



Schweizerische Korea-Vereinigung

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# SAVE THE DATE

## History Talk with Prof. Dr. David Cheng Chang\*

Director, Global China Center, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

*«The Hijacked War –  
Chinese Prisoners of War (POWs) in the Korean War»*



**Wednesday, July 1, 2026**

**18.30, Kaserne Bern**



**When wars are discussed, attention usually centers on so-called decisive battles and on ultimate victory or defeat. Strategic blunders, serious misjudgments, and deeply flawed decisions are often pushed aside and lost in the fog of history. The Korean War is no exception.**

**How did what appeared to be a minor issue derail ceasefire negotiations and prolong the war, leading to the deaths of many thousands of soldiers and civilians and to massive destruction? How did a military stalemate turn into an intense moral and ideological crusade that ultimately blocked rapprochement between the United States and China for two decades? How were prisoners of war used as pawns in the Cold War confrontation between the US and China - sidelining the interests of both Koreas?**

**Drawing on meticulous archival research and in-depth interviews with former prisoners of war, historian Chang, a leading expert in the field, brings this neglected history back to light. He presents a gripping and powerful story of unexamined, impulsive decisions at the highest political levels, alongside the brutal realities of everyday life in POW camps. The outcome produced mostly losers, one unexpected winner, and enormous human costs - and, often forgotten, Switzerland played a role in this story as well. Does this dramatic history still hold lessons for today, when the rules of international law seem to be fading?**

**Save the date for this exciting event. The formal invitation, program, and registration information will be sent out and published on our website in May. We look forward to seeing you there.**

**\* David Cheng Chang received his PhD in Modern Chinese History from the University of California, San Diego, and his master's degree in East Asian Studies from Stanford University. He has been teaching history at HKUST since 2012 and has - among other topics - published and lectured widely on the subject.**

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