

Museums and Official Historical Narratives: Broadening or Bridging the Gulf in Cross-Strait Understanding?

Speaker: Edward Vickers

Introduction by: Professor Emily Stokes-Rees

The past twenty years have witnessed expansion and growing sophistication in the museums sector on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. This presentation will consider how these changes have affected the portrayal of the societies on either side of the Taiwan Strait, and of the historical relationship between them. It will also discuss possible implications of the shifts in the official narrative on either side for the future of cross-Strait relations. These issues will be explored through an examination of what has and has not changed in official narratives, with particular attention to the following themes: defining "the nation", how "foreign" societies are represented, museum narratives of the national past, and tourism's role in the cross-Strait issue.

Speaker:

Edward Vickers is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Education, University of London. He holds extensive experience in education in Hong Kong and Beijing, and is particularly interested in national identity in Chinese societies (mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan), comparative history of colonial education, and history museums. He has done collaborative work "examining the ways in which museums in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao and Singapore represent the relationship between local and broader 'Chinese' identities." Vickers is also a member of the Executive of London Association of Taiwan Studies and is the Reviews editor for the on-line journal 'Taiwan in Comparative Perspective'. Vickers holds a M.A. and Ph.D. from Oxford University.

Introduction by:

Emily Stokes-Rees teaches courses on museum anthropology and museums, identity and nationhood. Professor Stokes-Rees has professional experience in a variety of museums, from curatorial work at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, to living history interpretation at Fort Henry and Doon Heritage Crossroads (Canada), and collections management at the Museum of Healthcare in Kingston, Ontario. As a postdoctoral fellow working simultaneously for the Haffenreffer Museum, the John Nicholas Brown Center, and the Anthropology Departments, Emily hopes to strengthen ties between the three, inspiring students and faculty with new ways to use the museum's wealth of cultural artifacts for their research and teaching.

STRAIT TALK

Mission

Strait Talk is a non-partisan dialogue program that seeks to transform international conflict by connecting young people from both sides of the Taiwan Strait and the United States and empowering them to strive for peace and understanding.

Our Model

We convene DIALOGUE among outstanding university students from both sides of the Taiwan Strait and the United States.

We work with our alumni as they take ACTION for peace and understanding in their communities.

We sustain a COMMUNITY of young people dedicated to pursuing peaceful resolution of the Taiwan Strait issue as they enter positions of influence in politics and society.

Who We Are

We are young people who believe that direct dialogue can break the impasse in relations across the Taiwan Strait. Working together across communities and oceans, we can build a platform of trust that will help us on the path to lasting peace.

Frustrated by the political deadlock between the governments on both sides of the Taiwan Strait and inspired by the willingness of young people to reach out to each other, a group of undergraduate students at Brown University advocated an alternative approach to resolving the Taiwan Strait issue. They launched the first Strait Talk Symposium in November 2005. Since then, Strait Talk has formed a strong network of delegates, involved numerous experts in the project, and even expanded its work to include U.C. Berkeley and the University of Hong Kong. Staying true to its roots, each Symposium is still student-run and student-focused.

www.straittalk.org



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Presented by the Strait Talk Symposium at Brown University

海峽尋新/海峽尋新

Monday, November 14, 2011

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Smith-Buonanno 106

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