



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

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The Nature and Strength of the Democratic Opposition: A Comparative Study of South Korea and Taiwan

Ms. Joan Cho, International Visiting Fellow of Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Doctoral Candidate at Harvard University

Date: April 23, 2013

Time: 15:00 – 16:30

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

Moderator: Dr. Eric Chen-hua Yu 俞振華, Assistant Research Fellow of Election Study Center and Assistant Professor of Political Science, National Chengchi University

Discussant: Dr. Hans H. Tung 童涵浦, Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, National Taiwan University

Itinerary:

15:00 – 15:10 Opening remarks by Dr. Eric Chen-hua Yu

15:10 – 15:50 Presentation by Ms. Joan Cho

15:50 – 16:10 Comments by Dr. Hans H. Tung

16:10 – 16:30 Open discussion with the audience

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

Studies on authoritarian durability and resiliency of hegemonic party regimes contend that authoritarian rulers build institutions such as legislature and parties, and use elections to avoid revolutionary threats and stay in power by buying off supporters and co-opting the opposition groups. But the underlying assumption of many of these works is that these authoritarian regimes are strong enough to make concessions or repress opposition groups.

More fundamentally, opposition strength has been taken as a given, and constant throughout the country. A number of students have examined opposition strength (or



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the "threat of revolution") as an explanatory factor and determined its centrality to democratic transitions. Yet the literature lacks a synthesized view of where opposition strength originates from as all as the effects of this varying degrees and nature of opposition strength. This raises the question of why opposition forces are strong in some parts of the country or at particular moments of time within a country. My dissertation seeks to examine how and when the opposition force may prompt democratization from the incumbent authoritarian government through the investigation of the temporal (and spatial) variation of the nature and strength of the opposition in South Korea (Republic of Korea; henceforth, Korea) and Taiwan (Republic of China) under their respective authoritarian regimes.

This paper consists of four parts. First, I explore the origins of strong opposition forces in Korea and Taiwan. In the following section, I provide my working hypotheses and research agenda to examine the impacts of the nature and strength of the opposition on the democratic openings of the authoritarian regime. I subsequently report my progress and findings from my field research in Korea and Taiwan. Lastly, I conclude with some preliminary conclusions and plans for further research.

Bio

Ms. Joan Cho currently is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University, specializing in comparative politics. She is fluent in both Korean and English.

RSVP

Please RSVP by Monday, April 22, 2013

Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2013
Time: 15:00 – 16:30
Location: Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (No 4, Alley
17, Lane 147, Xinyi Rd Sec 3, Taipei 106 Taiwan)

Mr./Ms./Dr. _____

Tel _____

Organization _____

Title _____



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

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