



Tübingen Korean Studies Lectures

튀빙겐 한국학 특강

What Can We Learn from Ŭigwe about Late Chosŏn Dynasty State-run Construction Projects?

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Wilhelmstraße 133 | Room 30

in Cooperation with the King Sejong Institute in Tübingen

Abstract: The importance of construction for the Chosŏn state is not only visible to us in its material legacy, for example palaces, fortresses or city gates that are still extant or restored. It also becomes clear in the administrative and bureaucratic structures and practices as well as the underlying knowledge that we only began to understand in recent years. However, thorough documentation of these construction works or state-issued manuals comparable to Chinese models seemed to be missing within the official writings. The re-discovery of the genre of Ŭigwe led to new insights in diverse research fields including construction projects and architectural knowledge. With regard to construction projects, they appear to be the only official source we have today. Although labelled “manuals of state events” they inherit a much more profound meaning in the context of state legitimacy together with their function as archives of knowledge. By focussing on these Ŭigwe I examine the structures and processes of state-run construction projects. A general overview together with a pointed analysis of a selection of representative examples will provide insights not only within the context of architecture but also in a wider context of the socio-political system of the late Chosŏn dynasty.

Dr. Florian Pölking:

- B.A. and M.A. in both Korean Studies and Chinese History and Philosophy at the Department for East Asian Studies at Ruhr-University Bochum.

- MA thesis in 2011 on Confucius-Religion in Korea at the beginning of the 20th century titled, “*Zum Religionsverständnis von Yi Pyŏng-hŏn: Eine Untersuchung der Idee der Konfuziusreligion im Korea der frühen Kolonialzeit anhand des Yugyo pogwŏllon*”

- PhD in 2016 on the status of architectural knowledge in late Choson dynasty titled,

“*Der Soziopolitische Stellenwert Bauhandwerklichen Fachwissens und seiner Träger in der Späten Chosŏn-Zeit*”

- Current research focus on the history of technical knowledge, history of institutions and socio-political history of the Chosŏn Dynasty.