

## Visioconférence

# Translating Indigeneity: Politics, Identity, and Oceans in the Works of Syaman Rapongan and Heather Tsui

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**ABSTRACT.** This presentation investigates strategies for the translation of Indigenous identity in contemporary Taiwan through a comparative study of literary and visual works by Syaman Rapongan and Heather Tsui. Focusing on the site of Orchid Island and its Indigenous inhabitants, the Tao people, I analyze diverging (auto)ethnographic methods for presenting Indigenous culture in the hegemonically Han cultural context of Taiwan. I argue that the two artists' engagements with Tao culture represent ideological antipodes: Syaman Rapongan offers his audiences a centrifugal, oceanic framework for understanding the world while Tsui provides a centripetal worldview that foregrounds normative and localized concerns. Considered together, I will further suggest that their complementary ethnographic strategies describe an emerging politics of Indigeneity that is central to understanding the next stage of Taiwan identity politics.

**BIO.** Kyle Shernuk is assistant professor of modern Chinese literature and culture at Georgetown University. His research takes a particular interest in disempowered and minoritized populations, with recent publications focusing on issues of ethnicity, Indigeneity, queerness, and language in global Chinese communities and an in-progress book manuscript, *Sinoscapes: Ethnicity, Language, and Chineseness in Contemporary Chinese Language Literature*. He is also an active Chinese-English translator and the editor of the Cambria Sinophone Translation Series at Cambria Press. His translation of Syaman Rapongan's novel, *Eyes of the Sky*, is under contract with Columbia University Press.