

room as well as other service facilities.



A group photo taken in the rare books room

2013.02.27 There are five visitors from Shanghai Library visiting the NCL. They watched the introduction of the NCL, and visited rare books room as well as other service facilities afterwards.



Director Liao (first from left) took a group photo with visitors in rare books room.

Chinese Studies Symposium

2013.01.15

The Center for Chinese Studies and National Taiwan Normal University's College of International Studies and Education for Overseas

Chinese co-hosted the 2013 Confucian Ethos from an Intercultural Perspective lecture series. Professor Bernhard Fuehrer from the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University spoke on "Sima Qian as a Reader of Master Kong's Utterances."

Professor Fuehrer cited the bamboo strip version of the *Analects* found in a Han grave in Dingzhou (which belonged to Liu Xiu, the King Huai of Zhongshan in Western Han) and compared them with *The Records of the Grand Historian* and other works that record Confucius' thoughts, such as the *Analects*, *Book of Rites*, and *Collected Annotations of the Analects*, with the purpose of showing textual differences between the *Records of the Grand Historian* and the *Analects*.



Professor Bernhard Fuehrer (3rd from left)

Sima Qian was a propagator of Confucian thought, and as such Professor Fuehrer surmises that he must have read many concurrent works on Confucianism before synthesizing them and expounding on them in the *Records of the Grand Historian*.

2013.03.08

The Center for Chinese Studies and Chang Gung University co-hosted a lecture series entitled *Roving through Art: Cultural Activities and Social Networks of 13th and 14th Century Scholars*. The first session was given by Wang Rui-lai, a researcher at Gakushuin University's Japanese Cultural Graduate Institute, who spoke on "After Passing the Civil Service Examination: 'The First and the Last'—Evidence for Reforms in Song and Yuan."



Professor Wang Rui-lai (left)

Professor Wang began by discussing Professor Naitō Konan's "Tang-Song Reform Theory," then laid out his own "Theory on Song-Yuan Reform" that addresses socio-politico-economic changes from Southern Song to the Yuan dynasty.

Professor Wang zeroed in on changes to the civil service examinations during the Song as well as reforms in government bureaucracy, stating that institutional and personal factors almost effectively

rendered Song scholars unable to break through the bottleneck into the medium and high ranks of officialdom. Because both the civil service exam and official promotions were difficult, this cruel reality caused a rift between those who were disillusioned with the official careers and that of mainstream politics.

With a strong economy and powerful regional influence, many scholars entered regional societies in a variety of fashions. From an objective viewpoint, this improved the intellectual strata of regional societies and strengthened regional social power. This change in the Southern Song is closely related to the fact that the civil service examinations were done away with for a long time during the Yuan dynasty. Furthermore, it has ties with the historical origins of country elite power in the Ming and Qing dynasties.

2013.03.20

The Center for Chinese Studies and National Taiwan Normal University's College of International Studies and Education for Overseas Chinese co-hosted the 2013 Confucian Ethos from an Intercultural Perspective lecture series. The second session was a lecture by Huang Yong, a professor of philosophy at Kutztown University: "Liberal Neutrality, State Perfectionism, and Confucianism: A Neglected Dimension."



Professor Huang Young (center)

Professor Huang explained the definition and means of how people should choose to lead a good life as seen from the perspective of liberalism and state perfectionism. The biggest difference between liberalism and state perfectionism is whether or not the state involves itself in the choice process.

Liberalism emphasizes autonomy; people have the power to freely choose their lifestyle. However, mild state perfectionism holds that lifestyles should be differentiated, choosing the good and discarding the bad. Confucianism is closely aligned with perfectionism, and in fact Confucian ideas such as moral and ritual education can be a potential substitute for current liberalism, filling the gaps where perfectionism does not adequately address relativism. Herein lies the uniqueness and importance of Confucianism.

CCS News and Activities

■ *Visiting Scholars Celebrating the 2013 Lunar New Year*

On January 28, the Center for Chinese Studies

held a Lunar New Year's Eve banquet for visiting scholars, both those receiving research grants from the Center and those receiving the Taiwan Fellowship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Apart from research, the Center wanted to provide an opportunity for these scholars to experience traditional folk culture. In all, 29 scholars coming from 17 countries attended with family members.



A group photo of all the participants

Before the banquet, De-han Chen from National Central Library wrote New Year couplets and encouraged the visiting scholars to try their hand at writing their own. It was a great way to experience part of Chinese culture and feel the festive atmosphere of Lunar New Year. Employees at the Center put on a taichi fan performance to start off the banquet, which was a buffet-style feast with dumplings, New Year's cake, and other seasonal delicacies for the scholars to try. Many more performances were given throughout the night, including Professor Ironildes Bueno Da Silva from Brazil singing traditional Brazilian songs as he played his guitar.