



## Tübingen Korean Studies Lecture Series

*in cooperation with the King Sejong Institute Tübingen*

Online via Zoom



June 23, 2021 (Wednesday), 18:00 c.t.

Zoom Meeting ID: 985 1558 0335 | Passcode: 099331

### **Prof. Diana Yuksel (University of Bucharest)**

The Question of Advancing and Retiring (進退) from Public Service –  
Alternative Fifteenth Century Solutions to a Perpetual Confucian Dilemma

#### **Abstract:**

Chosŏn scholars had various approaches to the problem of advancing and retiring from public service, based on the socio-political context, personal history and ideological convictions. While some scholars dedicated their entire lives to the public service, others chose alternative ways of doing their Confucian duty when associating themselves with the government was not desirable, such as retiring into private academies and teaching or studying Confucian classics. There was a third approach, that of scholars who refused to participate in public service, choosing instead the way of eremitism as a means of following the proper Confucian path. This study will look at the reasons which prompted scholars in the first half of Chosŏn to retire repeatedly or to refuse to serve as state officials, and the ethical theories and models they used in order justify their choices.

#### **Diana Yuksel**

Prof. Diana Yuksel graduated from Chinese and English studies at the University of Bucharest, before obtaining an MA in Eastern Philosophy from Yonsei University, then a Ph.D. in literary and cultural studies from the University of Bucharest. She is the coordinator of the Korean Language and Literature program at the University of Bucharest, where she teaches Korean language, literature and culture since 2005. Her research areas include premodern Korean history, literature, and philosophical ideas.