

KIM MYEONGSI
金命時 (1907-1949)
LIFE AND DEATH OF A
FEMALE KOREAN
REVOLUTIONARY

VLADIMIR TIKHONOV

Full Professor
University of Oslo

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16:00-18:00

ROOM LAB.2 (III FLOOR)
Italian Institute of Oriental Studies (ISO)
Sapienza Università di Roma
Circonvallazione Tiburtina, 4, 00185

VLADIMIR TIKHONOV UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

Vladimir Tikhonov is a professor of Korean and East Asian Studies in the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages at the University of Oslo. He previously taught at Kyung Hee University in Seoul from 1997 to 2000. His research primarily explores the history of modern ideas in Korea, with a particular focus on the Korean Communist movement.

Among his notable publications are *Social Darwinism and Nationalism in Korea: The Beginnings* (Brill, 2010), *Modern Korea and its Others: Perceptions of Neighboring Countries and Korean Modernity* (Routledge, 2015), and *Intellectuals In Between: Koreans in a Changing World, 1850–1945* (Peter Lang, 2022), which he co-authored. He has also co-edited *Buddhist Modernities: Re-inventing Tradition in the Globalizing Modern World* (Routledge, 2017) and *Military Chaplaincy in an Era of Religious Pluralism* (Oxford University Press, 2017). His most recent book is *The Red Decades: Communism as Movement and Culture in Korea, 1919–1945* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2023).

THE LECTURE

Kim Myeongsi (1907-1949) occupies a very unique position in the history of the colonial-era socialist movement in Korea. Born in Masan, she joined her two brothers (Kim Hyeongseon and Kim Hyeongyun), both prominent socialist militants. All the three siblings faced a tragic end. Kim Myeongsi died under highly suspicious circumstances at a police station in South Korea, one of the first cases of a left-wing dissident suffering what used to be euphemistically referred to as "mysterious death." Having studied at Moscow's Communist University of Eastern Toilers, Kim Myeongsi was known for her work with socialist youth, labour and female movements.

She was also a part of armed Sino-Korean resistance during Japan's all-out invasion of China. After Korea's 1945 liberation, she moved to the South and briefly worked as a leading cadre of the progressive women's movement there. The movement, however, was eventually suppressed by the U.S. military government and later also by the Syngman Rhee administration; Kim Myeongsi was one of these prominent militants who perished then, caught by the wave of police repressions. Only recently Kim Myeongsi's name was allowed back to the domain of the official collective memory in South Korea.