

DAS INSTITUT FÜR OSTASIENWISSENSCHAFTEN/ SINOLOGIE

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



Dr. Ellen Van Goethem

Asian Studies, Kyushu University Japan

維也納大學漢學系

Chinese Fengshui and Japanese Shinto Shrines? Trajectories, Transformations and Transmutations of Architectural Ideas

This lecture is co-hosted by Dr. Liza Wing Man KAM

Focusing on the modern era, this workshop will address the transmission and transformation of architectural and spatial design ideas related to Chinese fengshui and their application in Japanese architecture, both domestic and colonial. We will explore how various fengshui elements, broadly—and fluidly—defined, were incorporated in the colonial architecture of Taiwan. Commissioned and realized by Japanese colonial architects, our discussion will center on the example of Taiwan Jingu (Taiwan's highest-ranked Shinto shrine) and Grand Hotel Taiwan (which now occupies the same site). Bearing in mind the design ideas that they were based on, we will also look into the afterlives of the buildings and investigate their transmutations and transformations after they have stopped serving their initial purpose or after significant social and/or political ruptures. We will discuss, in methodological terms, topics such as how to critically process historical narratives, deal with concepts such as 'Chineseness' and 'Japaneseness,' as well as hybridity and nativization.

Ellen Van Goethem is an Associate Professor at Kyushu University. Her research focuses on Japan's Asuka, Nara, and early Heian periods ("the long 8th century"), particularly on the absorption and adaptation of ancient Chinese models of government and architecture, as well as their expression in the layout of ancient capital cities and the religious and philosophical thought underpinning the construction of these cities. More recently, her research has centered on site divination (i.e. fengshui) in East Asia and on the presence of Chinese cosmological symbolism and practices in Shinto shrines. She is currently also embarking on research involving overseas Shinto shrines, particularly those in Taiwan.

DATE: Thursday, November 16, 2023

TIME: 17:00 - 18:30

LOCATION: SIN 1, at the Department for East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies, Altes AKH, Campus, Spitalgasse 2, Yard 2, Entrance 2.3

