Taiwan is slated to hold its presidential and legislative elections next January. Recent events including the Sunflower Movement, the Taiwan local elections of 2014, and the Kuomintang presidential candidate change, indicate changes in its political landscape. A third-party force rooted in Taiwan’s civic movements has taken shape. This talk will help you understand Taiwan, as well as its implications and impacts on Hong Kong, as it enters the election mode.

Speaker:
Mr. Benson Wong Wai Kwok
黃偉國先生
(Assistant Professor, Department of Government & International Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University)
香港浸會大學政治及國際關係學系助理教授

Re-imagine Taiwan through the Election Battle
選戰前夕，重新想像台灣
Understanding Taiwan Politics through the 2016 Elections

Wai-Kwok Benson Wong
Department of Government & International Studies
Hong Kong Baptist University
Misunderstanding (from the “local” mainstream media)......

1. Taiwan politics: Cross-strait relationships
2. Two-party politics: Kuomintang VS DPP
3. Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) = Taiwan’s independence
4. Ethnic division: the mainlanders VS the locals
5. “Violence” in the Legislative Yuan: fighting of counselors
China factor (Wu Jieh-min)

• China has been using a “cross-strait political-commercial alliance”

• comprised of financial groups and pro-Beijing organizations to interfere in Taiwan’s elections, and in doing so, influencing policymaking, public discourse and political order.
  • E.g., Want Want Holdings Limited: China Times, CTI Television Inc., China TV
我要在台湾基层培养红色选民

张安乐在一家酒店接受本社采访，林德发

张安乐说：他成立中华统一促进党是希望在台湾基层培养红色选民，他认为这样可以让更多的人了解他的理念。他还提到，他已经和一些重要的政治人物进行了接触，并且得到了他们的支持。他希望在未来能够通过选举参与更多的政治决策。
Political landscape of Taiwan

November 2014
Electoral Landscape

Mayoral and local elections
Independent ← ------------------ → Unification
推出同志參選人唯一政黨
宣布整合

社會民主黨
Social Democratic Party

綠黨
Green Party

時代力量
New Power Party

社會民主黨
Social Democratic Party

綠黨
Green Party

社會民主黨
Social Democratic Party

綠黨
Green Party

社會民主黨
Social Democratic Party

推出同志參選人唯一政黨
宣布整合

社會民主黨
Social Democratic Party

綠黨
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社會民主黨
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社會民主黨
Social Democratic Party

綠黨
Green Party
DPP: its status?

• Party Constitution
  1. **Independent** Taiwan’s sovereignty
  2. **NOT a part** of the People’s Republic of China and Mainland China
  3. Far from the reality: KMT’s assertion’s of “the only legitimate government in China”
  4. **Changing the status quo**: must be decided by the people of Taiwan by referendum
  5. ‘One-China principle’ and ‘1 country 2 systems’ are **inapplicable**
  6. should engage in the international family: resumes **international relations**
  7. **Dialogue with China** in a full swing: mutual understanding and commercial cooperation, setting up a peaceful framework to maintain peace & stability
Sunflower Movement (2014)
不要虚假的GDP
只要真实的幸福指数

要和平
就不要服贸
要黑箱
就不要和平

我係香港人
我反服贸
I am Hongkongese and support Taiwan

今天香港，明日台湾

我不要中国百货，我不要中国移动
我不要中国银行，我不要中国房产
我不要台湾变香港

TW is NOT HK
NEVER EVER
Democracy at 4 am

Morning without YOU is a dwindled dawn.
Ethnic Taiwanese & Taiwan identity

1. 2 ethnic groups
   • Native Taiwanese: Minnan and Hokka
   • Chinese Mainlanders

2. Identity crisis & reconstruction
   • Unification is hopeless under the KMT
   • Diplomatic isolation since the 1970s: Asian orphan (since 1894 due to the First Sino-Japanese War)
   • “China” being a discourse is so confusing
     • Chiang Kai-shek’s authoritarian rule, as well as KMT as an alien party coming from the Mainland China
     • Mainland China: PRC, which separates geographically from Taiwan with political, institutional, economic and cultural differences
     • The Republic of China (ROC)’s government VS People’s Republic of China =/= KMT VS CCP =/= Central government VS local government/province
   • Localization: the second and coming generations of the ethnic Chinese in Taiwan
   • Democratization: Taiwan’s independence, separation from China are no longer taboos
   • Rise of new Taiwanese identity: Differences & disconnection between Taiwan & China: two sovereign states, two governments with equal footing
Identity as the political manipulation –
Identity = localization = Independence = Instability?
Changes in the Taiwanese/Chinese Identity of Taiwanese as Tracked in Surveys by the Election Study Center, NCCU (1992～2015.06)
Violence as a discourse / performance?

• Negative
  • Disorder and chaos
  • Disregarding the due process
  • Discrediting democracy: sign of instability
  • Undermining International image

• Reflective
  • Do we examine the source of violence: unaccountable and unresponsive process in deliberation?
  • As an assertive way to stop the passing of the unpopular bills?
  • While the conservatives hate, those politically and socially discontented find violence to be impactful in questioning and changing the unpopular policy
  • Violence is limited and focused without negatively affecting democracy: perform violence in front of the camera!
  • In what position when you are talking about X is violent?
Conclusion:

1. China factor > cross-strait relationship = political and economic dependence ➔ integration ➔ Hongkongized Taiwan

2. Two-party politics is overgeneralized
   - The third force
   - Youth politics

3. Political status:
   - De facto state: own territory, own government, sovereignty, …
   - “China”: maintain the legitimacy (KMT)?
   - Independence is as a means to resist the China factor?

4. Ethnic division & 5. violence in the Legislative Yuan:
   - Historical context + Political reconstruction and reproduction by media and politicians
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