



KIM KOO FOUNDATION

Kim Shin Forum

on Global Asia Research Annual Report

Global Asia Research Center, College of Social Sciences,
National Taiwan University

2021.04-2022.04



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Global Asia Research Center

Global Asia Research Center (GARC), National Taiwan University, was established in 2017 with the generous funding from Kim Koo Foundation, Republic of Korea.

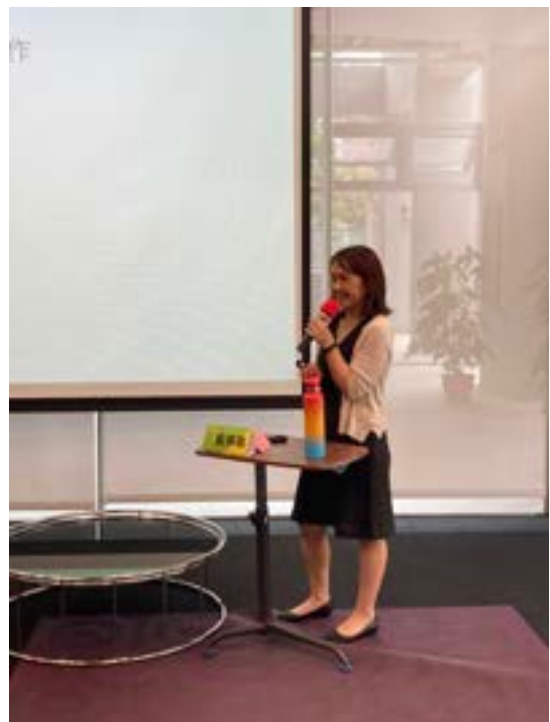
GARC aims to promote research on Asian interactions and comparison, and to stimulate new ways of understanding Asian modernities in a globalized world. The mission of GARC is to form a platform for collaboration across disciplines and nations, and to build a network of research institutions in Asia and around the world.

GARC integrates outstanding scholars from various disciplines and fields, and incorporates both quantitative and qualitative approaches to explore the following studies:

Comparative Asia: to compare similar social, political, and cultural issues faced by Asian countries, such as demographic transition, social inequalities, democratic challenges, social activism, and urban development.

Transnational Asia: to study transnational movements of capital, culture, and people and their social consequences in Asia.

Global Asia: to examine Asian presence and impact outside Asia.



Director

Pei-Chia Lan
Director of Global Asia Research Center
Professor, Department of Sociology,
National Taiwan University



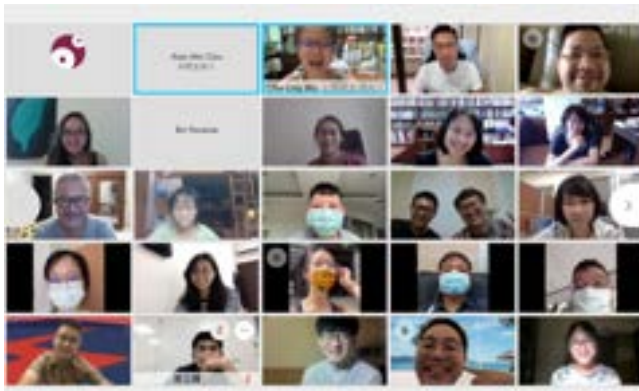
Members

The members of GARC currently include 50 faculty members across different disciplines in social sciences and humanities. There are six research clusters: Family, Gender and Population; Ethnicity and Migration; Global Economy and Local Inequalities; Civil Society and Social Movements; Urban Development and Governance and Global Culture; Religion and Consumption.



Events in Honor of Kim Koo and Kim Shin

The Global Asia Research Center was founded under the aegis and generous donation of the Kim Koo Foundation. The Center has in previous years hosted visiting scholars and held conference forums in honor of Kim Koo and Kim Shin. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, almost all international academic exchanges and collaboration moved online, and visiting scholars postponed or canceled their scheduled visits to Taiwan in 2021. Despite the difficult circumstances, GARC invited two international scholars as our guest scholars and hosted a visiting scholar. In 2021 We organized one international workshop, an international conference, and two intensive courses by guest scholars. We hosted 12 lectures, eight delivered by international scholars. We also collaborated with the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanity and Social Sciences, National Taiwan University, by jointly holding two lectures, delivered by scholars from abroad. Approximately 1,300 people participated in the abovementioned events.



