

RESEARCH séminaire de recherche SEMINAR

Research Institute
at Maison franco-japonaise
UMIFRE 19 CNRS-MAEE

Monday Jan. 24th 2011

18 h | room 601 | in English

Stéphane CORCUFF

Taiwan and the Chinese Renaissance: A cross-historical geopolitical comparison

The Island of Taiwan under the KMT administration of Ma Ying-jeou is looking for ways to circumvent the issue of sovereignty and improve relations with China, while some in Taiwan are concerned with a possible negative impact on the island's sovereignty. Is the new presidency leading a radically new approach to the island's relationship to the Continent? There seems to be a precedent: the end of the loyalist, pro-Ming, Zheng regime in the 1680s. Based on a cross-centuries compared geopolitics of the Taiwan straits, this presentation intends to show how the regimes of the Zhengs, in its last phase of the early 1680s, and of the KMT, in its present phase that started in the late 2000s, are navigating between their Chinese nationalism, the geopolitical realities and, as far as the present experience is concerned, democracy's mechanisms, in managing their new "Chinese temptation" in front of a Continental Renaissance.

PROFILE

Stéphane Corcuff is an associate professor of Political Science and chair of Chinese studies at Lyon's Political Studies Institute. He is a researcher at Lyon's Institute of East Asia and currently based at Taipei's Academia Sinica as a sabbatical researcher. He obtained his PhD in Political Science in 2000 at Paris Institute of Political Studies, focusing on Taiwan's identity and ethnic politics during the democratization era. Among other opuses, he published a book in Japanese, titled *Taiwan gaishōjin no genzai* 台湾外

省人の現在 (Taiwan's Mainlanders at Present), published by Fūkyōsha 風響社 in Tokyo in March 2008. Since a few years, he has reoriented his research toward crossing geopolitics and history in the Taiwan strait, with a special emphasis on the construction of Taiwan as a geopolitical object in the 17th century, and cross-centuries geopolitical comparisons. He published about forty articles and is very active in the organization and promotion of Taiwan studies in France and Europe.



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