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TRANSNATIONAL KOREAN STUDIES
Presents

BLOOD PURITY AND SCIENTIFIC INDEPENDENCE: BLOOD SCIENCE AND POSTCOLONIAL STRUGGLES IN KOREA, 1926–1975

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Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) 3027
1:00pm - 3:00pm

RSVP to tahenry@ucsd.edu

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ABSTRACT: AFTER WORLD WAR II, BLOOD GROUPS BECAME A SYMBOL OF ANTI-RACIAL SCIENCE. THIS PAPER AIMS TO SHED NEW LIGHT ON THE POST-WWII HISTORY OF BLOOD GROUPS AND RACE, ILLUMINATING THE POSTCOLONIAL REVITALIZATION OF RACIAL SEROLOGY IN SOUTH KOREA. JAPANESE SEROLOGISTS DEVELOPED THE SEROLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF KOREANS IN TANDEM WITH JAPANESE COLONIALISM IN THE PREWAR PERIOD. THE PIONEERING KOREAN HEMATOLOGIST YI SAMYÖL, INSPIRED BY DECOLONIZATION MOVEMENTS DURING THE 1960S, EXCAVATED AND APPROPRIATED COLONIAL SEROLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY TO PROVE THE BIOLOGICAL INDEPENDENCE OF KOREANS FROM THE JAPANESE. HIS RACIAL SEROLOGY OF KOREANS SHARED COLONIAL RACISM WITH JAPANESE ANTHROPOLOGY, DESPITE HIS ANTI-COLONIAL NATIONALISM.

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