



Tübingen Korean Studies Lecture Series

Winter Semester 2024/25, Wednesdays 18:00 c.t., Wilhelmstraße 133, R. 30

Transforming Rural Places through Digitalization? Observations from Chile and South Korea

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Lee Jae-Young is an architect and researcher based in Berlin. Since 2022 she is part of the CRC 1265 "Re-Figuration of Spaces" at the Technical University of Berlin and the Leibniz-Institute for Research on Society and Space in Erkner. In her dissertation, she explores territorial dynamics and grassroots practices amid the commodification and urbanization of contested rural places. Her research is informed by her work as an architect with Gyaw Gyaw since 2016 at the rural border between Thailand and Myanmar.



Since the global proliferation of digital networks, platform tourism and e-commerce have been closely associated with rural poverty alleviation, development and de-peripheralization. Concurrently, rural gentrification and spatial injustices increasingly manifest in the socio-political polarization of rural areas that can be observed on a global scale. To examine this critical juncture from the perspective of rural residents, this lecture presents empirical observations based on two field studies conducted in mountainous rural areas in Chile and South Korea. The primary concern of this research is to explore the negotiation processes and spatial transformations that emerge as rural residents engage in platform tourism and e-commerce. The lecture first starts with conceptualizations of rurality and peripherality. This is followed by encounters of socio-spatial continuities and ruptures associated with the proliferation of platform economies and the role of more-than-human agencies that shape spatial trajectories. To conclude, first reflections on the spatial implications of digital platform economies are presented alongside empirical material. With its scope, the research thus links to the most recent 'peripheral turn' in global urban studies, which interrogates different experiences and modes of urbanization as seen from theoretical and geographical margins.

