Public lecture by Charles Kim, Associate Professor of Korean Studies, Dept. of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“From March First to April 19th: Enacting Memories of Anticolonial Resistance in Cold War South Korea”

Abstract: In 1960, South Korean students overthrew the government in the April 19th Students’ Revolution. In this talk, historian Charles Kim advances a cultural explanation of that seminal event. After Korea’s liberation from Japanese rule in 1945, and especially after the Korean War, media and statist texts called upon students to serve the rebuilding nation by emulating the youthful protestors who had participated in the anticolonial resistance movement of March First (1919). This patriotic education inadvertently prepared students for the antigovernment protests of April 19th and helped solidify upstanding youth protest as a cornerstone of national identity.

Professor Charles Kim is a cultural historian of modern Korean society whose research and teaching interests include narratives, memory, media, social relations, and Cold War/post-Cold War culture. His first book, *Youth for Nation: Culture and Protest in Cold War South Korea*, documents the country’s transition from Korean War combat to the authoritarian developmental era. The study explores the ways in which media and statist texts prefigured the April 19th Students’ Revolution of 1960 and informed Park Chung Hee’s ideological program of the early 1960s. His current research examines South Korean nostalgia for the developmental past as represented in museums, television, and film.