

INAUGURAL NEXUS TAIWAN CONFERENCE  
"Repositioning Taiwan and the Americas:  
Formosa to the Present"

April 7-9



*"The subject of Formosa is becoming one of great interest to a number of our enterprising fellow citizens and deserves more consideration from the great commercial nations of the West..."*

-- Gideon Nye to U.S. State Department, Feb. 12, 1857

The American flag was already flying in Formosa when Nye, a scallywag opium merchant, made this case for U.S. naval involvement. For the next century and a half, the two regions have remained closely connected via trade relations, strategic relations facing China and Japan, via U.S. Pacific colonial ambitions, OSS/CIA and commercial spheres of influence, Cold War sympathies, Taiwanese immigration to the U.S., and mutually shifting cultural identities. American Studies, as a *field of study* with a long commitment to transpacific and Asian American studies and as a *method* that engages various disciplines and publics, offers a dynamic platform for opening Brown Taiwan Studies initiative and a collaborative study of this transpacific relationship.

SCHEDULE

- **April 7:** 5 pm Welcome in the Lownes Room, John Hay Library, by Robert Lee, Assoc. Professor of American Studies, and Cynthia Huang, Director of Education Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Boston.  
Keynote Address  
Visit Hay Library Taiwanese stamp collection with curator Sarah Dylla.  
Dinner out.
- **April 8:** 9am-noon panel & discussion, Library, JNBC Public Humanities.  
Catered lunch and 2<sup>nd</sup> Keynote (12:30-2pm)  
2-5pm panel/discussion.  
Informal dinner.
- **April 9:** 9am-noon panel/discussion, Library, JNBC.  
Box lunch  
1pm-4pm panel.  
4-5:00 Roundtable  
Dinner at Professor Hu-DeHart's home

THURSDAY APRIL 7, 5PM

**OPENING KEYNOTE**

*The Lownes Room, John Hay Library, 20 Prospect St.*

**“If Taiwan, Then What? Reflections on Disciplinarity”**

Hsiung Ping-chen (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

FRIDAY APRIL 8, 9AM TO 5PM

*The Nightingale-Brown House, 357 Benefit St.*

**Panel 1/9AM-Noon: “Global Indigeneity”** Chair: Caroline Frank

In the wake of European “exploration” and empire, indigenous peoples around the world were colonized, permanently destabilized, or sent into diaspora under a common colonial and modernizing template. Yet today scholars almost never consider their experiences in an international comparative context. This panel examines ethnographic collections and collecting strategies related to diverse native peoples in the United States, Taiwan, and Oceania.

Iping Liang (National Taiwan Normal University)

“Island Encounter: A Comparison of Global Indigeneity between Taiwan and America”

Yuan-Chao Tung (Anthropology Museum, National Taiwan University)

“Returning to the Source: A Comparative Study of a University Museum and a Public Museum in Taiwan”

Lainie Schultz (Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard U)

“Global Indigeneity in a Local Space”

Christy Delair (Longyear Museum of Anthropology, Colgate University)

“Indigenous by Design: A Reflection on How Artists Engage and Shape Museums”

**LUNCH KEYNOTE: “Imagining the Trans-Indigenous Pacific: Bill Reid, Robert Sullivan, and Syman Rapongan”**

Hsinya Huang (National Sun Yat-Sen University)

**Panel 2/2-5PM: “Branding Taiwan in Transpacific Popular Culture”**

Chair: Robert Lee

How has Taiwan been represented in the dense cloud of images that saturate contemporary transpacific popular culture? What signs mark authenticity in a multi-ethnic, transnational cultural economy? This panel will explore these and other questions.

Chris Lee (University of British Columbia)  
“T.A. Hsia and Diasporic Liberalism”

Pin-chia Feng (National Chiao Tung University/ Academia Sinica)  
“Huang Can Cook: Transpacific Food Culture in *Fresh Off the Boat*”

Jason Petrus (Colgate University)  
“America the Brand: How the Marshall Plan Logo Traveled to Taiwan”

Mu-chou Poo (Chinese University of Hong Kong)  
“Taiwanese Ghosts and their Ancient Roots”

SATURDAY APRIL 9, 9AM-4PM

**Panel 3/ 9-12: “Migration to and from Taiwan”**

Chair: Evelyn Hu-DeHart

Since the end of WWII, Taiwan has been a recipient as well as a sender of immigrants, a history that scholars are now beginning to explore seriously. Each of the in and out-migration movements explored in this panel has a different context and process, situating Taiwan as a significant player in migration studies with distinct characteristics.

Dominic Yang (University of Missouri, Columbia)  
“The Great Mainland Exodus and Two Types of Displacement in Early Postwar Taiwan”

Chiting Peng (University of California, Santa Barbara)  
“US--Taiwan Collaboration, Overseas Chinese Education Program in Taiwan, and the Remaking of Chinese Diasporic Culture in Southeast Asia”

Madeline Hsu, (University of Texas, Austin)  
“The Student Path to Immigration: Taiwan and the United States during the Cold War”

Justina Hwang, (Brown University)  
“Chinos/chinas/chinitas: Taiwanese Immigrants in Cold War Latin America”

**Panel 4/ 1-3:30PM: “Material and Imagined Geographies Amid and After Militarization”** Chair: Rebecca Nedostup

This panel explores the social and cultural consequences of Taiwan’s transpacific military and geopolitical relationships. Papers will explore the effects of Cold War militarization on the lives of the residents of front-line communities such as the Matsu Islands, as well as investigating how they have reconfigured memory and spatial imaginaries in the post martial law era. More broadly, how have people in

these communities and in Taiwan deployed or contested the material and symbolic power of the American empire amid local, regional, or global struggles?

Song-Chuan Chen (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

“The Economic Life of the Cold War Frontier Islands Matsu: A Fisherman’s Tale”

Wei-ping Lin (National Taiwan University)

“The Online Creation of War Memory: The Denial and Pursuit of Matsu and Self in *The Childhood of Leimengdi*”

Derek Sheriden (Brown University)

“Uncle Sam Said *Very* Clearly You Are Not a Country”: Independence Activists and the Mapping of Imperial Cosmologies in Taiwan”

## ROUND TABLE: **American Studies as Lens for Taiwan Studies**

