

## **Discipline of Asian Studies & Korea Research Centre at UWA Seminar Event**

*October 9*

### **Between theodicy and resentment: “Han” in minjung theology**

**Sam Han**

Following calls in recent critical debates in English-language Korean studies to reevaluate the cultural concept of han (often translated as “resentment”), this presentation argues for its reconsideration from the vantage point of minjung theology, a theological perspective that emerged in South Korea in the 1970s, which has been dubbed the Korean-version of “liberation theology.” Like its Latin American counterpart, minjung theology understood itself in explicitly political terms, seeking to reinvigorate debates around the question of theodicy—the problem of suffering vis-à-vis the existence of a divine being or order. In connecting the concept of han to theodicy, minjung theology, this presentation argues, offers an opening towards a redirection from han’s dominant understanding within academic discourse and public culture as a special and unique racial essence of Korean people. Moreover, by putting minjung theology in conversation with contemporary political theory, in particular the work of Wendy Brown and Lauren Berlant, this presentation hopes to bring minjung theology to the attention of critical theory.

**Dr Sam Han** is Senior Lecturer in the discipline of Anthropology and Sociology, School of Social Sciences.

**Friday 9, October, 11am - 12pm (Australian Western Standard Time)**

**This seminar will be conducted online with Zoom. To join click:**

<https://uwa.zoom.us/j/85214715324?pwd=TjJ2WnpFbUNyTW5qT3lmMWY3bXpxQT09>

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