

Panel: China and Japan (Lilac & Tulip Room)

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 / 12:45-14:00

Talking Points for: Seo Jungmin, Associate Professor, Yonsei University

Chinese Nationalism under the New Leadership

Since the first rise of nationalist discourses (China can say No!) in 1996, Chinese society witnessed constant proliferation of anti-Western, anti-Japanese and self-confident nationalism through Sino-Japanese textbook controversy, Tibet crisis, Olympic fever, “Angry China,” and recent conflicts over Diaoyudao (Senkaku) islands. I suggest that Chinese nationalism is extremely versatile because of its duality, historical claims as a nation state against the West and historical claims as an empire against her neighbors. If the new leadership of Xi Jinping fails to solve domestic socio-economic problems via macro-economic policies and international territorial disputes via diplomatic measures, nationalism will be continuously sought after by CCP as the source of political legitimacy.

* The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.