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*The Centre for Korean Research is pleased to present:*

**“Rise of a Regional Subjectivity in Chosŏn Korea”**



**By Sun-Joo Kim,  
Harvard University**

**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**3:30-5:00 pm**

Conference room #120, C.K. Choi Building  
1855 West Mall

**Abstract:** This talk focuses on the study of the rise of a regional subjectivity in northern part of the Korean peninsula through a person’s life and work to highlight how a literatus named Yi Sihang (1672–1736) from a marginalized region in early modern Korea had become an advocate of regional subjectivity through various social, cultural, and intellectual activities, in particular through his conscientious historical writings. It examines particular historical experiences of the northern region and northerners’ continuous efforts to challenge popular bias and political discrimination against them through the frames of biography and historical memory. It criticizes the historiographical problem of “otherizing” the northern region and aim to fill a gap in Korean historiography—namely, the lack of historical study of the northern region, P’yŏngan Province in particular, from a regional perspective.

**Bio:** Sun Joo Kim is the author of *Marginality and Subversion in Korea: The Hong Kyŏngnae Rebellion of 1812* and *Voice from the North: Resurrecting Regional Identity through the Life and Work of Yi Sihang (1672–1736)*. She is also co-author of *Wrongful Deaths: Select Inquest Records from Nineteenth-Century Korea* and editor of *The Northern Region of Korea: History, Identity, and Culture*. She received her doctoral degree from University of Washington in 2000. Since 2001, she has been teaching at Harvard University where she is now Harvard-Yenching Professor of Korean History in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, and director of Korea Institute, Harvard University.