that Young-Chul wanted to prove something to the government from when he stole from the wealthy old men that he later also killed. The economy was such a big impact on Young-Chul’s killings and a major motive to why he did what he did. This study shows that although households were trying to get the help they deserve in the social aspect of the country many of them could not survive on just that. Young-Chul wanted to show that he blames the rich for living the poor life that he did.

Over the last few decades street prostitution and “American Town” have grown in Korea earning about $22 billion per year. In 2002 Korean males made 170 million sex purchases, including all forms of prostitution, strip clubs, or other services one can think of. Most women that have entered prostitution enter between the ages of thirteen and nineteen. They do not enter the field at first, they put in applications for jobs art massage parlors, and other service type jobs. However these service jobs usually lead into prostitution. According to the KICJP-the Korean Institute of Criminal Justice Policy- there is at least 330,000 sex workers in Korea. However this number could be bigger when accounting for undocumented workers and underground workers as well.

The rise in prostitution over the last few years has led the government to impose some laws in order to protect the workers that have a registration card and that undergo weekly clinical visits. There are girls as young as thirteen going into this type of work because a normal life is hard to obtain. The prostitutes that Yoo Young-Chul killed were most likely not that young and centered more around his age. The sex industry has been able to include many women and a lot of them do not have official records of their work making it easier for them to go missing.


In 2003, South Korea was going through political issues mainly to do with their newly elected President Roh Moo Hyun. His main motive was to get South Korea into a generation of technology and focused on the younger generation. During this time society divided into two different groups and from there grew social conflicts. This brought upon strikes and protests. The president was not having any authority in these issues and changes his political power into an authoritarian one. With more illegal strikes from unions happening during Roh’s term, much of the economy was going down even the motor companies such as Hyundai. With this happening Roh had created fines for people involved for these strikes and damages that were caused. This only triggered more protests. Roh also had some financial scandal for his campaigning as well as stealing money for him and his secret groups of elites. President Roh accepted all the responsibility by him and his team for the illegal campaigning funds. This shows that the politics of South Korea and the illegal action that are with it will continue to exist in the future.

Young-Chul had a motive for his killings of the wealthy men. He possibly wanted show that the government was just as corrupt as anything else. The belief that maybe the government is protecting everyone is not true. The article demonstrates that there exists a question of leadership and whether or not it is in the best interests for all of society or just a certain class. With the protests and strikes going on, society questions the power that the President has. Young-Chul is proving his power to society in which he can take matters into his own hands. He
can prove to the government that they do not have all the power but in fact that the power can reside within the people.


All round South Korea there are little towns called “‘American Town’”. This is where locals shops are opened, prostitutes come and do their jobs, mainly aimed at the direction of American soldiers. People are only let in by invitation, prostitutes that have a registration card, and soldiers have their uniforms. A woman’s job in these little towns are to get as many drinks sold and doing whatever it takes to reach their quotas. These towns were first started when the Americans began to help in the Korean War. Before the American involvement in the Korean war, the prostitution was highly unregulated and unorganized. Once the U.S became involved these little towns began to appear and then prostitutes had to be regulated. The prostitutes have to go every week to the clinic to see if they are healthy. If they are seen unhealthy then they must find medical treatment so that they are allowed to work again.

The establishment of the “American Towns” or camptowns around Korea has influenced people to allow some limit to prostitution. Although far from the prostitutes that Yoo Young-Chul was murdering, this shows how big prostitution is in Korea. The amount of women that work not only in the streets but also in these camptowns is staggering, making it easier to find victims. Each camptown had numerous shops, stores, and places for soldiers to rest and relax. As the U.S involvement in the Korean War increased, so did the number of camptowns and street prostitutes around South Korea. Prostitutes that work in these camptowns are registered and have to obey certain rules. This makes them easier to track and find if they become missing; however street workers are most likely not registered with anyone besides their pimp making it easier for them to disappear without notice.


