

Round Table

'Comfort Women' in China and Taiwan: Human Rights Violation without End?

Round Table participant experts address the sexual slavery conducted by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II from socio-historical, legal and cinematic perspectives in the victims' various native states of Asia. A focus is the 2014 Taiwan documentary „The Song of the Reed“, which will be screened afterwards. The round table includes introductory 15-minute presentations from each participant. Afterwards, the floor will be open to discussion with the audience.

Moderation: Margarete Grandner,
Institute for International Development,
University of Vienna

Chris Berry

Documentary Ethics and "Comfort Women" Films

This talk investigates the ethical and gender political problems surrounding the "comfort women" issue in cinema. Why did filmmakers ignore the sufferings of the "comfort women" for so long and fail to make films about them? How can they make films about them without exploiting their sufferings all over again? Using examples from China and Korea, this talk examines the different ethical and political problems presented by filming the "comfort women" issue and how some filmmakers have attempted to avoid them.

Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik

Post Cold War History and Identity in Europe and East Asia: From Hero to Victim

In a situation where we are maybe approaching the end of the non-Cold War period, it is worthwhile to assess how identity issues have been treated in the context of academic and non-academic writing of history. One aspect of this assessment relates to the tendency to change narratives on WW II heroism into narratives of victimization. The questions to be discussed in this presentation are: Why is it easier in post-Cold War times to identify as victim rather than as hero? Why do post-Socialist societies tend towards identifying as victims although their master narrative on WW II was until 1989 one of heroic anti-fascist struggle? What role does growing nationalism in Europe and East Asia play in the context of this change of narrative and its implied change of identity?



ERIKA-WEINZIERL-SAAL

Main building

Universitätsring 1

18th November 2016, 14:00

registration via email: tsc.ostasien@univie.ac.at

Agnes Schick-Chen

"No comfort for former "Comfort Women"?: The transitional justice perspective."

The International Center for Transitional Justice (TJ) defines TJ as "a response to systematic or widespread violations of human rights," seeking "recognition for victims and promotion of possibilities for peace, reconciliation and democracy." A set of measures including criminal prosecution, truth commissions, reparations programs, gender justice, security system reforms, and memorialization efforts has been conceptualized in reaction to situations arising in the aftermath of inner-society conflict, civil war and suppressive regimes. I therefore would like to discuss TJ as a possible approach in dealing with the injustice inflicted on comfort women from Taiwan in times of Japanese colonization.

Astrid Lipinsky

Their Passing Does Not Mean Closure: Approaches to the „Comfort Women“ Issue 70 Years Later

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Hussein indicated that the Japan-South Korea agreement of December 2016 to "finally and irreversibly" resolve the issue is insufficient. Several UN agencies complain that the recent Japanese approach is not victim-centered and differentiates unjustly between South Korea and other victim states.

The presentation traces the United Nation's discourse on how to approach the „comfort women“ issue after the last victim has passed away.

Hsiu-Ching Wu

Beyond Criminal Prosecution: Re-writing the Tragedy

There is something more important than taking revenge: If the perpetrator maintains his refusal to acknowledge the crime, how can the victim confront her own tragedy?

In my 2014 documentary „The Song of the Reed“ I developed and applied an approach different from the common accusation. Instead, I documented the ongoing healing process over 16 years of workshops for the physical and psychological care of former „comfort women.“ The former so-called „Comfort women,“ now affectionately called Ama, „Grandmothers,“ no longer confront their past injuries. Instead they slowly organize their extremely hurtful memories, dialogue with their past selves and learn how to put aside the hate and harmonize with themselves in a situation where the Japanese government neither apologizes nor pays meaningful compensation to every victim.

維也納大學漢學系



QR: map
ERIKA-
WEINZIERL-
SAAL

