

# Is East Asia a European Invention?

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**Vienna University, Vienna**

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## **Abstract**

In her presentation Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik will discuss the idea of East Asia being a European invention against the background of the East Asian discourse on East Asia.

She will refer to the pre-modern Chinese concept of “all under heaven” (tianxai) as

one way of looking at East Asia, to discussions in Japan about Japan’s relationship to East Asia and to recent debates in South Korea about the possibility of an alternative modernity in East Asia.

She will forward the argument that East Asia is not only a geographical entity but first and foremost a discourse area that was destroyed as a result of WW II and should now be re-established.

**Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik** is Professor and Vice Dean of Philological and Cultural Studies, Department of East Asian Studies at Vienna University



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