ACADEMIC SEMINAR

British Anti-Communism Versus Communist Anti-Colonialism: The Origins of the Cold War Youth Race

Abstract

The politicalization of youth is an important modern phenomenon. This seminar will consider the significance of colonial youth and imperial ideology in the politics of the cultural Cold War. The origin of the Cold War youth race was a battle between British official anti-communism and communist anti-colonialism. While the ability to fund covert attractions and counter-attractions was an important factor, it was this conflicting ideological vision which was most important in appealing to colonial youth. For Britain, this battle - which was fought in its increasingly disruptive empire, in a divided Europe, and even within its own borders - was destined for failure, as its anti-communist message was also inherently pro-imperialist.

Speaker: Dr Christopher Sutton

Christopher Sutton is a senior research assistant and visiting lecturer at Lingnan University. He recently earned his PhD from the University of East Anglia (UK), studying the cultural-political interplay between the British Empire and the Cold War. His most recent publication is ‘Britain, the Cold War, and “The Importance of Influencing the Young”: A Comparison of Cyprus and Hong Kong’ (Britain and the World, forthcoming, 2014).

Date 23 October 2013 (Wednesday)
Time 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
Venue LBYG02, B. Y. Lam Building
Language English

All are Welcome
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