



TAIWAN FOUNDATION
for DEMOCRACY
財團法人臺灣民主基金會

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East Asian NGOs and Habermasian public spheres

Dr Taru Salmenkari 石達如, International Visiting Fellow, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy; Extra-staff teacher of the Institute for Asian and African Studies, University of Helsinki and the Open University of the University of Helsinki

Date: December 20, 2010

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Location: Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (No 4, Alley 17, Lane 147, Xinyi Rd Sec 3, Taipei 106 Taiwan)

Moderator: Dr Chyungly Lee 李瓊莉, Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of International Relations (Second Division), National Chengchi University (NCCU)

Discussant: Dr To-Hai Liou 劉德海, Professor at the Department of Diplomacy, National Chengchi University (NCCU); Director of the Center for WTO Studies, and Director of Center for Australian Studies, College of International Affairs, NCCU

Itinerary:

10:00 – 10:10 Opening remarks by Dr Chyungly Lee

10:10 – 11:00 Presentation by Dr Taru Salmenkari

11:00 – 11:25 Comments by Dr To-Hai Liou

11:25 – 12:00 Open discussion with the audience

Please note that this event will be conducted entirely in English.

German philosopher Jürgen Habermas provides a theoretical model for examining how social experiences can have influence on political power through public opinion. Habermas sees civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as translating everyday social experiences into political arguments in the public sphere. This is a fruitful theoretical framework for examining how NGOs actually seek publicity and political influence in East Asia. For Habermas, the public sphere is ideally maintained through certain rules of communication which many scholars find limiting demands for social transformation. It is thus not surprising that East Asian NGOs do not limit their argumentation in ways Habermas finds desirable. This presentation examines also when East Asian NGOs seek consensus and when



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they are contented with dissensus, as Habermas's model is biased towards consensual solutions.

Bio

Taru Salmenkari is a Finnish researcher with a post-doctoral degree from the University of Helsinki specializing in East Asian civil societies. She has done fieldwork in China, South Korea, Philippines and Taiwan.

RSVP

Please RSVP by Sunday, December 19, 2010

Date: Monday, December 20, 2010
Time: 10:00 – 12:00
Location: Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (No 4, Alley 17, Lane 147, Xinyi Rd Sec 3, Taipei 106 Taiwan)

Mr/Ms/Dr _____ Tel _____

Organization _____ Title _____

- Will attend
- Unable to attend
- Vegetarian
- Non-Vegetarian

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