



## **Press Release: Joseph Jeon promoted to associate professor with tenure (7/1/2012)**

The Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies (IDAAS) at the Claremont Colleges is delighted to announce that our valued colleague, Professor Joseph Jeon, has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, effective July 2012. Professor Jeon holds an appointment in English at Pomona College and is actively involved in Asian American Studies as a core faculty.

Joseph Jeon received his B.A. from John Hopkins University and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Jeon recently finished a book entitled: *Racial Things: Visuality and Racialization in Avant-garde Asian American Poetry*. The book is a critical study of a number of contemporary Asian American poets who use avant-garde treatments of things to intervene in American racial discourse in lieu of claiming the resistant identities usually associated with minority writing. Invoking the foreignness of an avant-garde art object as a way to query racial otherness, these writers model the possibility of a post-identity, racial politics that challenges how race is fundamentally visualized. In addition to appealing to those interested in Asian American studies and race in American literature, *Racial Things* also addresses readers interested in contemporary poetry, art, and visual culture, paying particular attention to the intersections between literary and visual art. He has two future projects that concern issues of forgetting in contemporary culture. The first examines cultural memory in American "post-racial" discourse and the ways in which Asian American visual culture responds to these dynamics. The second explores how traumatic memory — a dominant trope in Korean history — is re-formulated in recent Korean cinema under late capitalistic and post-historical pressures. He is Poetry Editor for *Kaya*, a publisher of Asian/diasporic literature and culture, and serves on the editorial board of *1913: a journal of forms*.

During his time at the Claremont Colleges, Professor Jeon has been an active member of IDAAS. Established in 1998, IDAAS provides a rich academic program to all students at the Claremont Colleges (Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer, Pomona, and Scripps.) IDAAS has over thirteen core faculty and offers an undergraduate major and minor in Asian American Studies. Carrying forward the community-based origins of Asian American Studies, we provide innovative opportunities such as the Margo Okazawa-Rey Summer Fellowship, creative and community-based theses, a student/faculty-run topical seminar, the Peter Kiang Thesis Prize, and the Merle Woo Project Prize.

For more information about IDAAS: [www.idaas.org](http://www.idaas.org)