

OPEN LECTURE

The overlooked factors shaping the construction of “China-as-enemy”:

Cultural privilege, whataboutism, and disinformation on disinformation



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Media Mondays*

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Room H215 — (in English)

This lecture explores how the complexities of objectivity in journalism and the challenges posed by colonial knowledge production in area studies shape our understanding of China as an external “enemy” and contribute to its construction through discourse. During the talk we will navigate the contemporary landscape of journalism and academia in the “Global North”, delving into issues of self-censorship and conformity, emphasizing the elements that currently drive discourse on China, and exploring their impact on our perception of “China” as an object of study. Furthermore, we will address three critical factors that provide insight into these questions: 1) the cultural and academic privilege of the “Global North” and its impact on Area Studies; 2) the de-contextualization of discourse, often accompanied by accusations of whataboutism; and 3) the emergence of Taiwan as a battleground for disinformation on disinformation.

* The lecture is a part of the JKM185 Media Mondays I elective course, offered by the Master program of Media and Area Studies (MARS).

