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## Guest lectures by Dr. Niki Alsford

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**Dr. Niki Alsford** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Oriental Institute in Prague and Research Associate at the Centre of Taiwan Studies at SOAS, the University in London. Prior to moving to the Czech Republic Niki Alsford was a Senior Teaching Fellow in the Department of History. His most recent publications include: *Chronicling Formosa: Setting the Foundation for the Presbyterian Mission, 1865-1876* (2015) and *A Barbarian's House by the River Tamsui: One House and the History of its Many Occupants*, which was published with the *Journal of Family History* (2015).

### Title: Cold War World

10:00, 16 December 2015, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Room 19

The exact period of the Cold War is a contentious issue. The most common agreed upon period extends from 1947 to 1991. It was characterised by a state of political and military tension between two blocs: the Western (The US, NATO and its allies) and the Eastern (Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact allies). Much has been discussed about the ideological factors surrounding the conflict but in an East Asian context this is much more complex. Was Korea and Vietnam proxies or continuations of other conflicts? Where and how does the Chinese Civil War fit into all of this? Are the experiences of people in East Asia the same as their European and American counterparts? Viewing Cold War East Asia from the vantage point of Taiwan as a frontier island enables a more nuanced perspective of the Cold War as a war of power as opposed to ideology.

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### Title: Chinese Settlers and European Encounters with Formosan Aborigines

16:20, Thursday 17 December 2015, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Room 34

In the Asia Pacific regional context, the understanding of imperial expansion has tended to focus on European and later American expansion into the region. Little, if any, has focused on Chinese imperial expansion into the Pacific. The main purpose of this lecture is to explore Chinese pioneer settlement, and with their European counterparts, their interactions with the Formosan (Taiwan) aboriginal peoples. Since the colonisation of Taiwan took on various forms each had its own representation of aborigines.

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