Honorifics and Politeness in Korean: Multimodal and Ideological Perspectives
March 3, 4:30-5:50pm

Talk Description:
Research on politeness in Korean has traditionally tended to focus on linguistic descriptions of the intricate honorifics system. In this talk, Dr. Brown goes beyond descriptions of the verbal properties of Korean politeness to explore how politeness-related meanings are marked in a multimodal fashion through changes in gesture and other bodily visual practices, non-verbal speech sounds and acoustics. He then talks about how the traditional focus on politeness as a grammatical system is tied up with ideologies of politeness, including the assumption that politeness is a rule-based system that operates via binary distinctions. By foregrounding multimodal perspectives on politeness, Dr. Brown shows how the norms of what it means to be polite are discursively constructed in a contextual and embodied fashion.

About Dr. Lucien Brown:
Dr. Lucien Brown is Senior Lecturer in the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University, Australia. His research looks at pragmatics, politeness and multimodality in first and second language contexts, focusing on Korean. He is the author of Korean Honorifics and Politeness in Second Language Learning (John Benjamins, 2011) and serves as Associate Editor for Journal of Pragmatics.