



Tübingen Korean Studies Lecture Series

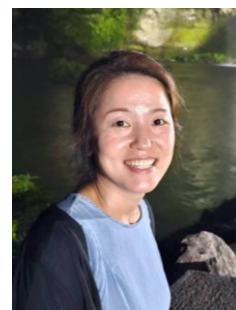
Summer Semester 2025, Wednesdays 18:00 c.t., Wilhelmstraße 133, R. 30

From Folk Tradition to Cultural Heritage: The Case of Pansori

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Dr. Su Young Joo is Associate Professor of Korean Studies in the Department of Asian Studies at Aix-Marseille University. She is also a member of the Institute of Asian Studies (IrAsia – UMR 7306), a research unit affiliated with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). Her research focuses on Korean traditional performing arts and their transformation through institutionalization, patrimonialization, and digital mediation. She received her Ph.D. in History from Aix-Marseille University in 2021, with a dissertation on the evolution of Pansori from its shamanic origins to its recognition as national heritage. Dr. Joo has widely published and presented on Korean cultural heritage, oral traditions, and Korean language didactics, both in France and internationally.



Pansori is a unique Korean vocal art, both ancient and still alive today. More than just an artistic performance, it is a collective expression that carries memory, culture, and a worldview shaped in part by Confucian values. In this presentation, we looked not only at the aesthetics of pansori, but also at its historical trajectory — how a popular, orally transmitted art form rooted in everyday life has been transformed into an officially recognized cultural heritage. This process of patrimonialization, closely tied to institutionalization, has significantly changed the nature of the art. Pansori is no longer only a lived and spontaneous experience; it is now preserved, exhibited, and sometimes even fixed. Cultural heritage is not something that exists naturally — it is the result of collective and political choices. A practice is considered worthy of preservation when a society chooses to give it that status. In this way, pansori has become a constructed cultural asset, situated at the crossroads of memory, Korean identity, and institutional recognition.