



TAIWAN FOUNDATION  
for DEMOCRACY  
財團法人臺灣民主基金會

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## 2019 年臺灣民主基金會 國際訪問學人 Dr. Isabelle Cheng 研究成果發表會

**Title:** 'We're All behind Her!': the Political Participation of Immigrant Leaders in the Electoral Politics of Taiwan

**Speaker:** **Dr. Isabelle Cheng**  
International Fellow, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy  
Senior Lecturer in East Asian and International Development Studies, School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature, University of Portsmouth

**Date** : Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Time** : 12:10-13:40pm

**Venue** : Conference Room 1, 13F, General Building (綜院南棟 13 樓第一會議室),  
College of Social Sciences, National Cheng Chi University

**Address** : No.64, Sec 2, Zhinan Rd, Wenshan District, Taipei City (臺北市文山區指南路二段 64 號)

**Moderator:** Professor Wang, Shinn-Shyr(王信實教授), Director, International Master's Program of Applied Economics and Social Development, National Chengchi University

**Discussant:** Professor Liu, Meichun(劉梅君教授), Professor, Graduate Institute of Labor Research, National Chengchi University

**Organizers:** Taiwan Foundation for Democracy(臺灣民主基金會)  
College of Social Sciences, National Cheng Chi University(國立政治大學社會科學學院)  
National Chengchi University "Prospering Ankang, Benefiting Wenshan"  
Project(國立政治大學「興隆安康·共好文山」社區共善計畫)



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### Agenda:

12:10 – 12:20 Opening remarks by Professor Wang, Shinn-Shyr

12:20 – 13:00 Presentation by Dr. Isabelle Cheng

13:00 – 13:20 Comments by Professor Liu, Meichun

13:20 – 13:40 Open discussion

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## Abstract

With the steady growth of naturalisation amongst foreign nationals in Taiwan, migrant spouses have become an identifiable constituency in the electoral politics of Taiwan. This project aims to explore the interaction between foreign-born citizens and political parties via the interface of immigrant activists who are recognised for their potential influence over immigrant voters. Conceptualising these activists as leaders in the immigrant community, this project investigates their political participation through the lens of activism as a result of their political socialisation. This project also investigates how political parties respond to foreign-born citizens' political participation in terms of nomination and vote mobilisation and. Underlining the intermediary role played by grassroots organisations in this interaction, this project particularly examines whether and how grassroots organisations play a role in influencing foreign-born citizens' voting preference, assisting their activism, and contributing to political parties' electioneering and agenda setting. Summarising preliminary findings of recent fieldwork conducted in the west coast of Taiwan, this project make timely contributions to our understanding of how democracy and partisan politics is perceived and exercised by foreign-born citizens in Taiwan. These findings will generate valuable insights into how political parties, a critical institution in liberal democracy, respond to foreign-born citizens' political rights when there is a growing interest amongst political parties and government agencies alike in using immigrant's image for public communication.

## Speaker Biography

Isabelle Cheng is Senior Lecturer in East Asian and International Development Studies at the University of Portsmouth. Taking Taiwan as a case study, her research focuses on migration in East Asia and the Cold War in Taiwan. For the former, her research focuses on multiculturalism, statelessness, sovereignty, political participation and, lately, migrant workers' pregnancy. For the latter, she concentrates on the politicisation of death for the war of retaking China and the use of women broadcasters for propaganda. She is the Secretary-General of the European Association of Taiwan Studies, and a Research Associate of the Centre for Taiwan Studies of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

※ Please note that this event will be conducted in English.

※ Sign up at: <https://reurl.cc/rllKXr>

※ The event provides lunch.



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