

Taiwan Lectures on Taiwan Studies Series —

“Sick Man of East Asia” in the Collective Memory of Modern China

NCL cooperated with Kyoto University to hold the “Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies” series on September 17, 2021. Prof. Jui-sung Yang was invited to deliver the speech on “‘Sick Man of East Asia’ in the Collective Memory of Modern China”.

Prof. Jui-sung Yang is currently the Distinguished Professor of the History Department, and Director of the Office of Lo Chia-luen International Sinology Chair at National Chengchi University, Taiwan. His research interests focus on historiographical methodology, psychohistory, Chinese nationalism, and trans-lingual/transcultural issues. He has published a number of articles on late imperial and modern Chinese intellectual and cultural history.

This talk aims to explore the historical significance of the term “Sick Man of East Asia” in the construction of modern Chinese national identity. By showing the root of the “imagined” national humiliation and analyzing the dramatic trajectory of how “Sick Man of East Asia” has been manipulated by the modern Chinese nationalist discourse, Prof. Yang reveals the complicated role that the West plays in the construction of modern Chinese identity and the ambivalent feeling of the modern Chinese people toward the Western culture.

The lecture was held online via Webex due to the pandemic while it still attracted many participants across East Asia. NCL and CCS aim to promote Taiwan and Chinese Studies by co-organizing “Taiwan Lectures on Taiwan Studies Series” with our TRCCS partners across the world. We are hoping to hold the lecture physically in the near future.



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