

TELLING A KOREAN FAMILY HISTORY



THURSDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER
2:00 P.M.
238 HRCB



Eugene Y. Park

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Koreans are known for their keen interest in genealogy and, long before there was ancestry.com, many Koreans kept detailed records of their ancestral lineages in their family genealogies. Twenty-five years ago, Eugene Y. Park, Korea Foundation Associate Professor of History and director of the James Joo-Jin Kim Program in Korean Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, set out to find his own roots. Park's research tracing his patrilineal ancestry back to a Miryang Pak lineage of *chungin* ("middle people") class is the basis for his new book *A Family of No Prominence: The Descendants of Pak Tökhwa and the Birth of Modern Korea*, a remarkable

historical account covering over three hundred years. His specialty is the sociopolitical history of Korea, especially from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century. He is currently working on his third monograph, *Progenies of Fallen Royals: The Kaesöng Wang in Chosön Korea, 1392–1910* (title tentative), which examines positions occupied by the descendants of Koryö dynasty in Chosön politics and society. After graduating from the University of California—Los Angeles with a degree in history (1991), Park received an MA in regional studies East Asia from Harvard University (1993) and a PhD in East Asian languages and civilizations (1999).