

The Theory behind the Conflict:

Nationalism across the Strait

Speakers: Suisheng Zhao & Mau-Kuei Chang

Moderator: Professor Kerry Smith

Political theory offers approaches to investigate and understand foreign politics and international relations. In this panel, we seek to understand the concept of “nationalism” and how it applies to the Taiwan Strait conflict. What does “nationalism” mean in mainland China and Taiwan? How different are the two sides’ interpretations of this terminology and are these differences inherent or irreconcilable? We will break down the concept of nationalism and explore the historical forces driving the concept of nationalism and the impact that has had on cross-Strait relations, in addition to how the use of the term has changed over time and what the repercussions are for its use today.

Speakers:

Suisheng Zhao is a professor at the University of Denver, Josef Korbel School of International Studies. Zhao also holds the position of Executive Director at the Center for China-US Cooperation, and founded and edits for the Journal of Contemporary China. He has accomplished work as a scholar at several renowned institutions, including the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, Beijing University, and Harvard University. Zhao specializes in contemporary Chinese politics, modern Chinese nationalism, and US-China relations. He received his M.A. degree in economics from Peking University, his M.A. degree in Sociology from the

University of Missouri, and his Ph.D. in political science from the University of California – San Diego.

Mau-Kuei Chang is a research fellow at Academia Sinica, a research institute based in Taipei, Taiwan. He is a sociologist specializing in political sociology, ethnic relations and nationalism and social movements. He received a Bachelor of Law degree from Taiwan University and his M.S. and Ph.D. at Perdue University. His current research interests include social and political movements in Taiwan as well as nationalism and identity politics of Taiwan. A recipient of numerous awards, including a Fulbright visiting scholar position and distinguished achievement award from the National Science Council of Taiwan, Mr. Chang also holds positions including book review editor of China Information, external examiner at the Hong Kong Government Research Council and editor-in-chief of the Taiwan Sociological Review.

Moderator:

Kerry Smith is the chair of the East Asian Studies Department and Associate Professor of History at Brown University. He is the author of *A Time of Crisis: Japan, the Great Depression, and Rural Revitalization* (Harvard University Press), a number of shorter works on the social history of interwar Japan, and a prize-winning article on Japan's first "official" museum of the war years. Professor Smith teaches the introductory survey on Japanese civilization, as well as courses on World War Two in the Pacific, modern Japan's social history, and the West's encounter with Japan. He is also developing a book-length exploration of the social and cultural histories of the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923.

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

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Smith-Buonanno 201

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