

# **Motions and the Motionless: (Dis/Re-)Connecting Taiwan to the World**

**June 12-13, 2015  
Harvard University**

**Hosted by  
North American Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA)**

## **Important Dates at a Glance**

- 1) December 31, 2014: Abstract/Proposal Submission Due
- 2) February 19, 2015: Notification of Acceptances
- 3) April 10, 2015: Deadline for Early Bird Registration
- 4) May 10, 2015: Submission Deadline for Full Conference Papers
- 5) May 10, 2015: Registration Deadline and No Refunds after this Date
- 6) June 11, 2015: Welcome Reception
- 7) June 12-13, 2015: 21st Anniversary Conference at Harvard University!
- 8) June 14, 2015: Post-Conference Professional Development Workshop  
(Details about this workshop will be announced soon)

## **2015 Conference Theme: Motions**

The NATSA 2015 conference, titled “**Motions and the Motionless: (Dis/Re-)Connecting Taiwan to the World,**” endeavours to advance global Taiwan studies by setting Taiwan in motion, both in theory and in practice. To capture something of the dynamics and energies infused in Taiwanese society, this conference draws on an expansive concept of *motion* through which we hope to attract papers that explore and exploit the term’s potentials and complexities. Over the past few years, those concerned with Taiwan have witnessed it in the midst of a series of fervent social upheavals of various kinds. These are both themselves social movements as well as responses and reactions to a set of other larger streams of economic, political, social, and cultural motions. As a set of islands historically populated by waves of immigrants and impositions of power, however, Taiwan has long been caught up in and composed of motion. The rich connotations of the main theme of “motions” will serve as a catalyst propelling us to place Taiwan in dialogue with the diverse geographical connections and historical contexts around the island and across the globe.

This conference invites scholarly works informed by the notion of motion--movement, flows, circulation, acceleration, stoppage, repetition, mobility, among others. Participants are encouraged to respond to current theoretical and methodological debates in their own humanities and social science disciplines that situate Taiwan within various trajectories and networks of motion and movement. Such papers might seek to understand motion located, embedded, or moving through a variety of different particular locales, at a variety of different scales, and from the perspective of a variety of different social and cultural arenas. Moreover, inquiries into “motions” suggest a methodological push to understand the links *between* the different locales (including those beyond Taiwan), scales, and cultural arenas where social change and interactions take place. For instance, how have demographic changes in Taiwan, as manifested in new dating, mate-making, and reproduction patterns, relate to Taiwan’s changing socioeconomic status? How do transnational flows of migration, trade, and cross-border investment affect the circulation of energy and material objects in and out of Taiwan? How do policies transfer and circulate among governments and countries, connecting Taiwan to different epistemological flows and techniques of governing? To what extent can various Taiwanese stakeholders influence political, social and economic discourses both domestically and internationally? How might Taiwan’s ties with the Pacific and South East Asia reconfigure our understanding of the island’s cultural identity and natural habitat? What different sorts of motions might emerge from a focus on Taiwan and Taiwanese societies concerning water rather than land?

Motion also entails the movement of visual images, the transformation of rhetorical figures, and the rhythmic succession of sounds, all of which require not only human creativity but specific channels of circulation, production, and consumption based on material infrastructures. What distinctive narrative tropes might be created within an East Asian sphere of transculturation by and through Taiwan? What global routes and roots Taiwan cinema might have taken from the imperial projection of Japan, the strategic collaboration of Southeast Asia and Hong Kong, the New Wave aesthetics of Europe, to the contemporary and beyond? What kind of challenges can cinema and popular music in Taiwan post to a putative, if not hegemonic, notion of “mandarin” market and “overseas” audience? We are interested in how Taiwan serves both as a contested nodal point and an active agent facilitating the flows across diverse textual, visual, and acoustic media. Tracing motions each with their own directions, routes, and velocities, we hope to shed a light on different ways of understanding contemporary and historical Taiwan that yield fascinating connections from within a variety of intellectual registers.

The antonym of motion, the motionless, is not only imbued with restrictive connotations such as slowness, stagnation, disconnection and immobility, but can also be associated with concepts of tradition, heritage, steady continuity, and persistence. Can these too have trajectories, routes, and the ability to connect different locales and scales both within Taiwan and between it and other parts of the world? Rather than being construed as a binary opposition, the dynamics between motion and the motionless can be the key to potential strategies that sustain or disturb capital circulation--both among privileged and marginalized social groups. On the other hand, in discussing ways in which Taiwan both

desires and resists motions, we also welcome papers that delve into a deeper structure of feelings from which emotions, memories, and sentiments emerge against the collective anxiety about stoppage and entrapment in a new global order.

