Globalization and Its Discontents
through Taiwanese Female Documentarists' Lenses

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Thursday, May 23, 2013
4:00 pm
Humanities Gateway 1010

In an age of globalization characterized by uneven development and flexible accumulation, documentary filmmakers all over the world have found significant issues to investigate, ponder, and critique. Documentary filmmaking in Taiwan is no exception to the current phenomenon, having confronted issues ranging from industries and markets to the human and environmental costs of development. In this regard, female documentarists’ contribution deserves a special examination—how have they met the dual challenges of feminism and documentary practice in the global era? In this talk, Professor Sang observes that female documentarists based in Taiwan are most effective in exploring globalization and its discontents when they employ a combination of approaches ranging from the intimate observation of individual lives to the panoramic analysis of systemic issues. Moreover, compared with their mainland Chinese counterparts, Taiwanese female documentarists have more explicitly linked local issues to transnational processes rather than accepting a predominantly national frame of reference.

Professor Sang’s major publications include The Emerging Lesbian: Female Same-Sex Desire in Modern China (Chicago, 2003) and Documenting Taiwan on Film: Issues and Methods in New Documentaries (Routledge, 2012, co-edited).

This is the fourth of the Speaker Series on gender funded by the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and the Humanities Collective. For additional information, please contact the Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures at (949) 824-2227.