

DAS INSTITUT FÜR OSTASIENWISSENSCHAFTEN/ SINOLOGIE

The Department of East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies is pleased to invite to the lecture of



Dr. Liya YU

National Taiwan University
Political Science Department

維也納大學漢學系

How can we be fully human inside someone else's brain? Anti-Asian racism from a neuropolitical perspective

What are the neurocognitive mechanisms of racism, dehumanization and polarization? Why should we understand what is happening in the brain of a racist? I argue that current Left and liberal persuasive strategies of anti-racism might fail to reach those who dehumanize us the most, in part because they are not based on an accurate understanding of how and why our social brains dehumanize, as well as how our brains can actually learn to re-humanize and include others. The talk examines cognitive dehumanization blindspots in leading thinkers within the political philosophy tradition, from Kant, Marx and Rawls to Kymlicka and other multiculturalism theorists. I outline a new neuropolitical language and rhetoric to address our polarized societies, with a special focus on anti-Asian racism that Asian diaspora communities face in Europe and beyond – trying to describe a novel vision for humanization from the brain cell up. The talk offers both a theoretical neuropolitical model of dehumanization, as well as concrete strategies for re-humanization for educators, activists and people in the Asian community.

Liya Yu is a German-Chinese political philosopher, novelist and performance artist. She is the author of *Vulnerable Minds: The Neuropolitics of Divided Societies* (ColumbiaUP, 2022) and co-editor of the *Routledge Handbook on Neuropolitics* (2024). She was trained as a political scientist at University of Cambridge (B.A.) and Columbia University (M.Phil, Ph.D.). During the Covid pandemic, Dr. Yu became a leading voice in the German-Asian diaspora community, frequently speaking out against discrimination and racism in public and the media. From 2021-2022 she was an artist-in-residence at Taipei's Treasure Hill Artist Village. She is currently a visiting scholar at National Taiwan University's Political Science Department.

Registration required under: <https://forms.gle/bwixtyFMH6Qnu6ma6> or



SCAN ME

DATE: Tuesday, January 10, 2023

TIME: 18:30 – 20:00

LOCATION: OAW, at the Department for East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies,
Altes AKH, Campus, Spitalgasse 2, Yard 2, Entrance 2.3

