

# Asian Studies • Music Colloquium

## Satoyama and Hakka Children's Songs in Taiwan



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Rm 280, STEPS Bldg (ST 280)

Introduced by the United Nations in 2010, the Satoyama Initiative is a cultural-ecological project implemented in different countries to revitalize farming areas negatively affected by industrialization and globalization after WWII. A variety of related art projects have also been launched as part of this initiative. Focusing on a Hakka children's song project in Taiwan between 2012 and 2014, I explore how music mediates the reconceptualization of the environment as a way to revive rural landscapes.

I begin by reviewing how the Meinong township in southern Taiwan, where the children's songs were produced, confronted the crisis of rural development under influences of the global economy, Taiwanese industrial policy, and population movement. I will then examine how Hakka children's songs reconfigure an imagination of space and place in relation to satoyama. Through various musical gestures, these children's songs reshape the rural as liveable, tangible, and renewable resources as they build upon Hakka local knowledge to emphasize the interconnectedness of human and nature.

presented by LU Asian Studies Program & Music Department