Taiwanese Popular Music: Negotiating, Constructing and Articulating Taiwanese Identity

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25th October, 2014

This workshop invites students in East Asian Studies (Sinology) and Musicology (Ethnomusicology) at the University of Vienna to explore Taiwanese cultural and national identity through the lens of contemporary Taiwanese popular music. The purpose of this workshop is to show how popular music can serve as a tool to understand contemporary issues in Taiwanese society.

It will offer lectures based on ethnographical research, which are expected to stimulate heated discussion. Topics to be explored in the workshop include Chinese-speaking media culture and music, East Asian popular music in Taiwan, the localization of Taiwanese pop music (mainstream pop vs. indie pop), gender politics, and the representation of Taiwanese pop.

Rethinking the Production and Challenges of International Science Documentary

29th November, 2014

Dr. Ming-Yeh Rawnsley
University of Westminster, Secretary General of the European Association of Taiwan Studies EATS

Preliminary film screening „Taiwan from above“
Friday 28th November 2014, 19:15

Bird without Borders 《返家八千里》
Tomb Raptor 《灰面鷺傳奇》

29th November, 2014

There are numerous film festivals taking place everywhere in Taiwan. The workshop uses the films to address which sort of documentaries are sponsored by Public TV, and how environmental issues are addressed by Taiwanese and Western filmmakers. The films represent the Taiwanese strategy to enter the global film and TV film market. The workshop will address the potential and the successes as seen from a European perspective. Specifically, environmental contents, awareness and protection will be discussed. The Rice Culture films shown on 18th October will provide the necessary background information.

-presentations:
- What are the characteristics of science television programmes in Austria?
- What can or should we expect from science television programmes in Austria?

-land Grabbing and Forced Evictions in Taiwan

13th December, 2014

Dr. Shih-Jung Hsu
Department of Land Economics at the National Chengchi University (NCCU), Taiwan

„Our Island“ TV series 《我們的島》
The Battle to Protect Dapu Farmland
The Watermelon wars
The Battle of Taiwan’s Farmers
The Hope of Old Lady Wang Ju

Many occasions of land expropriation take place in Taiwan. This was done in the name of promoting public welfare and has encouraged large-scale land speculation, all under the cover of creating employment or promoting economic growth, even though many of the creations remain idle or underutilized. This undertaking is done at great cost to farmers and other vulnerable groups in the rural areas, and their rights to property, survival (not to mention an adequate standard of living), and many other fundamental human rights.

-presentations:
- Homemakers United Foundation
  An introduction with a focus on their relationship to Taiwanese farmers
- Comparison with the watermelon battles in the PRC
- Taiwan’s Science Parks
- Taipei Harbour & Free Trade Zone project

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