



The Production and Reproduction of Social Inequalities

Workshop

September 20-21, 2024

National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU) & Hybrid event

Abstract

Over the past decade, research on social inequalities has witnessed significant growth, shedding light on the enduring and expanding nature of global inequality. In East Asia, a series of “economic miracles” have occurred since the Second World War, leading to a statistical reduction in global inequality, and the hope that other countries or regions in the Global South may follow. However, these transformations have also led to the creation of peripheries characterized by racialized and gendered migrant labor, as well as the marginalization of indigenous communities. The generation of displaced populations and unequal living conditions can be attributed, in part, to state-led policies and the dynamic of global capitalism. This two-day workshop, organized around the visit of researchers from the University of Cologne’s “The Production and Reproduction of Social Inequalities” research unit to Taiwan, seeks to understand why endeavors to enhance equality often lead to enduring disparities.

The workshop is co-organized by:

International Center for Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University.

Social Inequalities Research Unit (SIRU), University of Cologne.

Africa-China Research Network, Academia Sinica.

Specificities and Registration (until 13th September):

Date: September 20-21, 2024 (GMT+8, Taipei Time)

Venue: HC201, HA Building 3, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU) & Hybrid event.

Language: English

Registration Link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1-Z2CtRF9JnUHAiNDfzSowuqvJuXU6-fgfXRnrkmM6bdWcg/viewform?pli=1>

Workshop Program

Friday, September 20, 2024 | HC201, HA Building 3

9:30 – 10:00

Welcoming Remarks and Official Group Photo

Joyce C.H. Liu, Director, International Institute for Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Michaela Pelican, Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology & Principal Investigator and Speaker of the Research Unit, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Cologne

Historical and Political Crisis of Forced Labor

10:00 – 11:10

Panel 1: The International Labor Organization, Colonialism, and the History of “Forced Labor”

Moderator: **Tu Huynh**, Principal Investigator, Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne

- **Between Work Regulation, Integration into the Capitalist Economy and “African Laziness”: The ILO and African Workers, 1919-1930**

Ulrike Lindner, Professor of Modern History & Principal Investigator, Department of History, University of Cologne

- **What is Wrong with Forced Labor: Coercion or Exploitation**

Ya-Wen Yang, Assistant Research Professor, Institutumlurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica

16:00 – 16:10

Coffee Break

11:20 – 12:30

Panel 2: Pan-Asian Politics and Racialized Capitalist Relations

Moderator: **Joyce C.H. Liu**, Director, International Institute for Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

- **Pan-Asian Alliances during the International Labor Conferences, 1920s-1940s**
Fabiana Kutsche, Doctoral Researcher, Department of History, University of Cologne

- **Inequalities and Migrant Labor: Tracing Taiwan’s Racialized Capitalism**
Samia Dinkelaker, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

16:00 – 16:10

Lunch Break



13:30 – 14:40 **Panel 3: Export Processing Zones and Labor Politics**

Moderator: **Derek Sheridan**, Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica

- **Challenging the Uneven Power Relation: The Case of Workers Union at Garment Industry in Ethiopia**
Meron Zeleke, Associate Professor of Anthropology & Principal Investigator, Center of Human Rights, Addis Ababa University
 - **Transformation and Exploitation: The Impact of Labor Policies in Mexico's Maquiladora Industry**
Hao-Yu Cho, Post-Doctoral Research, Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica
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16:00 – 16:10 **Coffee Break**

Migration as Logistical Process

14:50 – 16:00 **Panel 4: Transformations in Migration Governance and Forced Labor History of “Forced Labor”**

Moderator: **Ulrike Lindner**, Professor of Modern History & Principal Investigator, Department of History, University of Cologne

- **Migration Governance, Human Trafficking, and Gender Inequalities: Cameroon to the Arab Gulf States**
Jonathan Ngeh, Senior Researcher, Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne
Michaela Pelican, Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology & Principal Investigator and Speaker of the Research Unit, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Cologne
 - **Modern Slavery Crisis and the Transformation of Private Governance: The Case of the Seafood Supply Chains in Taiwan**
Yu-Fan Chiu, Associate Professor, School of Law, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University
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16:00 – 16:10 **Coffee Break**



16:10 – 17:20 **Panel 5: Forced Labor and Supply Chains**

Moderator: **Meron Zeleke**, Associate Professor of Anthropology & Principal Investigator, Center of Human Rights, Addis Ababa University

- **Compound Capitalism, Samoan Supply Chains, and SEZs: Topological Logistics of Digitalized Labor Extraction in SEA**

Joyce C.H. Liu, Director, International Institute for Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

- **Pay to Work: Recruitment Fees and the Exploitation of Indonesian Migrant Fishers in Taiwan's Distant Water Fleets**

Jonathan S. Parhusip, PhD student, Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Saturday, September 21, 2024 | HC201, HA Building 3

Governing Migration and Care

9:30 – 10:35 **Panel 6: Beyond Labor: Governing and Challenging Migrant Categories**

Moderator: **Fabiana Kutsche**, Doctoral Researcher, Department of History, University of Cologne

- **Beyond Boundaries: Migration, Identity Transformation, and the Shifting Social Status of Chinese Laborers**

Tu Huynh, Principal Investigator, Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne

- **Navigating Reproductive Rights and Inequalities: Indonesian Migrant Mothers in Taiwan**

Tzu-Chi Ou, Assistant Professor, International College of Innovation, National Chengchi University

10:35 – 10:45 **Coffee Break**

10:45 – 11:50 **Panel 7: Care, Migration, and Inequality**

Moderator: **Yu-Fan Chiu**, Associate Professor, School of Law, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

- **Indigeneity, Migration, and Social Inequalities in Long-Term Care: An Inquiry into the Tayal Community in Taiwan**

Wasiq Silan (I-An Gao), Researcher at the Center of Ethnic Relations and Nationalism, University of Helsinki

- **Informal Housing and the Future of Chinese Urban Villages: Observations from Shanghai**
Qi Li, PhD student, Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

11:50 – 13:00

Lunch Break

Ramifications of Uneven Development

13:00 – 14:05

Panel 8: Moral Geographies and the Reproduction of Inequality

Moderator: **Wasiq Silan (I-An Gao)**, Researcher at the Center of Ethnic Relations and Nationalism, University of Helsinki

- **Wet Market and Reproduction of Inequality**
I-Yi Hsieh, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University
- **Going to Africa to Develop: Chinese Migrants and the Moral Geography of Uneven Development in Africa**
Derek Sheridan, Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica

14:05 – 14:25

Break

14:25 – 15:25

Closing Remarks and Discussion

Derek Sheridan, Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica

Joyce C.H. Liu, Director, International Institute for Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Tu Huynh, Principal Investigator, Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne

Monday, September 23, 2024 | 16:30 – 18:00

Film Screening and Discussion: **The Link**

Moderator: Tu Huynh, Associated Researcher, Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne

Director: Musquiqui Chihying and Lou Mo

The directors will join the discussion session virtually

Venue: HB326, HA Building 2