On the 1st of July, Seoul National University and GARC jointly held NTU-SNU Asian Migration workshop. Fourteen scholars based in Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan presented their research conducted in China, Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam. They focused on marriage migration, migrant workers and impacts of COVID-19 on migration in Asia. This workshop had attracted about 120 people to participate. It was highly admired by participants and drew the attention of scholars based beyond East Asia who work on migration in Southeast Asia. On the 9th of December, GARC held another conference with UTokyo Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies (TCJS). Four distinguished scholars from GARC and TCJS shared their observations about COVID's influences on families and societies of Taiwan and Japan. More than 80 participants from Hong Kong, Japan, and Taiwan attended this conference. Future collaboration between GARC and TCJS was also discussed in the closed session of the conference.

To facilitate academic exchanges and provide students in the Social Science with internalized learning experiences, GARC invited Professor Ming-Cheng Lo from the University of California, Davis, and Dr. Chih-Yan Sun from Villanova University as guest scholars. They exchanged ideas on research with the members of GARC and taught two courses, entitled “Globalization and Social Movements” and “Inequalities and Transnational Migration” respectively, in English in the Department of Sociology. There were 27 students taking these two intensive courses. The course “Inequalities and Transnational Migration” was taught online during the Level-3 COVID-19 Alert, over which all classes had been moved online. Around 60 people regularly attended this course.

Events Promoting Comparative Understanding of South Korea and East Asia

April 9, 2021

Institutionalizing Equality: The Politics of Women's Rights in Taiwan and South Korea

Minhee Go, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Ewha Womans University.

Korea and Taiwan have shown a considerable variation in ensuring women's rights. In Taiwan, electoral competition and judicial activism led to institutional reforms on various progressive issues, allowing for an opportunity to generate a pluralistic political structure within which the gender issue could be mobilized along with other progressive agenda. In contrast, the corporatist political structure prioritized labor issues over other progressive agenda and continued to influence electoral politics in Korea's class-based democratic consolidation. By tracing the divergent paths toward gender equality in the two countries, this research suggests that inclusion and expansion of social rights may not necessarily follow from democratization per se but has to be acquired through mobilizing and coalescing with various social groups in a new democratic system.



EVENTS PROMOTING COMPARATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF SOUTH KOREA AND EAST ASIA

May 27, 2021

Nationalism in Question: The Cases of South Korea and Other Asian

Alex Taek-Gwang Lee, Professor, Department of British and American Cultural Studies, Kyung Hee University.

In collaboration with the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Science, National Taiwan University, GARC invited professor Lee to share his observation on the problem of nationalism and its operations in global capitalism by focusing on the cases of South Korea and other Asian countries. The disparity between a nation-state and capitalism serves as the ideological perversion of nationalism. Nationalism always already presumes the *Ur-Geschichte* (prehistory) of a nation and bolsters fantasy revolving around the loss of the authentic nation. No doubt, this national narrative would be in trouble with the trans-national and multicultural reality of global capitalism, but the conflict as such functions as an excuse to justify the collective demands of the national authenticity. Commodity-fetishism transforms the ideal of nationalism to an earthly nation-state, i.e., the spatio-temporality of capitalism. The fetishism effect based on commodity structures gives rise to an inversion by which exchange values turn to be use-values. If nationalism is supposed to be exchangeable in the market, it has to castrate its phallus, a nation. Ironically, this exchange value is the use-value of nationalism in a nation-state. Nationalism without a nation, in other words, the castrated nationalism, is nothing less than the condition of multiculturalism. In this sense, the nation-states, the materiality of nationalism, serves as the markets of multiple nationalities in global capitalism.



