



THE CENTRE FOR KOREAN RESEARCH  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

# EVERYDAY ECOLOGY: READING THE ENVIRONMENT OF MODERN KOREA

MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 2020  
6PM - 7PM (PDT)

ZOOM LINK WILL BE  
SENT TO REGISTRANTS



DR. ALBERT L. PARK



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Public Policy and Global Affairs  
Institute of Asian Research



CENTRE FOR  
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- **How to register**

Please fill out a form here by October 24

<https://ckr.iar.ubc.ca/monday-october-26-2020/>

The Zoom link will be sent to registrants' emails

- **Dr. Albert L. Park**

Dr. Albert L. Park is the Bank of America Associate Professor of Pacific Basin Studies at Claremont McKenna College. As a historian of modern Korea and East Asia, his current research project focuses on the roots of environmentalism in modern Korean history and its relationship to locality and local autonomy. This book project is tentatively titled *Imagining Nature and the Creation of Environmental Movements in Modern Korea*. He is the author of *Building a Heaven on Earth: Religion, Activism and Protest in Japanese Occupied Korea* and is the co-editor of *Encountering Modernity: Christianity and East Asia*. He is the co-founder of EnviroLab Asia—a Henry Luce Foundation-funded initiative at the Claremont Colleges (\$1.5 million award) that carries out research on environmental issues in Asia through a cross-disciplinary lens. He is the co-founder and co-editor of *Environments of East Asia*—a Cornell University Press, multidisciplinary book series that covers environmental issues and questions of East Asia. He also serves as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Asian Studies*. Dr. Park is the recipient of four Fulbright Fellowships for Research, an Abe Fellowship (Social Science Research Council and Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership) and fellowships from the Korea Foundation and the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Chicago. A native of Chicago, he received his B.A. with honors from Northwestern University, an M.A. from Columbia University, and his PhD in History from the University of Chicago.

- **Talk Summary**

How should we read the environment? How does reading the environment help us to locate the origins of modern Korea's environmental problems? How should we organize and narrate the events, occurrences and entities of environmental history in Korea? This presentation traces the origins of environmental issues in the late nineteenth century, when Chosŏn Korea joined transnational, top-down drives to modernize its agriculture. Going beyond the simplistic binary of the exploitative cities (and industrialists) vs. exploited agrarian areas (and farmers), this presentation aims to illuminate how power, the ecological environment, and agricultural practices have shaped each other since the late nineteenth century in ways that set the stage for what came to be identified as environmental problems since the 1960s. Overall, this presentation calls for spatially reconceptualizing "environmental problems" and using the paradigm of "everyday ecology" to shift our focus from industrialization in cities to agriculture and the rural in reading the environment and writing a critical environmental history of Korea.