The hope for conjugal intimacy and a bright future together through marriage is described as illusory in the novels *Heights of Life* and *Morning Star*, a description Kim will argue is a metonym for North Korea's recognition of the malfunctioning of the centrally planned economy in the 1980s.

Immanuel Kim is a specialist in North Korean literature and cinema. His research focuses on changes and developments in North Korean literature from the 1960s to present day, particularly in the representations of women, sexuality and memory. His recent book, *Rewriting Revolution: Women, Sexuality, and Memory in North Korean Fiction*, explores the complex and dynamic literary culture that has deeply impacted the society.

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