

# Communication, Authoritarian Resilience, and Democracy in China and Taiwan



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**East Asian Studies and Political  
Science, University of Alberta**

**Date** | Thursday April 9

**Time** | 11:00 am -1:00pm

**Location** | Room 120

**Address** | C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall,  
Vancouver

**RSVP:** <http://tinyurl.com/ubcEsarey>

This talk considers political change in China and Taiwan since the late 1970s, with an eye toward understanding the ways in which communication by state and societal actors has affected regime stability and democratization. Professor Esarey argues that media commercialization, re-packaging of propaganda, and information control have contributed to regime stability in China, while the Chiang Ching-kuo administration's diminishing capacity to control a small but influential opposition media, and even mainstream newspapers, permitted reformers to press for democratization by reframing debates, resetting the political agenda, and challenging state narratives and legitimacy claims.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Ashley Esarey received his PhD in Political Science from Columbia University and was awarded the An Wang Postdoctoral Fellowship by Harvard University. He has held academic appointments at Middlebury College, Whitman College, and the University of Alberta, where he is an instructor in the departments of East Asian Studies and Political Science and a research associate of the China Institute. Dr. Esarey has written on democratization and authoritarian resilience, digital media and politics, and information control and propaganda. His recent publications include *My Fight for a New Taiwan: One Woman's Journey from Prison to Power* (with Lu Hsiu-lien) and *The Internet in China: Cultural, Political, and Social Dimensions* (with Randolph Kluver).