



Tübingen Korean Studies Lecture Series

Wednesday July 12th, 2023, 18:00 c.t., Wilhelmstraße 133, Room 30

Education Anxiety in Korea Today

Prof. em. Dr. Hagen Koo

Hagen Koo is emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Born in Korea, he received his BA in Korea and worked as a journalist briefly before going to America, where he received his Ph.D. at Northwestern University. He published extensively on economic development and social change in South Korea. His major work includes *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation* (Cornell University Press, 2001), and *Privilege and Anxiety: The Korean Middle Class in the Global Era* (Cornell University Press, 2022). Since his retirement in 2017, he spends more time in Korea writing about contemporary issues of Korean society.

Abstract

Koreans suffer a tremendous amount of anxiety over education today. They spend more money for private education than other countries do, children spend an unbelievable amount of time for study and suffer a persistent fatigue, and education-related disputes often lead to a major political change. This lecture is to explain what was the historical background, how it has evolved, and what might be its future trajectory.

