

연구수행 계획서 Research Proposal

연구 배경 및 목적 Purpose of the Project

This research project will explore the challenges and opportunities associated with the social integration of people in divided nations, concentrating specifically on Germany's reunification experience and the present-day assimilation of North Korean defectors into South Korea. This research aims to inform future planning for unification in South Korea and contribute to the overall stability of the Northeast Asian region.

The reunification of Germany in 1990 and the ongoing efforts to integrate North Korean defectors into South Korean society provide crucial case studies. These experiences offer valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities that arise when two distinct societies with different political, economic, and social systems are brought together.

Drawing from the lessons learned during Germany's reunification, this research will apply these insights to the South Korean context while also considering the broader dynamics of the Northeast Asian region. By identifying effective strategies for managing the complex integration process in a potential future unification scenario on the Korean peninsula, the study aims to facilitate the pursuit of a more peaceful future. Furthermore, the research findings can inform policies that promote social cohesion, tolerance, and empathy within South Korean society today, ultimately fostering a more inclusive environment for North Korean defectors and other minority groups. Finally, this research will enhance public diplomacy efforts by providing a Central European perspective on promoting stability in Northeast Asia.

연구 내용 Description of Research Activities

This research project will employ a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, incorporating observational and experimental survey techniques and document analysis. The study will be underpinned by a conceptual framework that utilizes relevant theories and concepts from political science, sociology, and international relations.

Original research findings will primarily rely on public opinion surveys and experiments conducted in Germany and South Korea, supported by a review of research published in

German, Korean, and English. The surveys will collect quantitative data on integration challenges and opportunities in divided countries, emphasizing the German reunification experience and the ongoing assimilation of North Korean defectors into South Korea. The literature review will offer a thorough understanding of pertinent theories and concepts, informing the design of surveys and experiments.

Document analysis will be employed to augment and enrich the findings. Based on social science theories and concepts, the conceptual and analytical framework will facilitate a comprehensive grasp of integration challenges and opportunities in divided nations. The proposed empirical approach will enable the project to gather quantitative and qualitative data, which can be triangulated for more robust and insightful results.

The research project will consist of three main activities to delve deeper into the integration challenges and opportunities in divided countries. The **first activity** is a systematic literature review of relevant social science research on immigration attitudes and migrant integration determinants, situating the German and South Korean cases within the literature and identifying research gaps. This review will guide the development of observational and experimental survey instruments for the following two activities.

The **second activity** will involve the public opinion survey of the German population on German unification, with specific survey experiments focusing on the determinants of integration – social, economic, or political – of former East Germans into West Germany and current East German residents' attitudes towards integration. An appropriate research/survey company (e.g., Qualtrics) will design and implement the survey.

The **third activity** will encompass public opinion surveys of South Korean residents regarding North Korean migrants' integration and the migrants' attitudes towards their own assimilation into South Korea. An appropriate research/survey company will design and implement surveys for South Korean public opinion. To access the North Korean migrant community, existing networks in South Korea will be leveraged, potentially involving some fieldwork. Observational and experimental methods will be utilized.

Collectively, these research activities will yield valuable insights into integration challenges and opportunities in the context of divided countries. The findings will enhance our knowledge of best practices and strategies for managing complex integration processes in a potential future unification scenario between North and South Korea. Additionally, the study's results can support the creation of policies that advocate for social diversity within South Korean

society, ultimately establishing a more hospitable environment for North Korean defectors and other groups.

Lastly, this research will contribute to public diplomacy initiatives by offering insights from a Central European standpoint on fostering stability in Northeast Asia.

관련 기존연구 Related Existing Research/Literature Review

Integrating societies separated by political, social, and economic differences presents significant challenges that may require years or even decades to overcome. The 1990 reunification of Germany and the ongoing assimilation of North Korean defectors into South Korea offer valuable insights into the complexities of domestic integration in divided nations. The reunification of East and West Germany following the fall of the Berlin Wall involved substantial economic, political, and social challenges. Integration proved complicated due to considerable disparities in political systems, economic structures, and social values between the two societies (Alesina and Fuchs-Schündeln 2007; Campa and Serafinelli 2019; Lippmann et al. 2020). Although substantial progress has been made in economic and social integration (Gramlich 2019a, 2019b), differences in social behavior (Brosig-Koch et al. 2011) and levels of social trust (Heineck and Süssmuth, 2013) persist between East and West Germany.

Similarly, the integration of North Korean defectors into South Korean society is complex and challenging, marked by significant obstacles such as cultural and linguistic barriers, discrimination, and psychological trauma. Research on the (South) Korean experience reveals that despite shared ethnicity and history, North Korean defectors face considerable cultural and language barriers (Hana Foundation 2017, 2020). These barriers and differences in accents contribute to further "othering" of North Koreans, complicating integration. In schools, North Korean defectors' children often experience negative stereotypes and discrimination as "out-group" members (Kim, 2016). Qualitative studies suggest that defectors also face everyday discrimination due to their identity (Kim & Jang, 2007; Youm & Kim, 2011).

