



# Tübingen Korean Studies Lecture Series

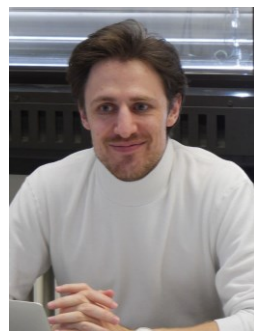
Summer Semester 2025, Wednesdays 18:00 c.t., Wilhelmstraße 133, R. 30

## "Between Cooperation and Conflict: German Business in Cold War Korea"

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Thomas Eichert is a research associate and PhD candidate at the Department of Korean Studies at University of Tübingen. He submitted a thesis on the history of West German business in South Korea. He holds Master's Degrees from the University of Tübingen and Seoul National University. His research interests include the economic and business history of South Korea, German-Korean relations and history of science and technology.



In South Korea in the 1950s and 1960s, there were several risks that were supposed to prevent German companies from taking an interest in the Korean market. The risks could be categorized as political, social and economic. The political risks included domestic political instability and the ever-present threat from North Korea. The economic risks were related to the domestic market, which was too small and unpredictable, and the strong economic ties to the United States. Despite these circumstances, there were a handful of companies (especially the large German chemical and pharmaceutical companies) that became active in Korea starting in the 1950s. German companies had also a second way of entering the Korean market using governmental financial aid projects. This talk examines the cooperation and conflicts between German and Korean companies within the Cold War context. The second focus of the talk includes the roles of the respective governments on the German-Korean business cooperations. The main questions that this talk will answer are: What were the motivations of the companies to cooperate and how were the cooperations established? What of the aforementioned political and economic risks did the companies face and how were the risks mitigated?