

2013 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Nov 23-26

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**Program:**

[http://www.aarweb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Annual\\_Meeting/2013/2013AARProgBookSessions.pdf](http://www.aarweb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Annual_Meeting/2013/2013AARProgBookSessions.pdf)

**Korean Religions Group**

Theme: **Buddhist Rituals and Seon/Zen in the Chosŏn Dynasty**

Saturday, 1:00 PM–3:30 PM, Baltimore Convention Center 313.

**Sung-Eun Kim, Leiden University**

“Ritual Monks and Buddho-Confucian Rituals: Sketching Joseon Buddhism as a lived tradition”

Paper abstract:

This research seeks to broaden the understandings of Buddhism by defining it in terms of cultural-religious dynamics. This research proposes an in-depth analysis of the phenomena of Buddho-Confucian rituals as cultural-religious dynamics that have circulated among the ritual elites. It provides an opportunity to focus on the socio-cultural aspects of the ritual worldview of the ritual specialist monks. For example, rituals are analyzed, not purely as Buddhist rituals that adopted Confucian elements or vice versa, but as a cultural-religious phenomenon which is transformed by religious worldview of the Joseon society. This worldview would consist of an amalgamation of the various religious traditions in a constant socio-cultural flux and not consist only of the Buddhist views. Part and parcel of this paper is identifying the ritual specialist as an integral part of the amalgam that constituted the religious world of the Joseon society. Rather than their ‘religious’ identity indicators, the monks will be profiled more according to their social and cultural indicators.