

## **Bio**

Park Seijoon is a research professor at Duksung Women's University. The main concern is the relationship between Korean modernity and traditional thought, Donghak. The major papers are "The Correlation between Anti-communism and Religion in South Korea and Taiwan" (Korean), "Donghak and Korean Social Movement" (Korean) and etc.

## **Title**

A Study on the Historical Sociology of East Asia and Donghak

## **Abstract**

The research question is "Why have the Cheondoism declined in South Korea?". In 2015, the number of people who believe in Cheondoism in South Korea was 66,000. Compared to 9.67 million Protestants, 7.61 million Buddhists and 3.89 million Catholics, Cheondoist is not large enough in South Korea. However, in 1926, there were 2 million Cheondoist, 350,000 Christians and 200,000 Buddhists. Why have the Cheondoism declined in South Korea? Among other causes, this research focuses on state and international relations. It is usually interpreted as a "secularization" in which religious influence decreases when the power of religion is weakened. However, the theory emerged in the context of the Western. So sometimes it's not good theory for the Eastern and Korea.

The reason why research focuses on state and international relations is because of the universality of religion. The rise and fall of a religious organization as a social organization is natural to look at the state surrounding it and the international relations surrounding state. The peculiarity of Cheondoism is also the reason why research focus on state and international relations. Cheondoism has a core doctrine called "Gyojeongssangjun(教政雙全)" to develop religion and politics together. Because of the doctrine, Cheondoism has been a religion that was active in relationship with the state. Also, Cheondoism has been accompanied by changes in international relations in East Asia from the time of Donghak to the present. The beginning of Donghak was when the Qing Dynasty was defeated in the Opium War, and Cheondoism was concerned about the crisis of survival in the Cold War era after the Korean War.

Through this specificity and universality with in Cheondoism, state, and international relations, researcher can find something new.