

Cultivating Identity:

Douli, Pesticides, Politics, and Fate in the Taiwanese Documentary *Let it Be (Wumile)*

從台灣的紀錄片《無米樂》中觀看認同的培植：斗笠、農藥、政治與命運



A *douli* bamboo-hat and the water buffalo remain ubiquitous symbols for rural Taiwan found, among other places, in department store food-courts throughout the island, but the 2005 documentary *Let it Be (Wumile)* brought the farmers wearing *douli* and driving water buffalos into mainstream consciousness. By examining the catalogue of signs symbolic of a timeless, folkloric Taiwan, as well as agricultural chemicals, invasive species, and both domestic and global agrarian politics arrayed in Yan Lanquan and Zhuang Yiceng's film. Prof. Bert Scruggs seeks to describe the discourse of indigenization and how it relates to the value of audience-attention, in order to underscore how the film at once cultivates an imagined nostalgia and reveals the indexical nature of documentary film.

When: November 6, 2009 from 3-6 p.m.

Where: Multicultural Center, UCSB

Speaker: Professor Bert Scruggs

Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of California, Irvine

Professor Scruggs, Ph.D. in Chinese Studies, University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature, Chinese Fiction and Film, Translation, and Postcoloniality in Taiwan, Subjectivity, Fictional Identities, and Indigenization.

This event is composed of a 30 minute introduction, 2 hour film screening, and 30 minutes of discussion.

Co-sponsors:

The Center for Taiwan Studies

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, and

The East Asia Center, UCSB



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA
EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES & CULTURAL STUDIES