

# Exploring the *Chunqiu* Studies in Chosŏn Korea

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## Abstract

The *Chunqiu* (Spring and Autumn Annals 春秋) stands among the Five Confucians Classics, the first chronology of Chinese history documenting events and dialogues within the court of Lü (722–479 BCE). In the Confucian tradition, the study of the *Chunqiu* is crucial not only due to its conventional attribution to Confucius but also for encapsulating the essence of good government. Founded on the basis of Neo-Confucianism, Chosŏn Korea also directed scholarly attention to *Chunqiu* studies. This talk aims to highlight the distinctive features of Chosŏn's *Chunqiu* scholarship while acknowledging its shared research trajectory with China. First, the Chosŏn court initiated a series of *Chunqiu* commentaries, rectifying errors both in form and content in contemporary Chinese versions. The state-led endeavors not only attest to Chosŏn's academic prowess and excellence but underscore the originality of its *Chunqiu* research. Second, the *Chunqiu* scholarship is the archetype of the development of Korean philosophy. Initially, scholars mainly focused on re-organizing or complementing existing commentaries. Then their attention shifted to critically reviewing previous studies and proposing new interpretations. In the final stage, the study of the *Chunqiu* diverged into two paths: on the one hand, fostering the originality of Chosŏn's *Chunqiu* scholarship by deviating from the dominant, Neo-Confucian strand and, on the other hand, completing the Neo-Confucian account of the *Chunqiu* by synthesizing the theories of Zhu Xi and Hu Anguo.

## About the Speaker

Dong-min Kim is an Associate Professor in the Department of the College of Confucian Studies and Eastern Philosophy at Sungkyunkwan University, Korea, where he earned his Ph.D. in Eastern philosophy. His research interests lie in the study of Confucian Classics, especially the Korean tradition of Confucian classical studies. He is the author of 춘추논쟁 [*Discussions on the Spring and Autumn Annals*] (2014). He also translated several important scholarly works into Korean, such as *Chunqiu Gongyang Xueshi* [*A History of the Studies on the Chunqiu in the Gong Yang Tradition*] by Zeng Yi and Guo Xiaodong, *Kongzi Gaizhikao* [*Confucius as a Reformer*] by Kang Youwei, and 漢代思想の研究 [*A Study of Han Thought*] by Toshikuni Hihara. All of his publications are in Korean.