

**2014.12.02** Ms. Kylie Moloney, Executive Officer of Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PAMBU) of Australian University, together with other 3 companions, came to visit the NCL. They watched video of the NCL's digital archive, and she gave a brief presentation about PAMBU, followed by exchanging opinions with staff of the NCL. They also visited Matteo Ricci & Pacific Studies Reading Room, as well as Rare Books Room.



*Group photo*

**2014.12.16** Representative Levente Szekely of the Hungarian Trade Office in Taipei accompanied Mr. Geza Szocs, the former Minister of State for Culture Affairs and current First Adviser to Prime Minister Orbán, and other to discuss cultural exchanges with Director-general Tseng, such as joint exhibitions, librarian staff exchanges, and lectures.



*Mr. Szocs (3<sup>rd</sup> on left), Director-general Tseng (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), and Representative Szekely (2<sup>nd</sup> on right)*

## Chinese Studies Symposium

**Oct. 3, 2014**

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) held the "Presentations of MOFA Taiwan Fellowship Scholars" for the third quarter of 2014. Four scholars were invited to present their research findings to an audience of over 100 scholars from Taiwan and 20 other countries. Intense discussions and exchanges of ideas marked the presentations on Taiwan's foreign policy. In the end, there was an overall optimism regarding Taiwan's future.

The first presenter was Prashant Kumar Sing, an associate research fellow in India's Institute of Defense Studies & Analyses, who spoke on "India-Taiwan Relations: Enhancing People-to-People Relations." He believes that public diplomacy can side-step sensitive issues of autonomy in a wonderfully efficient way without adversely affecting the "One China" foreign policy of India. This, he holds, is the best means for establishing good relations with Taiwan.

The second presenter was Marcin Gornikiewicz, a post-doctorate researcher at the National Defense Research Center in Poland's Stanislaw Staszic College of Public Administration. He cited Taiwan's Sunflower Student Movement and Hong Kong's Occupy Central with Love and Peace Movement as examples in discussing "The PRC's Soft Power Methodology: Why It Didn't Work in Democratic Societies."

The third presenter was Lin Goethals, an assistant research fellow at Belgium's European Institute for Asia Studies. She spoke on "The Role of Higher Education and Exchange Programmes in EU-Taiwan Relations." Goethals argued that Taiwan diplomacy successfully improved EU-Taiwan relations via scholarly exchanges in higher education. However, in comparison to traditional economic trade diplomacy, the education model is more limited in its effectiveness.

The final presenter was Richard Turcsanyi, a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute of Asia Studies in Slovakia. He spoke on "What Power Politics? The Nature of Power Relations in the East Asia and the Position of the Republic of China (Taiwan)." He described

Taiwan's position in East Asia via the paradigm of power relations theory.



*Four speakers photograph with the participants.*

### **Oct. 9, 2014**

The CCS held the third session of its 2014 Global Chinese Studies Series, inviting Sai Shing Yung, Associate Professor of Chinese at the National University of Singapore, to speak. His topic was “Cultural Cold Wars and Pulp Fiction: China, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia,” exploring the circulation of pulp fiction from the 1950s in these three areas. He also discussed sales channels, and publication methods, starting with street newspaper stands and progressing to broadcasts and movies, so that more people can understand this popular cultural phenomenon from the 1950s.



*Associate Professor Yung with the participants.*

### **Oct. 2014**

In October 2014, the CCS organized Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, the Queens Library at Flushing in New York, and Rice University in Boston, respectively. The lecture theme was Taiwan music, thus an exhibition entitled “Traditional and Modern Music of Taiwan” accompanied the lectures, to spread

the beauty of Taiwanese music.

### **Nov. 21, 2014**

The CCS invited two recipients of the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies: Stephen S. Chou (Nanyang Technological University Chinese Heritage Centre) and Professor Frank Kraushaar (University of Latvia) to share their research findings in Taiwan.

In the first session, Professor Chou spoke on “Tradition vs. Innovation: A Look at Development Motivation of the Feng and Shan Rites,” exploring ancient China's most mysterious ceremonies and the bizarre contrast between the ceremonies and tradition. Because emperors' sacred power comes from tradition, if they go about altering the method of the ceremonies then the feng and shan sacrifices can lose their legitimacy. However, to show the advent of a new age and the establishment of a new order, he also needs a new way in which to rewrite tradition. As such, emperors keen on ceremony all faced the same difficulty between tradition and innovation.



*Professor Chou(left)*

In the second session Professor Kraushaar spoke on “Poetics of the Unknown: Verses from the Outskirts of the Chinese Lyrical Tradition and the Gesture of ‘Restoring Ambiguity.’” In his research on ‘restoring ambiguity’ poetry popular in the Tang and Song, Professor Kraushaar cited many of Li He's poems as examples of how the poet imbues desires to live in seclusion by describing fishing on a brook and observing flowers and vegetation, etc.





