

The Discursive Reproduction of Chinese and Japanese National Identities:

Editorials and Opinions of the East China Sea
Dispute in the *China Daily* and *Daily Yomiuri*

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The C-Centre

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Comparative Communication Research
中華傳媒與比較傳播研究中心



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Foreword

Winning an award at a peer-reviewed conference is an honor that most academics cherish. We like it because we enjoy being recognized by the research community. In addition, when rightly done, an award speaks to the quality of a paper. All this probably explains why the annual conventions of major communication associations of the world—ICA, NCA, AEJMC, WAPOR, IAMCR and the like—have set up awards for top student papers. While the authors will find the awards encouraging, the award-winning papers can be a source of inspiration to many others. Graduate students and budding scholars are particularly curious about these papers.

The graduate students in our School have been very active in joining all the aforesaid conferences. As teachers, we are happy to find that quite a few have won awards for their outstanding works. To meet the demand for easy access to these papers, the Centre for Chinese Media and Comparative Communication Research (the C-Centre) has launched this Award-winning Student Paper series as part of its e-publication plan. As the copyright owner, the authors are expected to revise and publish the e-papers in the more traditional venues of journals and books later. We publish the e-version as working monographs in order to speed up the dissemination of research ideas. We encourage you to share the e-papers with others. You are also invited to refer student award-winning papers to us for possible inclusion in the series.

Joseph M. Chan, PhD

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**The Discursive Reproduction of
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Abstract

Using a critical discourse analysis approach this study analyzed how national identities and ideologies were discursively constructed and reproduced through editorial and opinion commentaries in two English-language newspapers from China and Japan on an international incident involving the two countries. The first four editorials/opinions on the incident from the *China Daily* and *Daily Yomiuri* were analyzed. Findings showed that a variety of discursive strategies and linguistic devices were adopted by the newspapers to present the 'home' nation positively and 'other' nation negatively. Even though both newspapers are products of globalization and purport to target international and cosmopolitan audiences, the reporting of the East China Sea incident closely adhered to official narratives and discourses of the respective countries.

This paper was awarded the Top Student Paper in the International Communication Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) annual conference 2011. It has also been accepted for publication in *Discourse & Communication*.