



**Prof. Hui-yeon Kim (INALCO, France)**

## **Korean Protestantism as a Multicultural Actor in Korea?**

June 27, 2018 (Wednesday), 6-8pm, Wilhelmstraße 133, Room 30

### **Abstract:**

This talk deals with the role played by protestant churches in the organization of the migration to South Korea and the construction of a multicultural society, commonly called *Tamunwha* in Korean.

In South East Asia, Korean missionaries convert local people while organizing charitable works and social activities. They try to embody their own country's history and incarnate the economic success of South Korea. While proposing an 'Asian model of development' presented as typically protestant, they also inspire a hope of migration to South Korea. In South Korea, which was a country of immigrants until 1990s and now has to manage migration flows, Protestant Churches also offer social aids to migrants. This involvement of churches is not only institutional. Participating in these social activities has become one of the religious practices in Korean Protestant churches which are positioning themselves as key players in what can be viewed as a multicultural 'nation building'. Analysing the work of these religious actors thus permit to have a better understanding of what is called 'multicultural' in the current Korean society.

**Prof. Hui-yeon Kim** is a sociologist and an associate professor at Institut National de Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO, Paris), member of the research unit ASIEs and affiliated to the Centre d'études en sciences sociales du religieux (CéSor). Her previous works focus on the transnationalisation of a Korean Pentecostal church. Prof. Kim has also developed researches on the South Korean influence in Southeast Asia. She currently works on the role played by Protestant churches in the organization of migrations from South-East Asia to South Korea and the construction of a so-called multicultural society.