Shared nationality or citizenship alone is insufficient for successful integration. A 2019 survey found that while most South Koreans view North Korean defectors as part of the national community, only a small minority are comfortable with the idea of intermarriage, and a significant proportion express reluctance to rent property to or work alongside them (Yoon, 2019).

The contradiction between co-ethnic communitarianism expectations and the discrimination

experienced by North Korean defectors highlights a significant gap in our understanding of co-ethnic migrant integration in South Korea, with broader implications for Korean unification and divided societies in general.

Given the similarities between the German reunification experience and the integration of North Korean defectors into South Korea, a systematic literature review that synthesizes these two topics is needed. Conducting a systematic literature review on the social integration lessons and challenges of German reunification and the assimilation of North Korean defectors into South Korea is valuable for several reasons. It can identify common themes and patterns in the social integration process, highlight best practices and lessons learned, and offer valuable insights and recommendations for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners. Ultimately, such a review could contribute to a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of social integration in divided societies, with important implications for promoting social cohesion and integration worldwide. Furthermore, it will help inform the design of new surveys.

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연구방법 Research Methods and Approaches

The question of how to approach social integration question is a complex and multifaceted issue. Research on the topic suggests that several approaches can be taken. One approach from the migration and integration literature involves conducting surveys to assess subjective well-being as integration indicators (Cheung and Phillimore, 2014). This approach is commonly used by NGOs that support North Korean defectors resettling in South Korea (NKDB, 2021).

Another approach involves utilizing objective economic indicators, such as employment rates and wages (Brell, Dustmann, and Preston, 2020), measures of political participation (Dancygier et al., 2015), or social network analysis (Baily et al., 2022). A third approach involves using general population surveys to explore the determinants of social integration (White et al., 2008).

Our study intends to draw from all of these approaches. The general population surveys will focus on experimental techniques to explore individual preferences regarding the social integration of newcomers (Getmansky, Sinmazdemir, and Zeitzoff, 2018). Focusing on integration preferences and attitudes, we can better understand the factors that shape social integration in migrant communities. This approach can also provide insights into how policy interventions can be designed to facilitate the integration process and promote social cohesion in divided societies. We will follow and build upon the work of Green and Denney (2022) and Denney and Green (2023).

Then, we will measure the subjective integration experiences of newcomers, with a focus on North Korean defectors and East Germans (e.g., Norris and Puranen, 2019). Subjective

integration experiences encompass the personal and emotional aspects of adaptation, such as feelings of belonging, identity formation, and perceptions of acceptance by the host society. These factors can significantly impact new citizens' overall well-being and success in their new environment.

Additionally, understanding the subjective experiences of newcomers can contribute to a more comprehensive and nuanced view of integration, considering not only economic and social factors but also personal and emotional dimensions. In turn, this knowledge can inform policies that promote social cohesion, tolerance, and empathy.

The proposed systematic literature review will serve as the foundation of the survey designs. We will then design appropriate survey experiments supplemented by direct questions. The review will involve a comprehensive search of relevant literature using the above criteria and a transparent, replicable process to select, appraise, and analyze the studies. The goal is to provide an unbiased, thorough overview of the current knowledge state, identify research gaps, and, ultimately, inform the empirical strategy of the project.

In summary, we will do the following:

1. Systematic literature review of literature on social integration following German unification and the integration of North Korean defectors into South Korea
2. Survey (experimental and observational) with the German population; analysis focusing on West-East similarities and differences
3. Survey (experimental and observational) with the South Korean population
4. Survey with North Korean migrants in South Korea

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연구 참여자 List of Research Participants

1. Dr. Steven Denney (Primary Investigator), Vice-Director, ECNK
2. Professor Rüdiger Frank (Co-Investigator), Director, ECNK
3. Tianzi Zhou (Research Assistant), Managing Assistant, ECNK
4. Robin Brehm (Research Assistant), Managing Assistant, ECNK

연구의 기대 효과 Expected outcomes

The outcome of this project will be as follows:

1. A new dataset of observational and experimental data on integration challenges in divided countries (Germany and South Korea)
2. One public report hosted by the ECNK
3. One public event to report findings and share report
4. Academic article(s)

8. 연구소 지원 종료 후 계획 Post-project evaluation and plan

The researchers will publish an initial narrative report based on the research findings from all or parts of the three research activities described above. The report will be published and hosted by the European Centre for North Korean Studies (ECNK) at the University of Vienna and include a launch event (online or in-person presentation of findings)

The findings of the surveys and the analysis from the narrative report will go forward to form the basis of peer-reviewed academic articles in prominent English-language journals published within three years after the completion of the project. The research team will endeavor to publish no fewer than one peer-reviewed article.