July 1, 2021

NTU Global Asia Research Center - SNU Asia Center Asian Migration Workshop

Seoul National University Asia Center (SNUAC) is one of GARC's strategic partners. Since 2018 The Colleges of Social Science at NTU and SNU annually organize joint workshops on topics of migration, welfare policy and other social issues in asia. This year we co-hosted the “Asian Migration Workshop” on July 1. Scholars from Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore shared their latest academic insights on the topic at the event. Due to the pandemic, the workshop was held online, featuring two presentation sessions and a roundtable discussion.

The first presentation session topic was “Marriage Migration.” Prof. Minkyung Koh, Kyungpook National University; Profs. HaeRan Shin and Thi My Hang Bui, Seoul National University; and Profs. Tsung-Yi Michelle Huang and Chieh Hsu, NTU, addressed the experience of marriage migration from the perspectives of policy, development, the tourist gaze, and the labor market. The second presentation session topic was “Migrant Workers.” Profs. Pei-Chia Lan and Yen-Fen Tseng, NTU, and Prof. HyunJoo Jung, SNUAC & GSES Environmental Planning, offered their perspectives and insights on migrant workers.

The banner features the logos of GARC (Global Asia Research Center) and SNUAC (Seoul National University Asia Center) at the top. The main title is "NTU Global Asia Research Center - SNU Asia Center Asian Migration Workshop". The date and time are listed as "1st. July. 2021" with "Webex Online Meeting" times: 9:15AM - 4:00PM (TW) and 10:15AM - 5:00PM (KR). A QR code is provided for registration, with the text "register here" above it. The co-sponsor is the Kim Koo Foundation.

EVENTS PROMOTING COMPARATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF SOUTH KOREA AND EAST ASIA

Lastly, in the roundtable discussion, Prof. Jungwon Huh, SNUAC; Prof. Wako Asato, Kyoto University; Prof. Yasmin Ortiga, Singapore Management University; and Prof. Pei-Chia Lan and Research Assistant Yu-Wen Wang, NTU, discussed how migrants fared during the pandemic over the past year with COVID-19 wreaking havoc worldwide.



The two presentation sessions focused on migrants who migrated for marriage and work, respectively. In both sessions, the scholars not only discussed the migrants' subjective experiences, life trajectories, and social networks but also critically reviewed the policies and systems of their home and host countries. In the roundtable discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on the migrants, the scholars addressed this additional stressor in the daily lives of the the migrants. Although it was held online, the Asian Migration Workshop was a successful occasion for the participating scholars from several countries to address the latest trends and theories in Asian migration research and have in-depth discussions.



9:15AM (TW)	Opening Greetings (15 minutes)	
9:30AM – 11:20AM (TW)	Session 1: Marriage Migration	
(110 minutes in total, 20-min presentations, joint 15-min*2 Q&A)		
Presenter(s)	Affiliation	Topic
Minkyung Koh	SNUAC & Geography Education (Kyungpook National University)	Governing Marriage Migrants and Their Families: The Guise of Multiculturalism in South Korea
HaeRan Shin & Thi My Hang Bui	SNUAC & Geography	Transnational Ethnic Networks of Marriage Migration: The Circuit of Mobilities, Investment, and Development between Vietnam and South Korea
Tsung-Yi Michelle Huang	NTUGARC & Geography	“Good Mountain, Good Water and Good Man?” Tourist Gaze and Lifestyle Imagination of Hong Kong Wives in Taiwan
Chieh Hsu	NTUGARC	Aspiration or Constraints? : (Dis)-continuity of Employment across Borders among Skilled Marriage Migrants
11:20AM – 12:30PM (TW)	Lunch Break	
12:30PM – 1:50PM (TW)	Session 2: Migrant Workers	
(80 minutes in total, 20-min presentations, joint 20-min Q&A)		
Presenter	Affiliation	Topic
Pei-Chia Lan	NTUGARC & Sociology	Contested Skill Regime and Divergent Migration Infrastructure: Comparing the Recruitment of Foreign Care Workers in Japan and Taiwan
Yen-Fen Tseng	NTUGARC & Sociology	Mobile Precarity: Students-Turned-Migrants in Taiwan
HyunJoo Jung	SNUAC & GSES Environmental Planning	Differential Mobilities by Civic Stratification: The Spatiality of Migrant Workers in South Korea
1:50AM – 2:00PM (TW)	Break (10 minutes)	

