

GOSTUJOČE PREDAVANJE

»Educating a Nation: The Shaping of Taiwanese Identity in Education«



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Abstract: Over the past three decades, Taiwan has experienced a profound shift from China-centrism to a Taiwan-focused consciousness, marked by growing local pride and a distinctive Taiwanese identity. Central to this transformation has been the role of education, which not only produces knowledge but also shapes national narratives and individual identities. Mass education in post-war Taiwan was a powerful tool for state-led identity formation. The extension of compulsory education and the standardization of textbooks allowed the state to instil a China-centric worldview during the Cold War when access to alternative information was limited. However, educational reforms since the 21st century have introduced a completely different pedagogical approach, fostering a deeper sense of belonging rooted in Taiwan. This lecture will explore the evolution of education's role in shaping identity and examine its relationship with the emergence of the 'tianran du' (naturally pro-independent) generation.

Bi-yu Chang is Deputy Director of the Centre of Taiwan Studies and Senior Teaching Fellow at SOAS, University of London. Dr Chang specialises in cultural politics in Taiwan, and the main focus of her research is on identity politics, nation-building, cultural politics, power, and the reproduction of culture through education. Bi-yu is active in research, publication, and teaching. She was twice awarded the prestigious Taiwan Fellowship (2016 & 2019) and was also the recipient of the SOAS Director's Teaching Award in 2019. Bi-yu's monograph *[Place, Identity, and National Imagination in Post-war Taiwan](#)* was published in 2015 by Routledge. She has edited and published in books and journals (both in Chinese and English).

Recent publications include: *[Being and Becoming 21st Century Taiwanese: Generational Gap and Identity Shift](#)* (2024); *[di Limes](#)* (2021); *[Positioning Taiwan in a Global Context: Being and Becoming](#)* (2019); *[Taiwan: From Language to Identity and Ideology](#)* (2018); *[Taiwan's Contemporary Indigenous Peoples](#)*, (2019); *[Connecting Taiwan: Participation – Integration – Impacts](#)* (2018); *[交界與游移：跨文史的文化傳譯與知識生產](#)* (2017).

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