



Session Summary: 15 october 2018

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In 2018/2019, the “Taiwan and its memory spaces” seminar aims to address the theme of “Reading the Past.” We will continue to explore the concept of “national narrative,” focussing specifically on the “national novel” by studying the work of three historians: Pierre Nora, Suzanne Citron and Benoît Falaise. We will do this, with a comparative approach, in order to offer ways of analyzing Taiwan’s specific experience.

In particular, we will examine the production of dissident or fringe readings of history by trying to understand how the “orthodox” or “official” narrative of the nation’s journey can be challenged by plural narratives which answer concerns specific to certain intellectual, political, ethnic or religious communities that claim specific norms and values, or tend to see themselves as singular entities within the national group. Therefore, we will try to identify the narrative tipping point: the moment when archetypes transform, when representations evolve, and when counter-speech is elaborated. Then, we will consider the different readings of the past which exist currently in Taiwan by observing several memory spaces, whether these are material and physical places, such as, for example, the Cihu Mausoleum and the Revolutionary Martyrs’ Shrine, or moments of history, such as the 228 Incident.