EVENTS PROMOTING COMPARATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF SOUTH KOREA AND EAST ASIA

2:00PM – 3:40PM (TW/SG)	Roundtable: Impacts of COVID-19 on Migration	
(100 minutes in total, 15-20-minute talks followed by joint discussion)		
Presenter(s)	Affiliation	Topic
Jungwon Huh	SNUAC	The Price of Diversity? The Mediating Effect of Social Trust on the Relationship between Diversity and the Containment of COVID-19
Wako Asato	Kyoto University	Economic Condition of Immigrants under COVID-19 in Japan
Yasmin Ortiga	Singapore Management University	COVID-19 and Changing Definitions of Skill in the Labor-Exporting Nation: The Case of Nurses in the Philippines
Pei-Chia Lan & Yu-Wen Wang	NTUGARC & Sociology	Mobilities and Immobilities: COVID-19's Impacts on Migrant Workers in Taiwan
3:40PM – 4:00M (TW)	Future Collaboration Plan (closed door, 20 minutes)	

NTU Global Asia Research Center - SNU Asian Center

Joint Migration Workshop

Session 1: Marriage Migration

Governing Marriage Migrants and Their Families: The Gaze of Multiculturalism in South Korea
Minyoung Ahn (SNUAC & Geography Education Myungseok National University)

Transnational Ethnic Networks of Marriage Migration: The Circuit of Mobilities, Investment, and Development between Vietnam and South Korea
Heehee Shin & Thuy Hong Bui (SNUAC & Geography)

**"Good Mountain, Good Water and Good Man?"
Tourist Gaze and Lifestyle Imagination of Hong Kong Wives in Taiwan**
Tsang & Michelle Huang (NTUGARC & Geography)

**Aspiration or Constraints?
(Dis)continuity of Employment across Borders among Skilled Marriage Migrants**
Chieh-Hsu (NTUGARC)

Session 2: Migrant Workers

**Contested Skill Regime and Divergent Migration Infrastructure:
Comparing the Recruitment of Foreign Care Workers in Japan and Taiwan**
Pei-Chia Lan (NTUGARC & Sociology)

Mobile Precarity: Students-Turned-Migrants in Taiwan
Yen-Ern Tseng (NTUGARC & Sociology)

Differential Mobilities by Civic Stratification: The Spatiality of Migrant Workers in South Korea
Hyunhee Jung (SNUAC & GIS/Environmental Planning)

Roundtable: Impacts of COVID-19 on Migration

The Price of Diversity? The Mediating Effect of Social Trust on the Relationship between Diversity and the Containment of COVID-19
Jungwon Huh (SNUAC)

Economic Condition of Immigrants under COVID-19 in Japan
Wako Asato (Kyoto University)

**COVID-19 and Changing Definitions of Skill in the Labor-Exporting Nation:
The Case of Nurses in the Philippines**
Yasmin Ortiga (Singapore Management University)

Mobilities and Immobilities: COVID-19's Impacts on Migrant Workers in Taiwan
Pei-Chia Lan & Yu-Wen Wang (NTUGARC & Sociology)

1st July, 2021
Webex Online Meeting
9:15AM – 4:00PM (TW)
10:15AM – 3:00PM (KR)

*本場為公開講座，以英文進行，歡迎報名參加
Organizer: SNUAC Asia Research Center, SNU Asia Center, SNU

