



Tübingen Korean Studies Lecture Series

Summer Semester 2026, Wednesdays 18:00 c.t., Wilhelmstraße 133, R. 30

"Geographic thoughts of Koreans, reflected on the maps of 15th-19th Century Joseon"

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Biography: Wookung Huh, 허우궁, is an emeritus professor at Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea; and has been teaching an e-School class, Human Geography of Korea, at the Universität Tübingen since 2021. He studied geography at Seoul National University (B.A. and M.A.), and at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA (Ph.D.) He served the presidency of Korean Geographical Society for the years of 1999 and 2000. His research interests include cartography, telecommunications, and transportation.

Abstract: A map may reflect geographic knowledge and thoughts of people of a certain time at a certain area. This seminar examines the old maps made by Koreans during the 500-some years of Joseon Era (AD 1392-1910) to reveal the ways Korean ancestors understood and perceived their surrounds. This presentation goes through maps of Korea at various scales: the entire Korean Peninsula, the provinces, the royal capital Seoul, and other local areas. Attention is given to the questions such as how much the Koreans of the Joseon Era knew about the location and extent of their country; in what ways they interpreted the topography of the country, the mountain ranges in particular; and how they perceived their immediate space. The presentation also explores how much the old-day geographic knowledge and thoughts have been passed down to contemporary Korea.