

**A Semiotic Narrative Investigation on a Goryeo Illuminated Manuscript:  
The Dae Banggwangbul Hwaeomgyeong (Avataṃsaka-sūtra), Vol.72, in the  
New York Public Library.**

Prof. Dr. Jeong-hee Lee-Kalisch

Free University of Berlin

The presentation addresses the Dae Banggwangbul Hwaeomgyeong (Avataṃsaka-sūtra), Vol.72, an illuminate manuscript by anonymous master now preserved in the New York Public Library. The item was registered formerly as a Japanese *kegongyō* illumination and has recently been identified as a Korean piece and for the first time published with scientific investigation in the *Comprehensive Compilation of Goryeo Paintings. Volume 1. European and US Collections* (Zhejiang University Press 2017/18). After introducing the unique characteristics of Goryeo sūtra illuminations as well as their aesthetic values, I would like to explain the text-image relations in the illuminations from a transmedial perspective. Through a synchronic comparison of the New York piece and other Goryeo sūtra illuminations in Japanese, US American and South-Korean collections I will also discuss the dating problems. Furthermore, this essay demonstrates, in the cultural and historical context, their routes of transmission, namely how they entered the collections in the US. This approach aims ultimately at pointing out ways of preserving and protecting Korean artifacts outside of Korea.