

The University of Hong Kong

香 港 大 學



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

## Threat Perception During Power Transition: The 'History Problem', Aggressive Intentions, and China's Threat Perception of Japan

The content analysis of the People's Daily reveals an increasing trend in China's threat perception of Japan since the mid 1980s. This is extremely puzzling from the dominant theory of threat perception that relies on power asymmetry and geographical proximity, because China has taken over Japan in aggregate military and economic terms in the same period. Dr. RYU argues that the assessment of the other's intentions is a key aspect of threat perception, and argues that due to the salience of the so-called 'history problem' (*lishi wenti*), China has come to reassess Japan's aggressive intentions, as the issue invokes memories of Japan's past aggression and atrocities in Chinese minds. The speaker will present the analysis of the People's Daily since 1972 to support his argument.

**Dr. Yongwook RYU**

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Dr. Yongwook RYU is Research Fellow (aka: Assistant Professor) in the Department of International Relations, Australian National University. He specializes in East Asian international relations, foreign policies of China, Korea and Japan, ASEAN, identity politics, and international organisation. He has published in *Asian Survey*, *The Pacific Review*, and *Korean Journal of Defense Analysis* among others. In addition to his book project on Identity and Security, he currently has two article-length projects on the effect of national identity on audience costs and the effect of the history problem on the domestic audience. He holds BA with first class honors from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and AM and PhD from the Department of Government, Harvard University, where he was a Frank Knox Memorial Fellow.

**Date: July 2, 2013 (Tuesday)**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Venue: Room 9.66, The Jockey Club Tower**

*(Tea & coffee will be served at 5:45 pm)*

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