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ON THE MARGINS OF URBAN SOUTH KOREA

Core Location as Method and Praxis

On the Margins of Urban South Korea

Core Location as Method and Praxis

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The mural featured on the front cover of this volume is one of many painted in Ihwa-dong in Seoul, South Korea. The neighbourhood is also called Ihwa-dong Mural Village (Ihwa-dong byeokhwa maeul). The particular mural featured on the front cover memorializes textile workers (mostly underpaid female workers) who used to work in sweatshops located in Ihwa-dong from the 1970s to the early 1990s during the industrialization period in South Korea. From the mid-2000s, murals have been painted in Ihwa-dong as part of the central and local governments' urban beautification project for dilapidated neighbourhoods. The increasing popularity of the murals in Ihwa-dong and the subsequent touristification of the neighbourhood has caused a wave of controversies and tensions among local residents. The editors of this volume decided to put the mural of female textile work on the front cover to point to the irony of historical memory and visual memorialization and urban redevelopment, which echoes the themes developed in many of the chapters in this volume. Photograph by Laam Hae.

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