The Restoration of Yao-Shun Politics: Tasan’s Understanding on the Great Plan (洪範) in the Late 18th Century

Date: 22 April 2022 (Friday)
Time: 2:00 pm (HKT)
Venue: Online
(This talk will be held in Korean via Zoom)

Speaker:
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Abstract
After finishing a commentary on the Book of Documents (尙書) in 1834, Tasan said that he would not be able to complete this work without Heaven’s help. He was proud of having compiled and edited the material himself. Since the work was completed at the age of 73, two years before his death, Tasan was quite confident that it contained many original views of his own. In this seminar, I would like to outline Tasan’s political reform plans based on his interpretation of the Great Plan (洪範), known in East Asia as the canon for ideal politics. Although it seems clear that Tasan’s emphasis on the “royal perfection (皇極)” is closely related to the strengthening of royal power, his argument of “strengthening of royal power” was not just for concentrating power. Tasan emphasized the importance of the wealth of nation above anything else, which was a key topic in the reform of the land and tax system in the Gyeongse youpyo (經世遺表). Tasan’s understanding on the “eight objects of government (八政)” from the Great Plan is worth special attention because it is illuminated thoroughly from a financial perspective. This seminar aims to clarify the historical significance of this work.

Short Biography
Ho Kim is HK Professor in the SNU Asia Center at Seoul National University. He was Professor in the Department of Social Studies at Gyeongin National University of Education and also worked at Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies as a Senior Researcher. He specializes in the history of Korea, civilization change in East Asia, and history education. Professor Kim is the author of many books and articles including the Jeong-jo’s Law-abiding Governance (2020) and the Murders committed 100 years ago (2018).

Registration is required. Please email: jooglee@cityu.edu.hk