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‘University lifelong learning’: Universalization of higher education or  
commodification of lifelong learning?

Nov 21, 2018 (Wednesday) 6-8pm, Wilhelmstraße 133, Room 30

**Abstract:**

Higher education in Korea has become a typical point to make a school-to-work transition. Private institutions contributed the most to the higher education expansion by covering 85% of the provision. Last two decades, however, the Korean higher education system has faced several challenges because of the demographical and technological changes, such as the decreasing number of students and the increasing need of re-skilling the university graduates. This talk aims to show how the Korean state has responded to these two challenges by using the term ‘University lifelong learning.’ The government initiative for ‘University lifelong learning’ started in 2008 by the Lee Myung-bak administration. However, due to the ambiguity of the concept of ‘lifelong learning,’ this initiative went through constant renegotiations under successive governments. By exploring the institutional development and the dilemma, this talk will present how the ‘University lifelong learning’ has evolved in Korea, either by transforming higher education into a public good or forming lifelong learning into a private good.

**Jihye Han**

Jihye Han is a postdoctoral fellow in the Graduate School of East Asian Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her scholarly agenda interrogates the following question: What is the role of higher education in a lifelong learning society? This question consists of three aspects:

1. Research on the institutional change of universities and colleges to respond to the needs of continuing education and lifelong learning.
2. Research on the effects of neoliberal public policy discourses that on the higher education and lifelong learning policies.
3. Research on the institutions of continuing higher education for migrants.