2010 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TAIWAN STUDIES AT UCSB

June 4-5, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Humanities and Social Sciences Building
McCune Conference Room, 6th Floor, UCSB

Taiwan under Japanese Rule: Cultural Translation and Colonial Modernity

The importance of studies of Taiwan during the Japanese period (1895-1945) lies in the fact that, under the Rising Sun as a colony of Japan for fifty years, the island followed the steps of Japan in modernization, in effect, moving from an undeveloped land at the end of the 19th century toward a modern civilization of the 20th century. Moreover, Taiwan’s geographic location is such that it served as a point in time and space where the forces of China, Japan, and the West converged allowing the modernization process to lead to a unique cultural syncretism. Simply stated, colonial Taiwan was the site where multiple cultures merged, intertwined, and fused. It goes without saying that the fifty years of Japanese colonial rule was a unique period in the history of Taiwan and East Asia. During Japanese rule the interplay of various ideologies such as imperialism, colonialism, nationalism, and nativism, all of which accompanied or stemmed from modernization, led to conflicts, compromises, and cultural adaptation. It is precisely because of these contentions and negotiations that the particular character of Taiwan’s modernity appears to be such a rich and gratifying object of reference for the study of modern Chinese history, as well as studies of postcolonial East Asia and Southeast Asia from a comparative perspective.

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Organized by: The Center for Taiwan Studies
Co-organizers: Kuo-ch’ing Tu (UC Santa Barbara) and Bert Scruggs (UC Irvine)
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