Many of the Korean prostitutes are being put out of a job because many of the tourists and locals find it better to pay for a foreign prostitute, Filipina’s. Women from the Philippines are become a bigger and bigger section in the prostitution market. They are immigrants to the country and usually ask for less money, they also tend to be a bit smaller than most of the Korean prostitutes. Filipinas are not as regulated by the government because they are immigrants and afraid of getting in trouble with the law. Although the government does support “American Town[s]” it does not support the stereotypical prostitute that walks around looking for customers.

With the rise of Filipinas in Korea the normal customers are going more towards them. They are generally a bit smaller and generally a bit cheaper as well. Many local customers prefer the Filipina over the Korean. In addition Filipinas are also being hired in the “American Town” because Americans find them cheaper, smaller, and also, some of them speak English making it easier for them to tell them what they want to do and how to do it. The Korean women are finding it a bit harder to find a good patron because of the migrating Filipinas. Out in the street
the Filipinas are earning a bit more but they are also losing more because since they are not regulated their pimps will often take more money and the workers will also be in more danger. For Yoo, as long as they resembled his ex-girlfriend, a prostitute, he would possibly select them as a target. Size and price did not matter too much for him, but as Filipinas take over the sex industry. Although research does not show what ethnicity his victims were, one can speculate they were Korean since his girlfriend was Korean.


The notorious South Korean, Yoo Young-chul, was incorporated in U.S.’ weekly magazine’ list as one of the world's 31 most prolific serial killers. In a country as diverse as the United States Yoo was the only Asian included in the serial killer listing. The magazine documented that from 2003-2004 Mr. Young-Chul had murdered and elderly couple along with 19 other individuals and indicated that his preferred weapon was a hammer. The section on Yoo mentioned how his rage and revulsion of both women and the rich had driven him to not only slaughter his victims but even consume some of his victim’s livers. The article made reference that since 1997 he had been the only South Korean to be sentenced to death. In 2008 “The Chaser” a film centered on the deaths of prostitutes which is said to be based on the killings of Yoo Young-Chul. This film is accredited for taking many awards home such as best film, best actress and the Asian award by the Puchon International Film Festival. Many critics praised it a “stunning film”.

It’s disheartening to see how glorified Yoo Young-Chul has become disregarding the feelings of the victims’ families. People as well as society are fascinated with serial killers to the point that we merchandise the criminal; appertaining to how although Yoo was cut off from all his opportunities this was his chance to make a name, publicize himself to the world. To see the praise that these individual receive gives motive to individuals like Yoo, society as a whole makes them famous by simply marveling how “bloody brilliant” the film is or how “stunning and a must see film”. Ironic how the media destroys politician’s lives while at the same time fabricating fame into serial killers lives. Young-Chul had desire and biological genes that persuaded his slaughters however article references that the fame gives possible incentive and ignites the small ember in serial killers. In 2008 “The Chaser” a theatrical thriller kept Korean cinemas packed for 3 months straight. The film simply took the box office by storm. What does that imply about out human nature? Sadly the thriller based on Yoo is the highest grossing film of the year in Korea. However even in fame majority of the serial killers never profit from their crimes. Is it blood money or even sacrilege? Most killers do in fact outweigh the consequences with the benefits before executing crime as apprehended by article, Yoo may have willingly known that the consequences outweighed the benefits but the drive may have made him irrational and thus wanting to be known for once and go down in history as the cannibalistic serial killer.
The infamous killings of Yoo Young-Chul brought attention to the controversial issue of whether or not the media or even the police have the right to reveal a serious criminal suspect's face. In this editorial, the opposing viewpoints address of disclosing a criminal suspect's face are introduced and possible suggestions in relation to present rules and regulations are offered by examining relevant critical issues from the points of Constitutional and criminal laws. For the purpose of solving the problems regarding the disclosure of a criminal suspects' face in public, one needs to consider the danger of dichotomous thinking, the purposes of criminal punishment and the necessity of respecting individual's human rights. Revealing a criminal suspect's face in public should be strictly limited to the specific following cases. Disclosure of the suspect's face may be permissible only if the police have obtained strong evidence of guilt with public interests. When the police have difficulties arresting the suspect even if it had evidence, disclosure of the suspect's face would be necessary, so that citizens can tip off the police having identified the suspect's identities. Moreover, such disclosure would be needed if there are reasonable doubts for additional crimes for the suspect under investigation.

