



Wednesday, January 11th, 2012
12:00PM @
Thomson Hall Room 317

Part of the Center for Korea Studies' Visiting Scholar Colloquia Series at
The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington



Dr. Jongseob Kim

A Study of Prenatal Education
(胎教) in Pre-modern
Korea and China
(lecture in Korean)

Dr. Kim's research objective is to elucidate pre-modern East Asia's notions of the 'ideal human' through his study of prenatal education in Shilla-era Korea and Zhou-era China. He examines Shilla dynasty documents such as 胎中訓文 (태중훈문/Prenatal Education), and finds that pre-modern East Asian concepts of prenatal education are founded on the basic tenet that 'The fetus is influenced dramatically by the mother's actions.' Following this tenet, pre-modern prenatal education texts provide guidelines for how and when a mother-to-be should sit, stand and sleep; what she should and shouldn't eat, and even what she should see and hear. Women who followed these guidelines properly would be blessed with a superior newborn, a child who would not only be healthy and intelligent, but also lead a long life and practice filial piety.

Dr. Kim is currently a Professor of Korean History at the University of Seoul. He is a graduate of Yonsei University in Seoul, and received his Ph.D. from Nankai University in Tianjin, China, in 2003. He is a member of The Society for Historical Studies of Ancient and Medieval China, The Society for Asian historical Studies, The Society for Chinese Historical Research, The Korean Historical Association, and The Tang Dynasty Institute of China. Dr. Kim's more recent publications include "The Relations of the Central Court and Yanan-fanzhen in the Tang Period" (*Journal of Chinese Historical Research*, 2007), "The Significance of Scholarly Travel and Perceptions of Boundaries during Tang Dynasty China" (*The Journal of Korean Studies*, 2006), and "A Study on Political perceptions of Civil Officials in Five Dynasties" (*Journal of Asian Historical Studies*, 2006).

For more information, please call or email 206-543-4873 / uwcks@u.washington.edu
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