

2017 TAIWAN LECTURE ON CHINESE STUDIES @ UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Taiwan Cinema & the Specter of the Martial Law

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 | 2:00PM - 5:00PM

Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, 8th floor, Robarts Library, 130 St. George Street

Taiwan was under the Martial Law from 1949 to 1987, the second longest in the world right after Syria. The Martial Law not only censored the press, political organizations, and human rights, but cost many people's lives and traumatized society as a whole. Its end in 1987 marked a new beginning, when the idea of the "transitional justice" was put into practice.

In the early 1980s with the rise of the Taiwan New Cinema movement, Taiwan cinema, as an important tool of the transitional justice, started to question the concept of Taiwanese identity and challenge the authority. It also boldly tackled political topics that had been taken as taboos, and was quick to examine the injustice caused by the Martial Law even before it was abolished in 1987.

This talk will explore the role that Taiwan cinema played throughout the process of modernization and democratization in Taiwan during the past half century, with a particular focus on the period between 1987 and 2017.



Dr. Ru-Shou Robert Chen is a professor at the Department of Radio-TV, National Chengchi University, Taiwan. His research interests include Taiwan cinema, film theory, everyday life sociology, and cultural studies. His recent publications include *Cinema Taiwan: Politics, Popularity, and State of the Arts* (edited work), and *Through a Screen Darkly: One Hundred Years of Reflections on Taiwan Cinema* (in Chinese).

Speaker

Prof. Robert Chen

Department of Radio-TV,
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Chair

Prof. Bart Testa

Department of Cinema Studies,
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Registration >> <http://bit.ly/2iACUz>