In this regard, the current law covering special cases concerning the punishment of specific violent crime should be re-examined for revision with special reference to the scope of specific violent crimes, basic requirements for the disclosure of the criminal suspects’ face in public. For the most part involving the media and bringing national attention only victimizes the victims making the relive their experience. This makes reference to possible revictimization adding to possible PTSD of Yoo’s scrutinizing development into adulthood. Not only is society publicizing them for their crimes but subjecting the victims to unwanted publicity potentially inducing them to PTSD both the victims families as well as the perpetrator. Even in death the poor victims are dehumanized with association to both the defendant’s testimony in which Yoo is made to assess to the court and into audience. Seems that there is an implied privacy standard towards suspects rather than the victims and their families. Most killers become icons and yet unlike celebrities they receive more privacy rights than those we idolized. Society seems to have no problem burying with such callous disregard the names of the victims, why is it then so hard to overlook the infamous names and appearances of serial killers? Indeed the publication indicates how serial killers in this case, Yoo Young-Chul do in fact have more publicity while at the same time more protection than an individual out of custody.


This article raises awareness that social trust was not relevant in South Korea and that many found it hard to trust in their country as well as the government. In South Korea there were many collective problems; in association with economy, political and social development. This study addresses four main questions dealing with the level of social trust in South Korea and whether or not if it is declining. In order to answer these questions a majority of the research came from empirical evidence form previous research. From the data it is shown that the decline of both politic and social trust is coincided with society’s belief that the country is governed only
in favor of the interests of elite. Some factors contribute to the loss of social trust such as corruption scandals and the rise of income inequality. There are negative effects of democracy on social trust in South Korea. The author demonstrates that in order to make sure that the country does not further decline in social trust; it is in best interest of scholars and political leaders to be alarmed that this problem even exists as well as research into the cause of this issue and cures to fix it.

This plays a role in society as a whole, the understanding that Young-Chul did not have trust in the government. With many problems continuing to face the country during this time, it seemed that Young-Chul wanted to be a part of the corruption. How can he be a civil citizen when he sees that his rights are not being full met. Corruption existed in all aspects of the country and it seemed as if there was no way to fix it. The inequality amongst classes gave fuel to Young-Chul’s killing spree. The power that he can demonstrate in his killings proves that, that is what he wanted. Power was not given to him in rights and trust of South Korea, so maybe it was his nature to try and fix it. This study shows that he was not the only one who felt the lack of trust but much of the society did.


Yoo stated that he ate the liver of his dismembered victims. Since there is no hard evidence of his claims it is hard to believe if he in fact actually ate the livers. He testified saying that he ate the organs in order to clean his spirit. He began by killing wealthy people because it reminded him of the life that he did not have. He later began to kill prostitutes because his lover had left him and decided to kill anyone that looked like her, or had similar occupation to his lover. A psychologist says that although he is not any sign of severe mental illness present in Young-Chul, he does have signs of anti-social personality disorder.

It is possible that he ate some body parts of some of his victims because he did dismember a few of them. Although there is no substantial evidence that he actually ate the body parts, he confesses to it. As we saw with Jodi Arias, a person can tell a lie. Yoo Young-Chul states that it was in order to cleanse his spirit, but cleanse his spirit of what? Prosecutors are determining why he killed so many people in a short amount of time. He had killed 21 people in a span of 10 months. His anti-social personality could be a reason as to why he found solace in a prostitute to begin with eventually leadin him to kill.