



# Confucius Day 2011

CCS and CI-UHM  
presents two public talks by  
**Deborah Fallows,**  
*linguist and writer*



Date: Tuesday, September 27

Time: 12:30pm

Place: Tokioka Room (Moore Hall 319)

Title: "Chinglish: the Language between Chinese and English. The linguistics of how we understand Chinglish & why it makes us laugh."

Abstract: Chinglish always hits our funnybones, but we rarely take time to sort out why. We always understand Chinglish; we get what it intends, even when it says something quite literally different. How do we do this? How does our cultural experience provide the context for guessing the meaning of what makes no sense at all? How does our mature, higher-order processing of language helps us leap to the right conclusions?

Admission is free.



**Deborah Fallows** has recently lived and traveled for 3 years in China. She has a PhD in linguistics, and her newest book, *Dreaming in Chinese*, (Walker & Co.) is a memoir of learning about China by learning the language. She has worked at the Pew Internet Project, Oxygen Media, and Georgetown University. She has written for many publications, including *National Geographic*, *Slate*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and is also the author of *A Mother's Work* (Houghton Mifflin). When in the U.S., Deborah and her husband, journalist James Fallows, live in Washington, DC.

Date: Wednesday, September 28

Time: 5:00pm (followed by a reception & book signing)

Place: Art Auditorium

Title: "Think Like the Chinese Think: Understanding the Culture of Modern China Through the Lens of Language"

Abstract: Using her experience as a trained linguist and a new student of Chinese, Deborah Fallows shows how simple words, phrases, or bits of the grammar of the Chinese language can become windows to understanding much of the Chinese culture—their sense of romance, humor, protocol, personal relationships,

and interest in foreigners, to name a few. Why, for example, does abrupt language in Chinese actually signal a closeness between friends, rather than impolite behavior? Or why do the Chinese have such trouble saying "I love you" to the ones they love the most. Fallows provides a necessary human perspective on an emerging superpower that many in the West still struggle to comprehend.

Co-sponsor: University of Hawai'i Bookstore

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