

The CSUSB Modern China Lecture Series Presents

**“Tearing Open the Gates of Hell”:
PLA Air Force Commander Fan Yuanyan’s
(范園焱) Defection to Taiwan, 1977**

with Dr. Andrew Morris (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo)

Friday, April 22, 2016, 12noon, PL-4005

LECTURE DESCRIPTION: PLA Air Force Squadron Commander Fan Yuanyan flew his MiG-19 from Jinjiang, Fujian to Tainan, Taiwan on 7 July 1977, the 40th anniversary of the beginning of China’s war with Japan. The timing of this defection, which also came as U.S. President Jimmy Carter was moving decisively towards normalization of relations with the PRC, made Fan an anti-communist star in Taiwan and the U.S. Fan spoke for years afterward on behalf of the “800 million mainland compatriots” who he felt wanted the Taiwan-based ROC to retake the mainland, even as he also became more and more critical of the excesses of capitalism and liberalism in Taiwan. Much of the KMT’s propaganda use of Fan was related to ways in which Communist and Nationalist ideologies about militaristic and anti-bourgeois values overlapped directly. Fan thus represents the interesting ways in which Nationalist and Communist ideologies and societies were mutually constitutive and constructed with the other clearly in mind during the Cold War. Fan also represents a changing understanding of the role of these famed defectors and the ways that Taiwanese people saw their mainland “compatriots” as Taiwan society was beginning to democratize and liberalize.



ANDREW D. MORRIS is professor of History at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, specializing in East Asian and Modern Chinese and Taiwanese history. His work focuses on sports, popular culture, nationalism, colonialism and transnational cultural flows. He is author and editor of many books and articles, notably, *Colonial Project*, *National Game: A History of Baseball in Taiwan* (UC Press, 2010), *Marrow of the Nation: A History of Sport and Physical Culture in Republican China* (UC Press, 2004), and *Japanese Taiwan: Colonial Rule and Its Contested Legacy* (editor, Bloomsbury Academic, 2015). Morris received his PhD in History from the UC, San Diego, and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Fulbright Research Award, the Faculty Research Award for Taiwan Studies from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China, and the Distinguished Scholarship Award from his home institution. He has twice been a visiting scholar at the Academia Sinica in Taiwan.

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