

SPRING 2021 CKS COLLOQUIUM SERIES

DIVERGENCE ANGST: THE PROBLEM OF KOREAN LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN ANTIQUITY AND TODAY



Dr. Ross King is Professor of Korean at the University of British Columbia. His research focuses on the cultural and social history of language, writing, and literary culture in Korea and in the Sinographic Cosmopolis more broadly, with a particular interest in comparative histories of vernacularization.

About the Talk

Could 'Koreans' understand each other in the Three Kingdoms period (37 BCE-935 CE) on the Korean peninsula? And what about North and South Koreans today? This talk starts with a discussion of what languages are thought to have been spoken on the Korean peninsula and in 'Manchuria' in antiquity, and examines the scant evidence we have about the language situation on the peninsula in conjunction with statements by modern-day scholars from North and South Korea on this issue (and the political ideologies behind these statements). The second half of the talk examines post-1945 anxieties about 'linguistic divergence' between North and South Korea, examining in turn North Korean characterizations of language in the South and vice versa, before discussing some of the actual data about North-South linguistic divergence.

4:30 PM March 31
Via Zoom



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