

## FALL 2022 KOREAN STUDIES COLLOQUIUM SERIES

# NORTH KOREA'S CHANGING SOCIETY

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### About the Talk

How has North Korea's society transformed in the past three decades from the bottom up and the top down? This talk looks at the forces of marketization and outside information access as accelerants of social change. While households have become increasingly dependent on the marketplace to make a living, the government has sought to harness the forces of marketization with mixed results. Prioritizing guns over butter, Chairman Kim Jong Un's government has largely retreated from economic decentralization policies implemented earlier in his tenure. Meanwhile, through smuggled USBs, micro SDs, and pirate radio, the population has gained access to uncensored information from abroad, challenging the government's information monopoly, with significant implications for loyalty and governance. This talk challenges the received wisdom that North Korea is a monolithic, classless, socialist society with strict gender roles and a gullible population. Instead, it portrays the North Korean people as curious, tenacious, and industrious survivalists navigating a cruel and corrupt system.

### About the Speaker

Mr. Corrado is Director of Policy for The Korea Society. He has been a James A. Kelly Fellow at Pacific Forum, an Emerging Leader at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, a contributor to NK Pro, and a Korean-English translator for Daily NK. He received an MA from Georgetown University's Asian Studies Program in the Walsh School of Foreign Service and a BA in anthropology from the University of Maryland College Park.

Lecture Hall I,  
Charles B.Wang Center

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**@ 2:40 PM**