December 9, 2021

UTokyo-NTU Joint Conference 2021: Social Impacts of Covid-19 in Japan and Taiwan

UTokyo-NTU Joint Conference 2021 took place on December 8~10, under the theme of “Cooperation towards the Post-Corona Era”. The joint conference features keynote speeches, faculty and student presentations, and 15 parallel sessions in various fields. The two Universities launched their first large-scale joint conference in December 2015. Since then, the conference has been held alternately at the University of Tokyo and National Taiwan University almost every year. Due to the pandemic, the conference was held online this year. The global pandemic has inevitably caused significant impact to our lives and many aspects. It is important for us to strengthen collaboration as we head into the post-pandemic future and continue to work together to foster cross-border and inter-disciplinary discussions. GARC and UTokyo Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies (TCJS) co-organized a parallel meeting with two sessions about the COVID impact on society and family respectively. In the first session Prof. Lan, Pei-Chia (GARC, National Taiwan University) and Prof. McElwain, Kenneth Mori (Institute of Social Science, the University of Tokyo) shared their observation on the social impact of the political decision between Taiwan and Japan comparatively. While in the second session Prof. Chen, Yu-Wen (Department of Social Work, National Taiwan University) and Prof. Shirahase, Sawako (Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, the University of Tokyo) discussed the domestic influence under COVID regarding gender, family and well-being of children.

EVENTS PROMOTING COMPARATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF SOUTH KOREA AND EAST ASIA

Time	Schedule	
14:00-14:10(TWT) 15:00-15:10(JST)	Opening Remarks	
14:10-15:10(TWT) 15:10-16:10(JST)	Session One— COVID Impact on Society Nukaga, Misako <i>Graduate School of Education, the University of Tokyo</i>	
Presenter(s)	Affiliation	Topic
McElwain, Kenneth Mori	<i>Institute of Social Science, the University of Tokyo</i>	The impact of COVID-19 on society from the perspective of political science
Lan, Pei-Chia	<i>Global Asia Research Center Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University</i>	Migrant Workers' Im/mobilities under Taiwan's Border Control for Covid-19
15:20-16:20(TWT) 16:20-17:20(JST)	Session Two— COVID Impact on Family Presider: Su, Kuo-Hsien <i>Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University</i>	
Presenter(s)	Affiliation	Topic
Chen, Yu-Wen	<i>Department of social work, National Taiwan University</i>	The Subjective Well-being of Children in Taiwan: Under the Influence of COVID-19
Shirahase, Sawako	<i>Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, the University of Tokyo</i>	The Impact of COVID-19 on Society Focusing on Gender and Family



UTokyo 2021 Joint Conference NTU Conference

東京大学
The University of Tokyo

國立臺灣大學
National Taiwan University

Social Impacts of Covid-19 in Japan and Taiwan

Time	Schedule	
14:00-14:10 (JST) 15:00-15:10 (JST)	Opening Remarks	
14:10-15:10 (JST) 15:10-16:10 (JST)	Session One – COVID Impact on Society Presider: Nishiga, Miroko Graduate School of Education, the University of Tokyo	
Presentor(s)	Affiliation	Topic
McElwain, Kenneth Mark	Institute of Social Sciences, the University of Tokyo	The Impact of COVID-19 on Society from the Perspective of Political Science
Lee, Pei-Chia	Global Asia Research Center Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University	Migrant Workers' Involvement under Taiwan's Border Control for Covid-19
15:20-16:20 (JST) 16:20-17:20 (JST)	Session Two – COVID Impact on Family Presider: Su, Kao-Ihian Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University	
Presentor(s)	Affiliation	Topic
Chen, Yu-Wen	Department of Social Work, National Taiwan University	The Subjective Wellbeing of Children in Taiwan: Under the Influence of COVID-19
Shirohata, Sawako	Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, the University of Tokyo	The Impact of COVID-19 on Society: Focusing on Gender and Family

register here

GARC 國際社會學研究中心
International Association for the Study of Social Sciences

東京大学社会科学部
Department of Social Sciences, the University of Tokyo

國立臺灣大學社會工作系
Department of Social Work, National Taiwan University

December 9th, 2021
Webex Online Meeting

EVENTS PROMOTING COMPARATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF SOUTH KOREA AND EAST ASIA



Colloquiums at Global Asia Research Center

April 26, 2021

What Did COVID-19 Teach Us about Us?

