

Reconciling Divided States: A Comparative Perspective on Korea and Ireland

January 8, 2024, 16:45 - 18:15
Sinology Conference Room
Hof 2, Entrance 2.3, AAKH Campus
(adjacent to the EcoS Office, 2F-O1-27A)



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Prof. Dong Jin Kim

How can divided societies reconcile and build sustainable peace? This lecture offers a unique perspective comparing two historically and geopolitically distinct cases: the Korean Peninsula and the Island of Ireland. While the conflicts and peace processes vary significantly, both share interesting historical parallels rooted in colonial pasts and face common challenges. The lecture delves into key themes in peace studies and strategies for peacebuilding. A special focus is given to civil society's role in bridging divides. Yet, both cases also illustrate the limitations of civil society peacebuilding, as governmental agendas often marginalise grassroots efforts. Drawing on exchanges between peacebuilders in Korea and Ireland, we will discuss practical strategies for empowering civil society and addressing the fragility of peace processes. Attendees will be invited to reflect on broader implications for reconciliation in divided societies around the world.

Dong Jin Kim is Kim Dae Jung Chair Professor of Peace Studies at Hanshin University, and a visiting academic at School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, Trinity College Dublin. His research interests are in the areas of peace processes, peacebuilding, humanitarian, and development cooperation. He conducts engaged research, collaborating with various humanitarian, development, and peace organisations.