



# Narrating the Hong Kong Sovereignty Transfer: Language and Ideology in the Taiwanese and Chinese English-Language Press

**Prof. Lutgard Lams**  
KU Leuven

**21 October 2026 | Venue: ZUB 416 | Time: 18:15 - 19:30 | 19:30: Apéro riche**

This talk explores Taiwanese narratives of the 1997 Hong Kong Handover against the backdrop of Taiwan's political transition, shortly before the Democratic Progressive Party's first presidential victory after decades of Kuomintang rule. Drawing on Lutgard Lams' *Narratives of the Hong Kong Sovereignty Transfer*, it examines how Taiwan's English-language newspapers, the *China Post* and *China News*, framed the Handover through contrasting themes and linguistic choices reflecting their distinct ideological orientations. Their coverage is compared with that of mainland China's *China Daily*, which addressed both domestic and international audiences, revealing how different political contexts shaped distinct media narratives of the same historic event and communicated these perspectives to the wider world.



Prof. Lutgard Lams teaches Media Discourse Analysis in the MA Journalism Program at KU Leuven's Brussels Campus and heads the Brussels Center for Chinese Discourse Studies workgroup. Her research focuses on ideology and framing in the media, authoritarian discursive practices, identity politics and nationalism in Taiwan, Hong Kong and China, discourses on cross-Strait relations, strategic narratives in Chinese political communication, and Taiwanese electoral campaign discourses, with particular attention to their broader political and historical contexts.

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