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**Night of the 1st March Movement:
Korea's Place in the Post World War I Years**

July 11, 2018 (Wednesday), 6-8pm, Wilhelmstraße 133, Room 30

Abstract:

This presentation places the March 1st Movement within the context of the global transformation after World War I and reconsiders it with a focus on the change of its conceptual and practical frames. The March 1st Movement, which consisted of the three-months-long series of uprisings in spring of 1919, was an unexpected explosion in Korea where mass communication and public transportation was hardly developed. Being stirred up by the declaration of independence which was manifested by the thirty three voluntary “national representatives”, people expressed their discontents and aspirations with shouts of “Mansei!” and flags in hands through the uprisings. They were encouraged by a vision of “egalitarian world of nations” and were inspired by a new representational model and renewed consciousness of history. The global longing for social regeneration after World War I was echoed in Koreans’ simultaneous distaste and desire for modernity, while skepticism about Western civilization was embraced in their unmodern condition. The March 1st Movement was an event in which the display of the old regime and the arrival of a new era were closely intertwined.

Prof. Boduerae Kwon is a professor of Korean literature at Korea University. She has published the following books: *The Origin of Modern Korean Novel*; *The Age of Romance: Culture and Trend in the Early 1920s*; *Reading 1910s*; *Questioning 1960s: The Culture and Intellect of Park Chung Hee Era* (Coauthored with Jeonghwan Cheon); *New Novel: Language and Politics*, and is now working on topics such as cultural history of the March 1st Movement and Korea amid the network of world literature.