This conference will serve as a platform to explore all the complex and interwoven dimensions embedded in the concept of motions and the motionless. We expect our participants to compare widely and diversely beyond the territorial boundaries defined by a putative focus on Taiwan *per se*. Topics dealing with Taiwan in relation to, or in comparison with, other societies are especially welcomed. We call for papers from across disciplinary boundaries in the humanities and social sciences. By holding the conference in Boston, a historically famed harbour of North America, we expect this annual meeting at Harvard University to serve as an intellectual hub, through which an exchange of ideas can be accelerated, scholarly and social interventions can be re-imagined, and broader understandings of Taiwan can, once again, be set in motion.

### **Abstract Proposal Submission Rules**

**\*Individual abstracts, panel proposals, and poster presentation applications**

**MUST be submitted at** <http://www.na-tsa.org/new/2015/main-theme>.

**\*DEADLINE: December 31, 2014**

NATSA aims to promote Taiwan studies in North America and in English publications. All abstracts and papers must be written and presented in **ENGLISH ONLY**.

#### **A) Individual Abstract Submission**

Each submission **MUST** include (a) an abstract and (b) personal bios (please see below for more details). We encourage your abstract to include elements expected within your own discipline that are jargon-free. Your abstract should be informative to both scholars working within the specialized areas of your work, and as much as possible, to a wider readership.

Following the guidelines below will aid our **reviewers** in more precisely evaluating whether your abstract, as representative of your proposed conference paper, will be accepted. A well-structured abstract will facilitate their reviewing and improve your chances of being accepted.

Submissions missing any section(s) will not be considered by the organizing committee.

## SECTION A: Abstract (up to 300 words) with your paper title

Please note that the scope should be that of a journal-length paper **NOT** that of a book-length project or an entire dissertation. The abstract should address the following points:

- 1) Main argument(s) in relation to the concept of motions;
- 2) Summary of paper objectives and theoretical framework;
- 3) Explicitly address the methodologies and/or sources upon which this paper's arguments will be;
- 4) Describe the paper's intellectual contribution to your academic discipline(s) and, if possible, broader social and political impacts;
- 5) Below the abstract, please list 3 to 5 keywords for your paper and 2 to 3 disciplines to which your paper is most closely related (this will be used to help us select reviewers for your abstract).

## SECTION B: Presenter's Bio

Please describe your professional/social experience in a way that tells us something about yourself, your interest in Taiwan studies, and your engagement in the research for this presentation (about 100 words). This section will not be sent to abstract reviewers (as it is a blind review process), but instead will be used by the organizing committee to design the program should your presentation be accepted.

### **B) Panel Proposal**

We encourage panel organizers to include at least **one relatively junior scholar** (either graduate student or recent graduate) in their panels. All submissions must include the following:

- 1) A panel title and individual paper titles to be included in the panel;
- 2) A 600-word statement of purpose for the entire panel identifying the central issue(s)/theme(s), the relevance of each paper to the theme/issue, and to what extent this panel is relevant to the concept of motions and Taiwan Studies ;
- 3) 3 to 5 keywords for your panel and 2 to 3 disciplines to which your panel is most closely related (this will be used to help us select reviewers for your panel);

4) A full list of participants, including title, institutional affiliation, and contact information. Please specify which presenter will be the panel organizer. We recommend that the **optimal number of paper presenters in a panel should be 3-4.**

Should you desire, we will assign at least one discussant to each panel after it is accepted.

### **C) Poster Presentation and Competition**

We also encourage undergraduate and graduate students, who have not yet begun their main research, to submit proposals for our poster session. While poster session participants will generally be ineligible for NATSA's travel grants, we will present a **\$300** award to the best student poster at the conference's closing session. The judges of this competition will be comprised of a few of our invited scholars.

Each submission must include an abstract. Please follow the guidelines below in composing your abstract. The title of your poster does not count towards the 150 word limit. The abstract should address the following points:

- 1) Poster title;
- 2) Summary of poster objectives and key research question(s);
- 3) Your engagement in the research
- 4) Explicitly address the methodologies, sampling methods (if possible), and/or sources upon which your arguments will be;
- 5) Describe the poster's intellectual contribution to your academic discipline(s) and, if possible, its potential broader social and political impacts;
- 6) Below the abstract, please list 3 to 5 keywords for your poster and 2 to 3 disciplines to which your presentation is most closely related (this will be used to help us arrange posters if selected).

### **Travel Grant Policy (ineligible for poster presenters)**

Limited funds will be available to reimburse the travel/accommodation expenses of graduate students. **More details will be announced soon.**

## **Conference Updates and NEW Panel Maker Webpage**

Please check our website and Facebook fan-page frequently for updated information.

Website: <http://www.na-tsa.org/new/2015/main-theme>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-America-Taiwan-Studies-Association-NATSA/128166173923634?fref=ts>

Go and start using our New Panel Maker Webpage to find your potential panelists:

<http://www.na-tsa.org/new/2015/panel-maker.html>