

Department of Sociology and Social Policy  
SEMINAR

# "Modernity, Boredom and War"

(in English)

Speaker: Professor Erik Ringmar  
Professor of Social and Culture Studies  
National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

Date: 21 April 2010 (Wednesday)

Time: 11:30am - 12:30pm

Venue: SO322, Dorothy Y. L Wong Building, Lingnan University

## **Abstract**

In modern society war is becoming increasingly rare. In modern society, people are also often said to be increasingly bored. One effective way to escape boredom is through dreams of war -- hence the fascination with violence in movies and computer games. Modern society, in other words, is simultaneously becoming more peaceful and more fascinated with warfare. This talk explores this tension through a comparison of the world before World War I and after 9/11, 2001.

## **Biography**

Erik Ringmar is professor of Social and Cultural Studies at NCTU, Xinzhu, Taiwan. He has a PhD in political science from Yale University and worked for 12 years in the Government Department at the LSE in London. He is just finishing a book on European imperialism in 19th century China ("Liberal Barbarism") and his next book will deal with boredom and violence.

**Enquiries: 2616-7192**  
**ALL are Welcome!**