Abstract:
This presentation places the March 1st Movement within the context of the global transformation after World War I and reconsiders it with a focus on the change of its conceptual and practical frames. The March 1st Movement, which consisted of the three-months-long series of uprisings in spring of 1919, was an unexpected explosion in Korea where mass communication and public transportation was hardly developed. Being stirred up by the declaration of independence which was manifested by the thirty three voluntary “national representatives”, people expressed their discontents and aspirations with shouts of “Mansei!” and flags in hands through the uprisings. They were encouraged by a vision of “egalitarian world of nations” and were inspired by a new representational model and renewed consciousness of history. The global longing for social regeneration after World War I was echoed in Koreans’ simultaneous distaste and desire for modernity, while skepticism about Western civilization was embraced in their unmodern condition. The March 1st Movement was an event in which the display of the old regime and the arrival of a new era were closely intertwined.

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