*Professor Kraushaar(left)*

**Dec. 10, 2014**

The CCS invited two recipients of the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies: Dr. C. M. Adrian Tseng and doctoral candidate Ms. Stephanie Balkwill of McMaster University’s Department of Religious Studies, Canada, to share their research findings in Taiwan.

In the first session, Dr. Tseng spoke on “A Comparison of Buddha Nature and Dao Nature in Medieval Chinese Buddhism.” In the second session, Ms. Balkwill spoke on “The Triratna and a Woman’s Three Subordinations: The Life of a Buddhist Nun in the Northern Wei period.”



*Ms. Balkwill (left)*

**Dec.16, 2014**

The CCS invited four recipients of MOFA Taiwan Fellowship to share their research findings. The first presenter was Dr. Joyce Gelb, professor emeritus from City University of New York, who spoke on “An Analysis of Roles of Female Representatives in the Cabinet or Executive Yuan in Taiwan.” Dr. Gelb has long research female participation in public affairs. While conducting research in Taiwan, she interviewed many politicians and government officials to see if females were subject to any gender discrimination in the public sphere or if female legislators had a different style than their male counterparts. In short, is gender consciousness a part of discussions and does it reflect in policy making?

The second presenter was Dr. Hossam Younes, a senior researcher and director of trade promotion in Egypt’s Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade, who spoke on “An Analysis of Bilateral Trade between Egypt and East Asian Countries.” Dr. Younes based his research off of his personal experience, holding that strong trade exists between Egypt and East Asia, but that neither side has realized the immense potential that still exists for further trade. His aim was to encourage both Taiwan and Egypt to value their trade relationship and actively work together.

The third presenter was Dr. Winni King, an assistant professor from the University of Bristol in the U.K., who spoke on “Cross-strait Economic Activity and the Regionalization of East Asia: Economics and Theoretical Models vs. Political and Social Reality.” Dr. King has been interested in issues regarding East Asian economic integration and has discovered that it is much different than Europe in that the integration is



*Dr. Tseng (left)*

The two scholars broached their topics from theoretical and historical angles, delving deep into the relationship between Buddhism and philosophical thought, society, and politics.

normally non-binding and informal. However the trade agreements between Taiwan and mainland China have broken this model in creating a new regional economic model.

The final presenter was Dr. Alice Ekman, a researcher at Institut Francais des Relations International, who spoke on “Cross-strait Academic Diplomacy: An Evaluation of Recent Developments and Potential Conflicts.” Dr. Ekman believes that exchange and cooperation between cross-strait think tanks influences, to a certain degree, the adjustment of foreign policies on both sides, with possible coordination on certain issues.



*Group photo*

### **Dec. 18, 2014**

As part of the ongoing Global Chinese Studies Lecture Series, two CCS visiting scholars: Dr. Barbora Platzerová (Institute of Legal History at Charles University in Prague) and Ms. Kristina Karvelyte (Ph.D. candidate in the School of Media and Communication at Leeds University, UK) were invited to share their research finding in Taiwan.

In the first session, Dr. Platzerova spoke on “Bigamy in Civil Code” , talking about the history of bigamy in Taiwanese civil code since 1930 and explaining the key judicial decisions and legal terms relating to the civil code and drew comparisons with mainland Chinese law.

In the second session, Ms. Karvelyte spoke on “Deconstructing the Relationship between the Display of Culture and Urban Politics: Lessons from Taipei”. She cited Raymond Williams’ theory of “culture as display” devised in 1984, then argued that Taipei city Government uses cultural activities as a means of city branding. These activities bring benefits that not only demonstrate the importance of establishing the Taipei City brand, but also help enhance international visibility and boost the image of the city.



*Dr. Platzerova (left)*



*Ms. Karvelyte (left)*

### **Dec. 23, 2014**

Global Chinese Studies Series invited Senior Lecturer Limin Bai, an experienced Chinese pedagogist at Victoria University of Wellington and Assistant Professor Isabel Wang from the University of Tasmania in Australia to share their research findings in Taiwan.

The first session was on “Educating Children for a National Future: Wang Hengtong and His Illustrated Primer, 1902-1915.” Senior Lecturer Bai explored how contemporary Christian educators in China view similarities and differences in beliefs and ideology between Christianity and Confucianism. He did this by looking specifically at native Chinese Christian educator Wang Hengtong and his textbooks. He also discussed the conflict between Christian missionary aims and the goal of modernizing China, as well as the process of crossing the culture fence between the West and the East.

The second session was on “The Merging of Culture in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language.” Professor Wang used cultural teaching at National Taiwan Normal University’s Mandarin Language Center as an example to discuss cultural content and methodological strategies in teaching different learners with different abilities in limited time while still