



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

# 2024 THE INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE STUDIES PRESENTS:

## "IN THE GLOBAL VANGUARD: TAIWAN AND AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT, 1949-1980S"

**JAMES LIN**

**University of Washington**

In 1959, Taiwan dispatched its first overseas agricultural assistance mission to the Republic of Vietnam. Consisting of highly decorated agricultural scientists and young farmers recruited from rural Taiwan, the Taiwanese development teams established demonstration plots featuring selected high yielding crops and taught Vietnamese rural farmers modern methods of planting and cultivation. In the decades following, Taiwan sent development missions to over three dozen nations and all corners of the Global South. Facing possible expulsion from the international system, Taiwan turned to international development diplomacy, leveraging its success in cultivating a productive agricultural economy at home. Couched in a discourse of scientific modernity, postcolonial solidarity, and economic power, Taiwanese missions during the Cold War articulated a Taiwanese model for the world. What began as diplomatic initiatives coalesced into a sociotechnical imaginary placing Taiwan in the global vanguard of development, shaping Taiwanese identity at home and entrenching the authoritarian hold of Taiwan's Kuomintang regime.

25  
MARCH  
Monday  
3:00-4:30pm  
Denney Hall 238



**Free and open to the public**  
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