

紛争、正義、記憶と癒し

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Women Making Peace Through the Experience of “Women Across the DMZ”¹⁾

This presentation discusses the speaker’s experience as a South Korean feminist theologian teaching in the US of promoting peaceful exchange with North Korea. Working together with other feminists and peace activists, she organized the event called “Women Across the DMZ” with North Korean counterparts. The success of the event saw Professor Chun and her fellow activists walked across the DMZ separating north and south Korea, symbolizing the hope for and possibility of peace and unification between the two currently hostile political entities. Professor Chun accepts that the meaning of the event was largely symbolic, but she compares it with a “first date.” She contends that a “first date” is an opportunity marked by optimism rather than an occasion to address all possible, especially the most difficult, issues. For her, the fact that the walk took place at all was progress. Professor Chun also admits that her North Korean counterparts were officials or government nominees rather than civilian volunteers. But she and her co-organizers recognize that as an unavoidable limitation. Prominent American feminists joined the walk, but the South Korean media were critical of the event, criticizing the Western organizers for their “naivety.”

1) Timothy Y. Tsu prepared this summary with his notes of the lecture.