

# CONTINUING PRESENCE OF DISCARDED BODIES: *Occupational Harm, Necro-Activism, and Living Justice*



A statue of Hwang Yumi is sitting in a chair in the corner of the room below the window with daylight shining through. After working at a Samsung Electronics semiconductor plant, Hwang Yumi died of acute myeloid leukemia. She is wearing striped hospital pants and a top. On her head is a pink cap and on her feet are socks. She is looking down toward the floor and her two hands are on her thighs in fists. There are two potted plants on the windowsill. Next to the chair is an outlet with a single white plug and cord trailing out of the frame of the image.

*Statue made by Pak Yujin.*

Student Center North, Impact Room 113  
September 26, 2019 • 4PM

## Eunjung Kim

Starting from the two activist campsites set up in Seoul, one by the coalition of disability organizations and the other by the Supporters for the Health and Rights of People in the Semiconductor Industry, Kim explores a history of occupational health movements and their intersections with disability rights movements in South Korea. Against the bureaucratic technology of rating the degree of disability and harm, necro-activism emerges in the form of persistent involvements of dead bodies, mourning, and other-than-human presence, making claims for justice as an ongoing practice of everyday life and afterlife.

**Dr. Eunjung Kim** is Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Disability Studies at Syracuse University. Her book, *Curative Violence: Rehabilitating Disability, Gender and Sexuality in Modern Korea* (Duke University Press) received Alison Piepmeier Award from the National Women's Studies Association and the James B. Palais Book Prize from the Association for Asian Studies.

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