



Korean Studies in Social Sciences Series IV:

Prof. Youngmi Kim (University of Edinburgh, UK)

Inequality and Polarization in Korea

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

Abstract:

Korean society is changing rapidly. It is also becoming more polarized, with frustration and discontent mounting. Starting from 2012 the term economic democratization (to complement the political transition which began in 1987) has become a common expression in Korean politics and society. Former President Park Geun-hye made achieving economic democracy a central feature of its electoral manifesto back in 2012. The demand for economic democracy and more shared welfare is now the 'Zeitgeist' in Korea. The talk provides some social and economic background before contextualizing such themes.

Prof. Youngmi Kim joined the Department of Asian Studies as a Senior Lecturer in Korean Studies in August 2017. Prior to this, Youngmi was an Associate Professor of international relations and public policy at Central European University, Budapest. At CEU she was the director of the Global E-School in Eurasia, a large multi-country online education program in Korean Studies, bringing together 24 universities in 18 countries in Europe and Asia, supported by the Korea Foundation. Youngmi also worked at the University of Edinburgh in 2007-2009 when she was an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow and a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow in the School of Social and Political Science. She has also taught at University College Dublin and has held visiting positions at the University of Vienna (Austria) and the National Chengchi University in Taipei (Taiwan). During 2013-2016 she has also been involved in a large research and teaching capacity-building project in Myanmar, funded by the Open Society.