



Tübingen Korean Studies Lecture Series

Wednesday April 19, 2023, 18:00 c.t., Wilhelmstraße 133, Room 30

The Lies that Bind: Making and Contesting Family Histories in post-1945 Korea

Prof. Dr. Nuri Kim (University of Cambridge)

Abstract

There are few histories that are more loaded with misremembrance and misinformation than family history. This is especially so in Korea where the compilation of family genealogies has been an important practice for centuries. Starting out as a tool of the elite to assert social distinction, the invention of family histories has become widespread among the entire population in modern times. While this may have contributed to an imaginary sense of egalitarianism, the many different narratives have also led to conflicts within families, between different families, between families and the academic community as well as the public. In this talk, we will examine how these contests have played out in post-1945 Korea as families have continued to function as significant producers of historical knowledge, providing an example of the epistemological conflicts that shape our present day.

Bio

Prof. Dr. Nuri Kim is Assistant Professor in Korean Studies at the University of Cambridge. As historian of modern Korea he is particularly interested in knowledge production, historiography, and new religious movements.

