



Tübingen Korean Studies Lectures

튀빙겐 한국학 특강

Korea in the Crucible of Comparative Legal History

Professor Marie Seong-Hak Kim

St. Cloud State University, USA

May 31, 2017 (Wednesday) | 6:00-8:00 PM

Wilhelmstraße 133 | Room 30

in Cooperation with the King Sejong Institute in Tübingen

Abstract: This talk presents a synthetic view of the evolution of Korea's law and legal system during the last six hundred years. Of late legal history scholarship has taken a notable transnational turn. Modern Korea can be seen as the specimen of a successful conflation of different legal traditions of the world: Korean legal development illuminates the logic and dynamic of law capable of creating a common legal framework and at the same time reflects the specificities of legal culture.

Marie Seong-Hak Kim is Professor of History at St. Cloud State University and Attorney at Law (Minnesota Bar). She is currently a Senior Fellow at Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Freiburg, and a Research Affiliate at Institut d'Asie Orientale in France. She is the author of *Law and Custom in Korea: Comparative Legal History* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and the editor of *The Spirit of Korean Law: Korean Legal History in Context* (Brill, 2016). Originally trained as a sixteenth-century French historian, she is also the author of *Michel de L'Hopital: The Vision of a Reformist Chancellor during the French Religious Wars* (Truman State University Press, 1997). Her research focuses on comparative legal history. She is working on two book projects, "The Courts in South Korea: Political Transitions and the Travail of Judges, 1945-2015" and "French Law in the Making: Custom, Society, and the State, 1450-1600," jumping back and forth between Europe and East Asia.