

Vienna Taiwan Lecture Series

The Department of East Asian Studies/Sinology and
the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies are pleased to announce a lecture by

TSC
台灣研究中心

SHU-CHUN LI
Kaohsiung Medical University

Autobiographies by Dang-Wai movement Women

ABSTRACT

My topic focuses on autobiographies written by Yang Zujun (楊祖璿) and Qiu Ruisui (邱瑞穗), female participants in Taiwan's Dang-Wai movement or "non-Party" opposition to the Guomindang. They wrote their autobiographies in 1990s to recall their political experiences. In their memoirs, they criticized democratic deficiencies of the Dang-wai movement, criticizing the inadequacy of the overall process of democratic modernization. In global democracy development, political issues are usually regarded as more important than gender issues or women's emancipation, which are treated as secondary issues to be dealt with after political democracy is achieved. Yang and Qiu not only criticized Guomindang power but also the patriarchy of the anti-Guomindang democracy movement that they personally experienced. In the 1990s, Yang and Qiu got divorced from their husbands. Before their divorces, Yang and Qiu supported their husbands' participation in the Dang-wai movement, and, given the importance of their husbands in the movement, could not express different views. However, they could speak out for themselves after their divorces, and in the 1990s diverse voices could be accepted. Yang and Qiu criticized their own previously "wifely selves" from the viewpoint of their new "today's selves," as their memoirs negotiated the complexities of their gender and political roles. Divorce thus led to a stronger sense of self-identity. Their autobiographies reveal their support for the dream of political democracy of the Dang-wai movement; at the same time, however, they criticize the democratic deficiencies of the movement itself from the 1970s. These autobiographies thus produce complex anti-Guomindang and anti-patriarchy discourses.

SHU-CHUN LI graduated at National Cheng Kung University in 2006. She then worked as Post-Doc at National Taiwan University. Her fields of interest covers gender studies, Taiwanese culture, history and democracy. Currently she works as Assistant Professor in Graduate Institute of Gender Studies at Kaohsiung Medical University.



Date: Saturday 18th June, 2016

Time: 11:00 - 16:00

Location: SIN1, at the Department of East Asian Studies/Sinology,
Altes AKH, Campus, Spitalgasse 2, yard 2, entrance 2.3
<http://campus.univie.ac.at/plan-universitaere-einrichtungen>

Introduction and discussion lead by Dr Astrid Lipinsky – University of Vienna
The lecture is open to the public without charge or prior registration

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