Pluralism and Engagement in the Discipline of International Relations

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*This book is dedicated to the loving memory of my mother,
Ok-Hee Kang
(1955–1991)*

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Despite the aforementioned extensive support, help, and guidance, this book may not live up to expectations. Furthermore, it may not offer clear answers to the questions it has itself raised. Rather, it seems to have resulted in more puzzles than answers. Although this can “disturb” you, I hope that you will not put the book away. Pierre Boulez once said: “Music is not there to ‘please’ people, but to ‘disturb’ them.” Richard Feynman also told us that: “I don’t have to know an answer. I don’t feel frightened by not knowing things, by being lost in the mysterious universe without having any purpose ... It doesn’t frighten me ... Physics is just fun to imagine.”

I believe the same holds true for IR. Putting aside any shortcomings that may still remain, which are, of course, my own, I hope you have “fun” and are constantly “disturbed” while reading this book.

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