



COMPARATIVE TERROR IN CHINA AND TAIWAN

Performances and Realities in Regime Consolidation: The Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries
and the White Terror in Su'nan and Taiwan, 1950-1954

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In the early 1950s the young PRC and the recently relocated ROC (Taiwan) were deeply concerned about questions of internal (and external) security, and launched massive campaigns against real and imagined subversion through the Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries (PRC) and the “White Terror”. The presentation will outline two crucial factors in the consolidation of otherwise unproven and/or outright illegitimate new regimes of the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan):

1) How leaders themselves drew on particular repertoires as the “frames” that established the boundaries of the desirable and achievable in terms of preference formation and 2) how leaders utilized particular kinds of performances to communicate new norms, vocabularies, and practices to the population at large.

Monday, May 13, 2013 • 6 pm

KWZ, Heinrich-Düker-Weg 14, Room 0.606

