GOD’S BIOLOGISTS

CREATIONISM AND THE LIFE SCIENCES IN SOUTH KOREA

With my historical and ethnographical study, I will discuss the context of the activities of several life scientists in the Korean Association for Creation Research (KACR). In South Korea, creationists have often been attacked due to the lack of their knowledge and expertise in biology. Because they do not know anything about biology—so the story goes—creationists find it so easy to deny evolution as a scientific fact. Indeed, this criticism is valid to some leaders in KACR, such as its first president, Kim Young-Gil, the metallurgist. Yet KACR does have a number of scholars trained in the life sciences, including virology, neurophysiology, preventive medicine, pharmacology, cell biology, and nutritional biochemistry. This talk illustrate how these scholars, who are supposed to understand Darwinism as one of the key theories in modern biology, have instead come to reject it. The context of their rejection will highlight the place of the life sciences and Christianity in twentieth century Korea, especially during the era of military dictatorship (1961-1992).