



Special Erasmus Lecture in co-operation
with the **Department of Religious
Studies**

**The Unification Movement in
Austria: Background and Early
Beginnings**

→ **October 29th 2012 (Monday) 6:00pm**

→ **Seminarraum Ostasien, Department of East Asian
Studies**

→ **Registration: l.pokorny@abdn.ac.uk**

Lukas Pokorny is Bruce Lecturer in East Asian Religions and Deputy Head of the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen, UK. His current research focuses on Korean Neo-Confucianism, local religious histories, and millenarian beliefs in new religious movements (East Asia and beyond). **Simon Steinbeiss** is assistant at the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Vienna. His research interests include local religious histories and new religious movements.

For almost half a century, the South Korean Unification movement has been firmly positioned in the religious landscape of Austria. Its early history is closely entwined with the dissemination of Unification thought in Europe. Within a few years, a German missionary who set out to spread the teachings of his Korean Messiah in Austria had been successful in establishing the most vibrant national group in Europe by the end of the 1960s. The lecture discusses the Korean, American and German context as well as the early beginnings of the UM's Austrian adventure, whilst reviewing the legal and religious environment in the 1960s in Austria. Pokorny and Steinbeiss offer first results of their joint research into the turbulent history of the Unification movement in Austria.