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Positioning Taiwanese Popular Culture in the Inter-Asia Crossroads of Nationalism, Postcoloniality and Globalization

This panel will examine Taiwanese popular culture in an inter-Asia and global context, with an intention to raise questions of geo-politics mainly in relation to Taiwan, Japan and Korea. Based on several case studies in this panel, they mainly focus on exploring different dimensions of the ways in which Taiwan involves with Japan and Korea. In this panel, Taiwan is articulated with sport nationalism, the global hierarchy of baseball capitalism, its structure of political economy in local TV drama industry in imitating and appropriating Japanese and Korean cultural symbols, and historical sentiments such as postcolonial nostalgia flowing between Taiwan and Japan. In the realm of popular cultural exchanges among Taiwan, Japan and Korea, Taiwan is often marginalized in terms of its rather small scale of audio-visual industry economics and suppressed political status in an international public space. By locating Taiwan in the historical and the political-economical settings of its transnational cultural transactions with Japan, Korea and a broader global context including the China and the west, this panel wishes to open up the new perspectives for mutual understandings and enhance more dialogues among Taiwan, Japan and Korea.