John Lie

C.K. Cho Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

"Misrecognition, Disrecognition, Recognition: The Case of Zainichi (Koreans in Japan)"

Wednesday, November 10, 5:00-6:30 pm. Literature Building Room 155 (deCerteau)



Lie's talk will trace the trajectory of Zainichi identity in post-World War II Japanese society. From Japanese imperial subjects, ethnic Koreans who remained in the Japanese archipelago after 1945 became postcolonial exiles, who in turn were torn between conflicting loyalties to the two Koreas. Unable either to return to their putative homeland or to embrace Japan as the new homeland, ethnic Koreans faced a society that systematically disrecognized them. From the dark decades of the 1950s and 1960s emerged the beginnings of a new social identity qua Zainichi, a form of diasporic nationalism.

John Lie was born in South Korea, grew up in Japan and in Hawaii, and is currently the C.K. Cho Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of several monographs on Korea, Japan and Korean diaspora in the United States and Japan: Blue Dreams: Korean Americans and the Los Angeles Riots (co-authored, Harvard University Press, 1995), Han Unbound: The Political Economy of South Korea (Stanford University Press, 1998), Multiethnic Japan (Harvard University Press, 2001) and most recently, Zainichi (Koreans in Japan): Diasporic Nationalism and Postcolonial Identity (Global, Area, and International Archive, University of California Press, 2008). He has also published on social theory, Modern Peoplehood (Harvard University Press, 2004) as well as an introductory textbook, Sociology: Your Compass for a New Century (co-authored, Wadsworth, 2003). He is currently working on a more systematic work of social theory, tentatively entitled, The Consolation of Social Theory.

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