

Short Abstracts

Augustine, Matthew Rene. Columbia University. USA.

Ryukyuan Repatriation and the Southwestern Boundary of Japan: The First Phase of U.S. Military Rule in the Ryukyu Islands, 1945-1950

Repatriation played a central role in the postwar transformation of the Japanese empire into an occupied nation-state stripped not only of its colonies but also its 47th prefecture: Okinawa. The official mass repatriation program coordinated among the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, the Japanese government, and the Military Government in Okinawa oversaw the return of over 170,000 Ryukyuan (who were no longer referred to as Okinawans by the US). The focus of this presentation is to examine the close relationship between repatriation and the establishment of a postwar boundary between Japan and the Ryukyu Islands.

Ahn, Kyung Mo. Seoul National University. South Korea

From Hostility to Coexistence?: The Change of DPRK's Policy toward the U.S.

The purpose of this paper is to show that North Korea's policy toward the U.S. has changed fundamentally in the Post-Cold War era. During the Cold War era, DPRK maintained a policy of hostility toward the U.S. Most previous studies have argued that North Korea still maintained a hostile policy toward the U.S. According to them, despite the superficial changes in the rhetoric, North Korea still remains a "rogue" state. Since the end of Cold War, however, it has changed its policy toward the U.S from hostility to coexistence, and pursued the normalization of diplomatic relations.

Ann, Sovatha. Northern Illinois University. US A.

Patronizing Decentralization: An Emerging Local Political Culture in Rural Cambodia

Conservative social norms and traditions in Cambodian rural communities are favorable conditions for patron-client relationships. Decentralization reform, introduced in 2002, aims to promote pluralist democracy at the local level. The objective of this presentation is to explore the implications that decentralization has brought to the traditional patron-client relationships. This presentation is based on fieldwork framed by Marcel Mauss' gift giving concept and James Scott's classic definition of patron-client relationships. Findings from the fieldwork indicate that decentralization allows genuine ties characterized by common beliefs and loyalty to emerge along side the traditional ones which are bound by material and tangible benefits.

Ashraf, A. S. M. Ali. University of Pittsburgh. USA.

Beyond Brain Drain and Remittances: Understanding the Role of the U.S.-based Emigrant Bangladeshi in Home Country Development Process

This paper explores the role of U.S.-based emigrant Bangladeshi in their home country development process. Initially guided by secondary data and published reports, it uses interview data from a select group of skilled Bangladeshi expatriates. Our research findings suggest that emigrant Bangladeshi's *lived world* and migration experience reflect the dynamics of a *transnational* diasporic community, whose identity is negotiated at every moment of their life. During the process of such identity-negotiation, they maintain strong ties to their home country. Thus, defying the notion of brain drain, the skilled migrants promote a culture of brain gain and act as *development agents* for their natives. (103 words)

Ashwill, Maximillian Shen. The New School. USA.

Breaking the Elites: Comparative Development Experiences of Malaysia and the Philippines

The purpose of this paper is to compare the development experiences of the Philippines and Malaysia. It begins by looking at the respective, relevant histories of each nation and will argue that Malaysia successfully developed through successful industrial and trade policies that it was able to implement by breaking the existing economic elites' control over development. This "breaking of the elites" allowed for the transition from a commodity-based to a manufacturing-based economy. The Philippines, on the other hand, never severed the grip of its landed-elite, therefore its economy remained commodity-based and underdeveloped.

Balassiano, Katia. University of Hawai'i at Manoa. USA.

Support for a Civil Society in Thailand

This paper examines the literature pertaining to the role of civil society in Thailand. An environment that supports civil society can lead to a flourishing civil society which, in turn, can positively impact democratic practices. Although the government is in flux as a result of the October 2006 coup, there is evidence good reason to be optimistic about the future state of civil society in Thailand. The civil liberties in the 1997 Constitution, literature demonstrating a commitment to democracy, mass uprisings in response to undemocratic administrations, and the continuing devolution of government authority serve as some reasons for this optimism.

Ball, Patrick D. University of Hawai'i at Manoa. USA.

A Straight Perspective on Homosexuality: Constructing Alternative Sexuality Lives in Japan

Sexual identity in Japan has changed over the twentieth century through interactions with the West. While homoerotic behaviour is expressed in relation to dichotomies of sex, gender and sexual preference in the West, Japanese sexual identity is constrained by the social pressures and expectations of hegemonic culture. Japanese homosexuals spend more time discussing the social pressures to conform and appear normal, than they do talking about gender issues. An ethnography, based on the voices of four Japanese gay men and one Chinese bisexual man is presented, with their accompanying Tokyo based social circle, to explore alternative sexual lives in Japan.

Basu, Rashmita. Washington State University. USA.

Risk Factors for Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease: An Empirical Analysis of Health and Aging for US Population.

