Team Reading Notes: Connector

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Title of Essay: Week 9

Connector: Your role is to connect what you are reading with what you are studying in other classes, or with the world outside of school. You can connect the reading to events in your own life, other classes you've taken, news events, political events, or popular trends. You can also connect the reading to other things you have read. The connections should be meaningful to you and your team.

1. Emile Durkheim saw ritual as a social practice that creates binding communities. What are some examples of rituals that conform to Durkheim's theory?

2. Kwon So-hyun and Lisa Lucero both suggest the importance of understanding the importance of ceramics as sacred objects in societies of the past. What are some comparable examples in modern times of neo-Durkheimian sacred objects?

Sample Questions:

What connections can you make to your own life? What other places or people could you compare this reading to?

What other books or articles might you compare this to?

What is the most interesting or important connection that comes to mind?

How does this essay relate to the other essays in the book?

- 1. The first thing that comes to mind are the Korean protestant churches around the world, which possess the three features standard to religious groups: a system of beliefs as defined by the religious canon, a moral community with its own internal rules, and, of course, rituals. The rituals of the Korean protestant church encapsulate the "collective effervescence" described by Durkheim. Among the various rituals of the church, the most striking are the group prayers, in which large numbers of people gather in a rural retreat to cry and pray for hours together in large rooms, and this certainly creates an experience with a shared sense of exaltation and group transcendence.
- 2. Metallic chegi (ritual ware) are still objects of significance in families that practice Confucian ritual ceremonies, and these are very similar in significance to Catholic communion ware. It is no surprise that vessels, whether metallic or ceramic, take importance as sacred objects, since traditional rituals generally involve symbolic offerings. In the case of the Korean Protestant church, which denounces most of the ceremonial elements and "idols" of the Catholic church as symbols of excess and misinterpretation of the Bible, appear to end up venerating the only thing left to focus their attention and energies on, which is the charismatic church minister as a sacred object.

- 3. Penny Bailey and Kwon So-hyun describe the changes in trends of ceramics design induced by changes in the dominant socio-political ideology in the case of Chosŏn Korea and the transition from punch'ŏng to paekcha. What are some other examples of this kind of phenomenon?
- 3. Many things that are visible on a daily basis, including clothing, architecture, and art, can be sensitive to social and political change. In the case of the Chosŏn ceramics was its proximity to the elite class, which led the adoption of a new (quasi)religion in Confucianism and also sponsored the production of ceramics. European enlightenment thought could be comparable in many ways as a new philosophy espoused by the elite that resulted in distinct change in the arts.

In this space you should review, retell, or reflect on what you have read so far. (Use the back if necessary).