BREWING THE DIASPORIC NATION: 
NATION BUILDING IN CHA CHAAN TENG IN 
HONG KONG AND CHICAGO CHINATOWN

Chun-Yi Sum

Friday, October 24
2:00 – 3:00
PLS 102 (Anthropology 
Seminar Room)

The project is an ethnographic study of Cha Chaan Teng ("Tea Restaurant" or "Hong Kong style Cafe") in Hong Kong and Chicago Chinatown. Yielding information from 11 weeks of fieldwork in the two cities, I investigate how expressions of nationalism are created and maintained through media representations and discursive interactions. The symbol and the space provided by Cha Chaan Teng facilitate the negotiation of national identity among cafe patrons, and shape the relationship between the Chinese state and the two diasporas in different ways. Major themes concerned include the Anthropology of food, nationalism and national identity, and Chinese diasporas.

Chun-Yi Sum is a first-year PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology. She earned her BA at Washington and Lee University.

A light lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to Mark at 353-2195 or email him at palerm@bu.edu, if you wish to attend.