

# THE INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES CENTER SERIES:

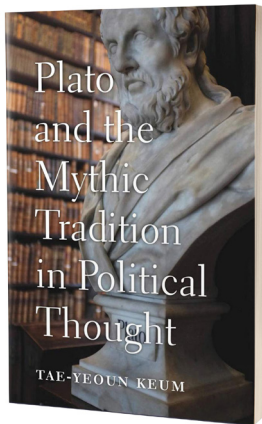
## HUMANITIES DECANTED

PRESENTING NEW HUMANITIES PUBLICATIONS AND  
CREATIVE PROJECTS BY UCSB FACULTY

Join us online for a dialogue between **Tae-Yeoun Keum** (Political Science) and **Andrew Norris** (Political Science) about Keum's new book, *Plato and the Mythic Tradition in Political Thought*. Audience Q&A will follow.

**Thursday, May 20 | 4:00 pm**

Visit [bit.ly/Keum-IHC](http://bit.ly/Keum-IHC) for online event registration



### TAE-YEOUN KEUM

***Plato and the Mythic Tradition in Political Thought***  
(Harvard University Press, 2020)

Plato's use of myths sits uneasily with his canonical reputation as the inventor of rational philosophy. Since the Enlightenment, interpreters like Hegel have sought to resolve this tension by treating Plato's myths as mere regrettable embellishments, irrelevant to his main enterprise. Others, such as Karl Popper, have railed against the deceptive power of myth, concluding that a tradition built on Platonic foundations can be neither rational nor desirable. Keum challenges the premise underlying both of these positions. She argues that myth is neither irrelevant nor inimical to the ideal of rational progress. She tracks the influence of Plato's dialogues through the early modern period and on to the twentieth century, showing how pivotal figures in the history of political thought have been inspired by Plato's mythmaking. She finds that Plato's followers perennially raised the possibility that there is a vital role for myth in rational political thinking.



Tae-Yeoun Keum is Assistant Professor of Political Science at UCSB. She is a political theorist broadly interested in ancient political thought and its reception, 20th-century German social thought, and the intersection of political theory and literature. Her work has appeared in the *American Political Science Review* and *History of Political Thought*.

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