Dr. Nanny Kim (Heidelberg University)

Joseon Local Gazetteers: The Boredom and Fascination of Administrative Handbooks (in English)

May 5, 2021 (Wednesday), 18:00 c.t.

Abstract:
This talk presents a planned project that employs historical geography for improving accessibility of local gazetteers, a particularly rich yet also particularly dreary body of material. Local gazetteers are administrative handbooks that were widespread in all East Asian countries that used Chinese characters as the official written language. To provide general orientation, the presentation starts with a brief introduction to this type of material and my experience working with Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese geographical sources. The main talk outlines a pilot project that visualizes geolocated historic data in modern online maps. Using the presentation of two areas, one in the south, and the other in the north, I discuss possibilities of research that combines history and geography and that links past and present landscapes.

Nanny Kim
Dr. Nanny Kim obtained her Ph.D. at SOAS University of London, writing a thesis on images of Korea in China during the modernization period. She has since branched out into historical geography and mainly worked on transport systems, mobilities, mining and landscape transformations with a main focus on early modern southwestern China. Her current work has been focusing on silver mining since 2015, with a project on the metallurgy and mining in Yunnan and surrounding areas. Based on a comparative perspective on early modern East Asia and approaches of historical geography, she is currently planning a project on Joseon local gazetteers.