

Faculty Information

CHEN Ching-Chang

Division:

International Relations (IR)

Research Areas:

area studies (East Asia); comparative politics; conflict resolution; international relations theory; security studies (critical); sociology of knowledge

Research Methods:

qualitative; discourse analysis; contrapuntal reading; case study; interviewing; field research; (self-)ethnography

Seminar Topics and Keywords:

critical/decolonial/postcolonial/post-Westphalian international relations; East Asian philosophy (inter alia, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism); ecological security; medicine and politics; narrative; ontological security; pluriverse; relationality

Seminar Teaching Methods:

reading-based focused discussions; 'learning by doing'; possibilities of doing field work and/or co-writing with the instructor; workshops and retreats with graduate students and established researchers from other universities

Possible Research Topics for Students:

doing/reimagining international relations otherwise; learning, unlearning, and relearning Westphalian international politics; climate change and/or energy security in Anthropocene; political healing in East Asia and beyond

Comments:

I often engage in theoretically informed empirical research, and I welcome like-minded graduate students to study topics that interest them. Having said that, I am also willing to consider research proposals that are theory-oriented or policy-driven. What matters most, I think, is whether the proposed project can succeed in crafting a research puzzle to justify why the research is worthwhile in the first place. Moreover, world politics is not reducible to inter-state relations; rather, it's very much about how 'we' (should) relate with other human beings and the rest of nature. My advisees (and I) will unlearn Westphalian IR theories and concepts that have been part of many ongoing crises of the modern world.