

## Department of Sociology Seminar

### Dress and Strategic Bodily Practice: Women's Socio-Political Negotiation in Postwar Taiwan

03 December 2013 (Tuesday) 16:00~17:30 Room P339

Language in English

In this talk I discuss how women have been governed by society, and how they have negotiated to regain control in their own way, by investigating the interrelation between women, body, dress and social structures. Throughout history, bodies have been disciplined by certain social norms, emphasizing social difference and thus benefitting particular groups. Never on the favorable end of this equation, women's bodies have traditionally been the site where such discipline is practiced. Dress is thus a common tool for enforcing social order. I apply the theory of strategic bodily practice to account for the complexities that social forces place on body and dress, and ongoing dialectic process of regulation and negotiation. A case study of women's dress in Taiwan in various periods in the post-war era is used to illustrate this process. I will also demonstrate how particular forms of dress were used to create a dominating ideology during different periods in the history in the contexts of political and the economic development in Taiwan.

**Lin Shih Ying** is a doctoral candidate in Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Her research interests lie in the field of gender, fashion, dress and body. She has taught Gender Gender, Image and Globalization and Consumer Culture and Fashion Design in Kaohsiung Medical University and Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan. She is also a practitioner in the fashion and creative industry.

