



Seattle University  
College of Arts and Sciences and Asian Studies  
present

**The 2024 Peter L. Lee Endowed Lecture  
in East Asian Culture and Civilization**

**East Asia in a Larger World: Cross-Cultural  
Contacts in the Globalizing Middle Ages**

**Hyunhee Park, Ph.D.**

**Professor, Department of History,  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
and the CUNY Graduate Center,  
the City University of New York**

Thursday, May 2, 2024  
4 p.m., Reception  
4:30 – 6 p.m., Lecture  
Oberto Commons  
Seattle University

**Seattle University**, founded in 1891, is a Jesuit Catholic university located in Seattle, Washington. Nearly 7,300 students are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs within the eight schools and colleges. U.S. News and World Report's: Best Colleges 2022 ranks SU in the top one third of all national universities. For 19 years running, SU has been recognized as one of the best colleges in the nation for undergraduate education by the Princeton Review.

The **College of Arts and Sciences** is the largest college in the university, with more than 1,900 students. The college offers a full range of undergraduate degrees in the humanities, arts, and behavioral and social sciences, eight master's degrees, and three professional advanced degree certificates.

**SEATTLEU.**  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## Peter L. Lee Endowed Lectureship in East Asian Culture and Civilization



Thanks to a generous contribution by Dr. Peter Lai Sun Lee '64, Seattle University established the Peter L. Lee Endowed Lectureship in East Asian Culture and Civilization in April 2015. Housed in the College of Arts and Sciences and managed by the Director of Asian Studies, the lectureship brings to campus prominent experts to explore the impact of East Asian thought and tradition on contemporary global issues.

Dr. Lee, who majored in chemistry, was one of the earliest international students to come to Seattle University from Hong Kong. Early in his career, he served as the first President of Coca Cola China. Subsequently, he led the Asian operations for several multinational companies including Mead Coated Board (then part of Mead Corporation) and Chesapeake Corporation. His most recent venture is Rondabosh International Ltd., a company he founded upon retiring from Chesapeake in 2008.

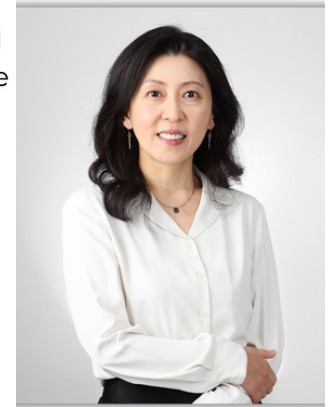
Dr. Lee received his PhD in chemistry from Michigan State University, did postdoctoral research at New York University, and studied with the great China scholar Joseph Needham at Cambridge University. He has had a longstanding association with the Joseph Needham Foundation for Science and Civilisation in Hong Kong and currently serves as its chairman. Throughout his academic, corporate, and nonprofit leadership involvement, Dr. Lee has worked tirelessly to build bridges of understanding between China and the West.

### 2018 University Service Award

Dr. Peter Lee, '64, is the recipient of the 2018 University Alumni Service Award. He has shown extraordinary dedication to connecting Seattle University leaders with prominent Asian alumni.

## Professor Hyunhee Park

Hyunhee Park serves as a Professor of History at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Born and raised in South Korea, she completed her BA in Asian history at Seoul National University in 1997. She then pursued her MA in East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and was awarded her degree in 2003. Dr. Park earned her Ph.D. in History from Yale University in 2008, where she focused her dissertation on the historical cross-cultural contacts between East Asia and the Islamic World. Her academic specialty is in Sino-Islamic interactions during the Mongol Empire and broader aspects of global history.



### East Asia in a Larger World: Cross-Cultural Contacts in the Globalizing Middle Ages

This lecture explores the dynamic cross-cultural interactions during the Middle Ages, highlighting East Asia's role in the early stages of globalization. My research on the significant impact of technological and knowledge transfers will be central to this discussion. This includes the increase in geographic understanding between China and the Islamic world from around 750 to 1500, and the advent of soju through the distillation technology exchange in Eurasia, as explored in my works *Mapping the Chinese and Islamic Worlds: Cross-Cultural Exchange in Pre-Modern Asia* and *Soju: A Global History*. The lecture will emphasize the Silk Road's role in facilitating these exchanges, particularly during the Mongol era, and reflect on how these interactions shaped East Asia's scientific and cultural landscape. The aim is to offer insights into the complexity and significance of these historical cross-cultural contacts, demonstrating their lasting influence on global history and their relevance to contemporary global dynamics.