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Biopolitics and Governance of Life in East-Asia: Power, Polices, Crime and the 'Mad Man'

Biopolitics and the governance of life are the important ideas conceptualized by Michel Foucault. As we know in usual, the historical and contemporary objects of Foucault's works are directed to the West. In spite of these 'limits', the abundant social contexts and historical events are deeply relevant to these two concepts in the contemporary East-Asia.

In this panel, we have three papers to be represented. In Liu's paper, he will invite us to rethink the idea of power. In the past twenty years, affected by colonialism, post-colonialism, feminism, queer theories etc., invisible power seems already to be received and critiqued by most intellectuals and even regard it as common and universal. But in fact, such invisible power has transformed its context and influence into insightful power. In Chen's paper, she want to conceptualize the idea of 'crime industry' to point out the complex of modernity and enterprises. Both of these two papers focus on the subtle bio-politics especially applied in law, polices and other related. It's political and it's moral, too. The third one – Hsiao's paper – brings us back to 1937-1949 in China. By means of surveying the cultural history of madness, Hsiao wants to point out that the Sino-Japanese war and the civil war constituted an exceptional situation for the general way looking and treat the 'mad man'.