Understanding Taiwanese Civil Society through its Pandemic Preparedness

Ming-Cheng M. Lo, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis

While Taiwan's success at containing COVID-19 is now a familiar story, the pandemic also provides an empirical window for gaining new perspectives on Taiwan's civil society. This talk will identify the civil society mechanisms in Taiwan that served to demand institutional reforms for enhancing pandemic preparedness and to facilitate discourses of civic interdependence among its citizenry. Furthermore, it will discuss the challenges confronting Taiwan's democracy, such as populism and disinformation, and how these challenges were partially contained during the pandemic. Finally, it explores how Taiwan's democratic mechanisms for pandemic intervention were compromised by geopolitical power struggles. Taiwan's COVID experiences highlight new directions for future conversations about the legitimation crisis of democracy.

May 18, 2021

Trapped in the Middle: Causes and Consequences of Middling Skilled Migration

Yen-Feng Tseng, Professor, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University

Many countries have recently broadened the definition of skill in recruiting high skilled migrants. As a result, more and more college-educated, albeit inexperienced, workers could opt for overseas careers via skilled worker visa, a development referred to as "middling" skilled migration by migration researchers. This talk discusses the causes and consequences of the significant increase of young college-educated migrants working in East Asia. It will unfold various layers of precarity experienced by this group of middling skilled migrants. Furthermore, it highlights how they have to constantly navigate routes that connect employers' recognition of skills and immigration regulations. As a result, many are involuntarily holding temporary visas for a long time, with unfulfilled social rights in a structure of civic stratification created by ever-differential skilled migration regimes. This talk concludes that such precarity is mainly the result of prevalent contradictions of skilled migration policies, particularly in East Asian exclusive migration regimes.

June 8, 2021

BOOK Talk: Diasporic Public Spheres in Colonial Asia: Chinese Bourgeois Associations in the Hong Kong-Singapore Corridor and Their Taiwan Ties, 1914-1941

Huei-Ying Kuo, Associate Research Professor, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University

July 8, 2021

BOOK Talk: Divested: Inequality in the Age of Finance

Ken-Hou, Lin, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Texas Austin

July 9, 2021

Micro-politics of Recognition and Care: Transnational Siblings in China

Ken Chih-Yan Sun, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Villanova University

In this talk, I draw upon the concept of “economies of recognition” to analyze the moral frames that siblings caring for left-behind parents in China use to negotiate intimate connections to their emigrant brothers and sisters. I argue that the impact of family dislocation on sibling relations is shaped by family members’ co-constructed relational infrastructure. Our findings identify four types of relational infrastructure—collaboration, intrusion/ interference, voluntary takeover, and feeling left behind—that mediate the impact of geographic proximity on parental caregiving. I suggest that the interplay between physical distance and elder care is emotionally experienced, interactionally evaluated, and symbolically understood. Understanding solidarity, conflicts, and ambivalence in the contexts of family crisis requires a close examination of how members of a care network attribute each other’s roles and contributions to power symmetry or asymmetry. This explains why the advice, information, money, people, and emotions that are circulated are thought of as helpful resources in some cases but perceived as constraints in others.





October 12, 2021

Book Talk: Mad by the Millions: Mental Disorders and the Early Years of the World Health Organization

Harry Yi-Jui Wu, Associate Professor, National Cheng Kung University

October 19, 2021

Taiwanese Identity as a Global Identity: The Networks of Skilled Labour Migrants in the UK and Canada

Fiona Moor, Professor of Business Anthropology, Royal Holloway University of London

Many people have pointed to recent nationalisation movements and the worldwide lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic as heralding the end of globalisation. However, these same events have also shown us that globalisation can be resilient and adaptive: and, furthermore, that the migration of ideas and people continues despite pressures to the contrary.

