Governing International Relations of South Korea after the Neoliberal Globalization: A Quantum Scientific Approach

After globalization/individualization & digital transformation, there seems to emerge a quantum reality (量子實在) to the social world (社會世界), scaling quantum coherence from the smallest subatomic particles in our brain neurons to the largest social phenomena. There are multiple approaches to quantum thinking (量子思考). IRs, social structures, institutions, and practices are invisible, but their effects are real, just as the wave nature of light is directly invisible but nevertheless produces clearly real effects (實在效果) based on visible patterns. Sociological inquiry that uncritically assumes the existence of a macro-actor (nation-state), misses the negotiation and association of micro-actors that constitute it. When we assume a reality, we lose the opportunity to understand its *constitution*. The wave/particle duality as developed in quantum mechanics offers a structural model that complements and completes the micro-relational insights of sociological theory. The quantum imaginary in the Historical Sociology of IR thus provides the key to understanding the relationship between the constituent actants (human & non-human) and the macroscopic State & Int'I regime. We might overcome the two key Newtonian assumptions, the discernibility (區分可能) and separability (分離可能) of objects, on the one hand, and the preexistence of relata before their relations, on the other. Social structures permit and produce radically different outcomes depending on an agent's positionality vis-à-vis that structure, and the quantum imaginary's concept of the social wavefunction (社會波動函數) makes this structural power imaginable in a way that was simply impossible in a Newtonian imaginary. Embracing a quantum imaginary offers a medium where critical scholars can naturally express the *complexity*, *paradox*, and uncertainty that problem-solving theories gloss over in their search for regularities and predictability. The guantum "leap" (量子跳躍) in HS of IR seems to pose fundamental

questions to the social science disciplines in general.