Du Fu in Paratexts: An Analytical Reading of Literary Intertextuality in Chosŏn Korea

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* This talk will be presented with the co-authors, Kiho Sung and Changhee Lee
Abstract

How does a reader give meaning to a text? Focusing on literary intertextuality, this study explores how anonymous readers in late Chosŏn Korea interpreted the poetry of Du Fu, a renowned figure in the Chinese literary canon. To discern the significance of the texts as constructed by these readers, we examine both the texts themselves and the readers’ practices, identifying the readers’ prior knowledge embedded and encoded in their reading notes. Through this analysis, the study demonstrates that reading texts involved continual engagement with interpretive traditions and cultural legacies. To uncover the underlying patterns of exegetical traditions in their reading practices, we employ methods from digital humanities, such as citation network analysis. This approach effectively reveals the structure of relationships among the notes, poems, and various other elements of the texts.

Keywords: Du Fu, Chosŏn, intertextuality, reading, interpretive communities, citation network analysis, digital humanities