



The Institute for Chinese Studies and Department of History present:

Dominic Meng-Hsuan Yang
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"Exodus, Home, and Return: Diasporic Trauma and Memory Politics of the Chinese Civil War Exiles in Taiwan"

The legacy of the Chinese Civil War is very much alive, given the current tension between Taiwan and the PRC. But are the traumatic memories of the people that actually lived through this war still relevant today, and to whom? This talk breaks new ground in three established historiographies: (1) Chinese Civil War/Chinese Communist Revolution, (2) modern Chinese migration, and (3) Cold War Taiwan. More importantly, it offers impactful theoretical interventions in the larger interdisciplinary debates on the unfolding of collective social trauma and the trauma's connection with shared memory production. Based on these discussions, the book suggests a method for reconciliation between emotionally divided memory communities, between those inside Taiwan, and of course, between Taiwan and China. In this talk, Dominic will reflect on the main arguments and theories of trauma and memory proposed by the book. The talk also invites the audience to reflect on people displaced by traumatic military conflicts or political suppression (such as the Hong Kong exodus) in our time.

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3:30-5:00pm

Denney Hall 238

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