Through a study of Taiwanese skilled labour migrants and their families in the UK and in Canada, and of Taiwan itself as their society of origin, I examine the role identity plays in the network-building and career strategies of Taiwanese people overseas, and how their seemingly local identities as “Taiwanese” allow them to construct world-spanning networks. This process gives us insight into how, and why, globalisation processes continue to flourish despite pressures to localise, as well as into the ways in which Taiwan is developing as a player on the world business stage.

December 15, 2021

The Culture of “Playing Cute” in Taiwan: The Implications of Sajiao on Digital Activism and Political Communication

Hsin-I Sydeny Yueh, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Northeastern State University

What is sajiao? How is it related to playing cute? Why has sajiao become a culture? Why is it a noteworthy cultural phenomenon? In the past, sajiao was often studied as a woman’s speech. Researchers marked many gender-based features to define this particular communication style. In this talk, Professor Hsin-I Sydney Yueh challenges this gender framework and proposes to view sajiao as a set of feminine speech acts performed by Taiwan Mandarin speakers. Based on ethnography and through the lens of cultural studies, Yueh will show the audience the formation of sajiao culture in Taiwan, and the implications of using this particular style in digital activism and political communication. In addition to attending to the cute elements in Taiwan’s elections, she will also analyze some recent examples, such as Milk Tea Alliance and Cat Warrior Diplomacy.

January 6, 2022

Book Talk: Precarious Living: Homeless People and the Helping Networks in Taiwan

Ke-Hsien, Huang, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University

February 17, 2022

Book Talk: The Great Exodus from China: Trauma, Memory, and Identity in Modern Taiwan

Dominic Meng-Hsuan, Yang, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Missouri-Columbia

March 16, 2022

The Public or Masculine Sector? Gender in Taiwan's Public-Sector Labour Market

Shan-Jan Sarah Liu, Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Edinburgh

Wei-Yun Chung, Researcher, Global Asia Research Center, National Taiwan University
Chiung-Ling Chang, Professor, Taiwan Police College

Our visiting scholar Dr. Sarah Liu and researcher Dr. Wei-Yun Chung co-organized a public forum “The Public or Masculine Sector? Gender in Taiwan's Public-Sector Labour Market.” This public forum was sponsored by GARC and the Women’s and Gender Research Program and included experts whose research focus on women who serve as public servants in the government (Dr. Wei-Yun Chung), women police in the police department of Taiwan (Dr. Chiung-Ling Chang), as well as the gendered experiences of soldiers in Taiwanese military (Dr. Sarah Liu). The public forum attracted about 60-70 members from across the University of Taiwan, as well as members of society from other parts of the country (e.g., high school students from outside of Taipei).



April 14, 2022

Mediating Individuals and Social Imagination: Media Technology and Online War Memory

Wei-Ping Lin, Professor, Department of Anthropology, National Taiwan University

Social Imaginary is the way in which the members of a community imagine their existence. It forms the common understanding of how to carry out the collective practices that constitute social life. However, in contemporary society, not just one but multiple social imaginations coexist. How can people forge and negotiate collective imaginaries to face an uncertain future? In this talk, Wei-Ping Lin will introduce her new book, *Island Fantasia: Imagining Subjects on the Military Frontline between China and Taiwan*. She takes Chapter 6, *Online War Memory*, as an example to discuss the process of transformation from individual imagination to social imaginary, and to discuss how it is imbued with hope, affect, and a fantasy of the future. The Matsu islands, for long an isolated outpost off southeast China, were suddenly transformed into a military frontline in 1949 by the Cold War and the Communist–Nationalist conflict. The Nationalist army occupied the islands, commencing more than 40 long years of military rule. With the lifting of martial law in 1992, the people of Matsu were confronted with the question of how to move forward. Lin analyzes how the Matsu islanders use new media to cope with the lasting trauma of harsh military rule. She discusses the formation of new social imaginaries through the appearance of “imagining subjects,” interrogating their subjectification processes and varied uses of mediating technologies as they seek to answer existential questions.





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National Taiwan University

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