Dementia is the progressive decline in cognitive function due to damage or disease in the brain beyond the normal aging. It imposes extreme financial and emotional burden on the aging population. The most common form of dementia among older population is Alzheimer's Disease (AD). Objective: To explore the relationship among physical activity and other lifestyle habits (education, smoking, alcohol consumption etc) with the risk of dementia and AD.

Data come from the Aging, Demographic and Memory Study (ADAMS), a nationally representative HRS data. Preliminary Result: Regular physical exercise and higher education are associated with lower risk of dementia and AD.

Beausoleil, Amy. University of California, Santa Barbara. USA.

The Korean American Perspective on Studying Abroad to Gain Ethnic Heritage

This presentation aims to create awareness about study abroad participant demographics by dismissing homogeneous notions and providing a foundation to understand complex student development issues. Heritage students are increasingly seeking out study abroad programs associated with their ethnicity or the homeland from which their family immigrated. This research focuses on the experiences of Korean American university students participating on a study abroad program in Seoul and factors influencing their ethnic identity development. This study has relevance to international educators and sheds light on a contemporary issue facing the higher education community.

Boswood, Kate E. Australian National University. Australia.

What is the nature and significance of China's new diplomacy (epitomized by the 'peaceful development' strategy), particularly in relation to its interactions with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?

Economic development is driving China's reemergence as a great power and pursuit of a 'peaceful development' strategy, which emphasizes multilateralism and regional institutions as mechanisms to achieve policy objectives. Examining its historical context, the *nature* of China's new diplomacy constitutes a transformation from previous foreign policies. In relation to ASEAN, the rhetoric underwriting this strategy has, largely, been upheld in practice. This strategy is *significant* for the United States-led Asia-Pacific security order - particularly if it translates into increased Chinese power vis-à-vis declining American power. Will China - having maintained its economic development into the future - aggressively pursue a Sino-centric order?

Brown, Kirsten Marie. University of Toronto. Canada.

Property Without Access: Linking Gendered Mobility with Power in West Central Sulawesi-Indonesia

This paper is meant to contribute to ongoing conversations concerning gender in Southeast Asia, and to support the claims being made by many contemporary theorists that “property” alone should not be taken as an unproblematic marker of prestige, power or empowerment in our investigations into gender relations. More specifically, I present the argument that among the Da’a people of West Central Sulawesi, it is precisely the “high status” of women that contributes to their immobility as well as their inability to act as political leaders or decision makers. I attempt to deflect the usual attention given over to “property” in gender relations towards the analytic of “access”.

Chang, Hee-Kyoung

Do Relative Gains Matter? Focusing on the U.S.’ response toward China in bilateral trade relations

Whether the U.S. engages with or contains China has been a major question in international politics after the cold war. In relation to this issue, this paper intends to show that the U.S.’s policy towards the China is not a question of ‘either engagement or containment’ but an issue of relative gains, which leads the U.S. to response to China with altered commercial strategies in different industry sectors accordingly. In other words, if the U.S. obtains relative gains from bilateral trade relations with China, it will engage, if not, it will contain China.

Chen, Yanli

The Making of Modern Beauty: Reading the Emergence of the “Calendar Girl” in Republican Shanghai 1910s-1930s

The paper focuses on calendar prints that emerged in the modern sphere of Shanghai as a revised representation of womanhood symbolized by the image of the calendar girl. The paper traces the creation of affective stereotypes of feminine beauty. Those occurred in tandem with the rise of lithography, the dissemination of popular prints, and the launching of advertising campaigns in Shanghai. In registering the changing perceptions of beauty, the paper shows how the calendar-girl imagery displayed a conscious effort by image makers to revise perceptions of the past and project visions of the future, i.e. the modern Republic.

Choi, Hyun Jin

Energy and Geopolitics in Northeast Asia: Sources of Conflict or Opportunities for Cooperation?

The rapid economic growth of Northeast Asia during the past two decades has had a tremendous impact on the region’s consumption of oil and natural gas and its dependence on energy supplies from outside the region. Growing energy demand is one of the most important security issues for Northeast Asia because of the region’s distinctive energy vulnerabilities and geopolitical location. This paper analyzes the implications of energy security for regional conflict and cooperation among China, Japan, and South Korea based on the two strands of international relations theory: neo-realism and neo-liberal institutionalism.

Clemens, Jonathan Scott

Attack of the Web Guerillas: OhmyNews and the Democratization of South Korean Media

Following economic collapse during the 1997 IMF crisis South Korea has reordered itself upon the principal of ubiquitous digital technology. I explore one aspect of this embrasure through an examination of OhmyNews, the world’s foremost pioneer of citizen cyberjournalism. By exploring the prosuming nature of citizen knowledge production and the resulting rejection of the dominant news-as-lecture model I show how digital technology in South Korea has created spaces of dissenting experience that contest cultural norms. In addition, I address both the positive and negative reactions to this phenomenon in an attempt to complicate perceptions of media in the Information Age.