

Columbus Collaborative Speaker Series on East Asia:

# Amazing Hands: Teaching Taiwanese Hand Puppet Theater in US Universities



**Professor Sue-mei Wu**

Dept. of Modern Languages  
Carnegie Mellon University

**Monday, October 3, 2016**

**2:00 pm**

**Workforce Development Conference Center, Rm 312**

(Columbus State Community College campus— 315 Cleveland Ave.)

**Abstract:** Hand Puppet Theater 布袋戲 (*Budaixi*, BDX) is one of the most representative folk performance forms in Taiwan. BDX is a traditional performance art in which small puppet figures are manipulated by hand. During its development in Taiwan, BDX has become intertwined with Taiwan local customs and practices, has become a valued aspect of Taiwanese culture, and has impacted Taiwanese pop culture.

This talk will highlight Dr. Wu's ethnographic research to investigate how BDX is adapting to the rapid economic, social, and political change within Taiwan's local context. Dr. Wu will also highlight her BDX class that engages students and helps them appreciate Chinese language, culture, and society while also increasing their language proficiency. She will demonstrate her approaches to content-based instruction, technology-enhanced learning, flipped classroom and the 5Cs standards as applied to her pioneering BDX – Chinese Puppetry in the Social Context course. Students' hands-on BDX theater experiences and creation of a BDX documentary film will also be demonstrated.



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**Free and open to the public**

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