



Special Erasmus Lecture in co-operation
with the **Department of Religious
Studies**

**The Austrian Unification
Movement: 1966–1969**

→ **December 19th 2012 (Wednesday) 7:00pm**

→ **Seminarraum Ostasien, Department of East Asian
Studies**

→ **Registration: l.pokorny@abdn.ac.uk**

Lukas Pokorny is Bruce Lecturer in East Asian Religions and Deputy Head of the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen, UK. His current research focuses on Korean Neo-Confucianism, local religious histories, and millenarian beliefs in new religious movements (East Asia and beyond). **Simon Steinbeiss** is assistant at the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Vienna. His research interests include local religious histories and new religious movements.

The South Korean Unification movement (UM), albeit never exceeding a few hundred members, has been part and parcel of Austrian religious history for nearly 50 years, from its long-lasting court struggle for formal recognition as an association in the 1970s and early 1980s, to the role it has been ascribed by the media throughout the decades as the epitome of a 'dangerous cult' and its strident call for reform of Austrian religious law. The lecture discusses the pioneering years of the movement between 1966 and 1969, which have seen the Unificationist mission at the experimental stage, and can be characterised as an essential period in establishing the foundation for long-term viability and expansion.

Pokorny and Steinbeiss offer results of their joint research into the turbulent history of the Unification movement in Austria.