



Korean Literature and Culture

Feb 05, 2020 (Wednesday) 6-8pm, Wilhelmstraße 133, Room 30

Prof. Dong-Choon Kim (Sungkonghoe University)

Beyond the Korean War - The 70th Anniversary of the Korean War

Abstract:

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War. But the Korean peninsula is still technically at war. This lecture focuses on the socio-political aspects of the Korean War and its' aftermath. We can pick the Korean War as one of the most important events that took place on the Korean Peninsula during the 20th century. No accurate understanding of the contemporary South Korean economy, society, law, social psychology, and ideologies is possible without a full understanding of the Korean War itself. Among several aspects of the Korean War, the state violence and mass killings that occurred before and during the war may be its most unknown and sensitive chapter. This lecture will focus on what should be done to end the Korean War and what intellectual, social, and political efforts have been taken for the last decades in order to overcome the North-South confrontation.

Prof. Dong-Choon KIM served the Korean government as a standing commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Republic of Korea (TRCK) from December 1, 2005 to December 10, 2009. As a commissioner he directed the first investigation of the Korean War massacres by a governmental body after this incident. He received his PhD from Seoul National University in 1993. The research areas that he focused on are historical sociology of Korean politics, working class formation and the Korean War. He was awarded with the 20th DanJe Prize (단재상) in 2005, and 15th Song Gun-Ho Media Prize in 2016 for his academic achievements and social activities.