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Der Ort für chinesische Sprache und Kultur

SINOLOGISCHE VORTRAGSREIHE:

Freunde aus der Ferne

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FEEDING AND ROBBING THE HUNGRY GHOSTS (IN TAIWAN):

A PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ETHNOGRAPHIC ESSAY

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Hungry ghosts are spirits who are not fed and clothed on a regular basis (unlike deities and ancestors). Many of them undergo punishments in hell, not being able to eat anything. Or they wander around, lurk in dark corners and snatch morceaux of offerings from other people's ancestral spirits. They are the most pitiable beings in the Chinese religious imagination. In order to relieve them from such a sorry state and to prevent them from causing disturbances, the Chinese have developed an elaborate system of pacifying hungry ghosts, culminating in the rituals and offerings during the Ghost Month. This presentation will provide a visual account of two major religious events in Taiwan: the Robbing the Hungry Ghosts Festival in Tou-cheng and the Righteous Martyrs Festival in Hsin-pu.