

Call for Papers, Ninth Annual Conference on 18 - 21 June 2012 at the University of Southern Denmark in Sønderborg

The European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS) will hold its Ninth Annual Conference on 18 - 21 June 2012 at the University of Southern Denmark in Sønderborg. The conference is co-organized by the University of Southern Denmark, Campus Sønderborg and EATS. It will focus on comparative regional and global aspects of more recent developments in Taiwan in the areas of society, politics, culture and economy. We especially encourage abstracts addressing the topics listed below. However, we will consider outstanding submissions in other areas related to Taiwan Studies (<http://eats-taiwan.eu/conference/eats-2012>).

The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended, so please submit an A-4 ONE PAGE abstract *until January 15th, 2012* to the webpage <http://eats-taiwan.eu/conference/eats-2012/submit> and please send a copy of your abstract to the following email: info@eats-taiwan.eu. The abstracts will be revised by a double blind review and we will inform you if your abstract has been accepted by February 29, 2012.

Law and International Law

This panel addresses the international status of Taiwan/ROC from the perspective of international law. We also welcome abstracts examining internal developments, such as: How have judicial and constitutional reforms been carried out? What obstacles have these reforms encountered? To what degree have international norms such as Human Rights been implemented in Taiwan's legal system? For example, the debates in Taiwan over the abolition of the death penalty.

Cross-Strait and International Relations

In spite of some notable achievements in cross-Strait exchanges, some commentators argue that Taiwan's relations with other countries have suffered in consequence. We welcome papers that discuss new developments in cross-Strait politics and examine its implications for Taiwan's international space, including unrealized FTAs and security issues.

Popular Culture

Popular culture, i.e. the opposite of high culture and as culture of the "people", is an arena where various phenomena are competing, represented, and produced. Although no specific preference is given, we would welcome contributions on fandom, comics, consumerism, fashion, dress and body. In addition, we encourage a comparative perspective. Suggested topics of interest in the realm of cinema are films focusing on climate change, ecological concerns and migration.

Geopolitics and Security

This panel addresses Taiwan being a geopolitical object and subject during its 400 years of history, including questions of security and global/regional power shifts. Research on more recent developments in the area of security considerations and the changed status of Taiwan in strategic considerations is also welcomed. Other topics that can be addressed: security issues across the Strait, especially in the wider frame of the US-PRC-ROC triangular frame; the regional and global power shifts; the 2011 new debate in the US about supporting or abandoning Taiwan; the new Chinese policy of Taiwan under President Ma and its impact on the cross strait geopolitical balance and Taiwan's international position.

History and Modernization

This panel invites contributions that deal with aspects of modernization in the various periods of Taiwan History: late Qing, Japanese period, KMT rule and post-martial law period. We especially welcome abstracts that relate to economic history and/or topics that cover Taiwan's 19th century treaty ports. Methodology and source materials drawing from archives, oral history, print-culture, and audio-visual documentation are encouraged.

Literature: Contemporary Aspects

The panel departs from an interpretation of Taiwan's literature development as an interaction between minor and major literatures. A minor literature is understood here in Deleuze's and Guattari's sense, i.e. literature of a minority written in a major language. This minor literature is characterized by deterritorialization of language, secondly by its political element, and finally, by its collective value. We particularly welcome papers on women's literature, queer literature, Taiwan literature as part of Chinese language literatures, and ethnic minorities' literatures.

Elections

In January 2012 Taiwan will hold its national legislative and presidential elections. We welcome papers that examine the campaigns, results and consequences of these important elections. In addition proposals that compare these elections with long-term trends or elections in similar democracies will be considered.

The Impact of the Recent Cross-Strait Relations

In terms of the economy (ECFA), tourism, education (opening of Taiwanese universities for mainland Chinese students) and culture, the last few years have seen increasing contact between both sides of the Taiwan Strait. This panel seeks a first evaluation of these changes both within Taiwanese society as well as in mainland China.

Taiwan's Ethnic Groups in Times of Multiculturalism

Under Taiwan's multi-culturalist politics, self-particularization became increasingly important. Which means of self-presentation did/ do different ethnic groups (including indigenous and Han) in Taiwan make use of to make themselves better visible under these circumstances? Material from field research as well as source materials drawing from archives, oral history, and audio-visual documentation are encouraged.

Economy

This panel aims to focus on current as well as long-term trends in the development of Taiwan's economy, such as e.g. the (perceived) hollowing out of Taiwan's industrial base vs. the transformation into an information society; development of the high tech sector; influences of the ECFA on Taiwan's agrarian and industrial sectors; Taiwan's management of the 2008/09 world financial crisis and the competitiveness of Taiwan's economy.

NGO, Activism and Internationalization

The purpose of this panel is to explore the interrelation between NGOs, activism and internationalization. It especially aims at comparative aspects including Korea, China and other East Asian and South East Asian countries and regions. We welcome papers that compare Taiwan NGO work with that of the neighboring countries, papers that focus on how the international community perceives activism in Taiwan, or discussions of how processes of internationalization deal with rigid structures and bureaucratic red tape. It also aims at sharing experiences with actual NGOs based in Europe and working with Taiwan issues.

Taiwan's Media

This panel addresses challenges to Taiwan's media such as the changing patterns of media ownership, government and party relations with the media and the involvement of Chinese/Hong Kong companies in the Taiwanese media market. We also welcome contributions on Taiwanese new media and the reaction to Wikileaks.

Research on Taiwan's Indigenous Peoples

There have been a growing number of scholars and students conducting research in Europe on topics related to Taiwan's indigenous peoples. This panel seeks abstracts based on new research into both historical and contemporary studies of Taiwan's aboriginal peoples. We welcome papers from different academic disciplines and also comparative analysis with other indigenous studies.

MA Panel

Masters students enrolled in a Taiwan Studies Programme/course or working on a dissertation focused on Taiwan at a European university are particularly encouraged to apply to present their research in the EATS MA panel.