The EWC Education Program Presents
Wednesday Evening Seminar
Fall 2016

WES is an East-West Center student-led initiative supported by the EWC Student and Leadership programs, and by a generous gift from Richard H. Cox.

October 19: “CHINESE IDENTITY POLITICS”

Dr. Cathryn Clayton
Prof. of Asian Studies
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Dr. Frederick Lau
Prof. of Asian Studies and Ethnomusicology
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Professor Clayton presents “We Don’t Need an Identity, We Are Chinese: On (not) Talking about Identity (in) Politics,” drawing on her fieldwork experience in Macau in the late 1990s. During this period, the very notion of “Macau Identity” was to many a new and troubling concept. She will ask us to consider what makes “identity” something people think about, care about, and fight for... or not. Professor Cathryn Clayton’s work explores the question of Chineseness - how and why it becomes a compelling form of collective subjectivity (be it nationalist, diasporic, regional, civilizational) at different points in time and space. Her research and teaching areas thus encompass sovereignty and imperialism, nationalisms and transnationalisms, ethnicity and diaspora, history, collective memory, and place-making, especially as they have played out in 20th-century China and Chinese communities abroad. Dr. Clayton is Associate Professor in the Asian Studies Program at UH Mānoa.

Trained in both Western and Chinese music, Professor Lau examines notions of Chineseness by looking at Chinese musical expressions in various locales. Led by the question “What does it mean to be Chinese?” in his research, Lau’s perspective on straddling cultures addresses a perennial issue that confronts all of us in the age of globalization. Professor Frederick Lau, is an active ethnomusicologist, flutist, and conductor throughout Europe, Asia, and the US. His scholarly interests include a wide range of topics in Chinese, Western, and Asian music. He has conducted ethnographic field research in the PRC, Thailand, Singapore, and Hawai‘i, and has published widely on traditional Chinese music, music and politics, music and nationalism, Chinese music in the diaspora, as well as issues related to 20th century Western music. Professor Lau is President of the Association for Chinese Music Research, Vice-President of the Society for Asian Music, and Director of the Center for Chinese Studies at UH Mānoa.

East-West Center
Hawai‘i Imin International Conference Center
Keoni Auditorium
1777 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848

- Open to the public
- Light refreshments will be served.
- Please bring your own plates and utensils.

For more info, visit ewc-wes.weebly.com