In association with the Chuan Lyu Foundation, the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is delighted to present the following talks by Liao Ping-hui (廖炳惠), Endowed Chair in Taiwan Studies at the University of California, San Diego

First Lecture

MONDAY 16TH MAY 2011

Romancing the Strait: Love and Death in Li Ang’s *Seven Prelives of Affective Affinity* (李昂《七世姻緣之臺灣／中國情人》)

Venue: Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Reception: Common Room at 4.30p.m
Talk: Rooms 8 and 9 at 5.00p.m

Li Ang’s allegorical novel, *Seven Prelives of Affective Affinity* (2009) deals with the complex relations between China and Taiwan, and in this first lecture Prof. Liao will describe how this gifted author analyses similarities and differences in these two countries through the narrative of a love affair between a cosmopolitan Taiwanese writer He Fang and a Chinese official Chou Xiaodong. Sex and politics shape the dynamics of this personal relationship, that Li Ang uses to highlight problems that continue to trouble cross-strait relations as well. Li Ang contrasts the search in Taiwan for an alternative modern identity within a wider global setting of the 21st century with the calculated aggression often found in the ranks of a contemporary Chinese officialdom that embraces almost everything materialistic from the modern Western philosophy, manipulation of Chinese philosophical and literary traditions. Li Ang’s analysis operates on several levels—mythological, ideological, and factual—each of which Professor Liao will engage with in his diagnosis of Taiwan’s relation with its Mainland neighbour.