

## Chinese Studies Symposium

2015.05.01

The Center for Chinese studies (CCS) held the First Term Presentations of MOFA Taiwan Fellowship Scholars 2015, showcasing research from four visiting scholars. The first presenter was Professor Elizabeth Larus from the University of Mary Washington. She spoke on “Assessing the US Pivot to Asia: Implications for US-China-Taiwan Trilateral Relations and Taiwan’s Strategic Choices.” Professor Larus expressed the view that “America has actively returned to Asia primarily through diplomacy, economic plans, and military security. While these will have a certain effectiveness, they also create new concerns for China.” Nevertheless, she holds that the United States’ policies won’t create instability in the tripartite relationship between the U.S., China, and Taiwan. She also believes that Taiwan will strive to maintain the status quo.

The second presenter was Associate Professor Salvatore Babones from the University of Sydney. His presentation was entitled “Taipei 2030: A Global City in the Greater China Area.” Mr. Babones believes that recent slowdown in economic growth and increasing pressure from China’s anti-corruption fight have caused a large amount of wealthy Chinese to leave. Their capital is constantly flowing into other countries. This provides Taipei with the opportunity to become an important business hub in Asia and to become a true global city in in the greater China area.



*Prof. Elizabeth Larus, Prof. Salvatore Babones (1st and 2nd from left), Prof. Agata Ziętek, and Prof. Darryl E. Brock (1st and 2nd from right)*

The third presenter was Associate Professor Agata Ziętek from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Poland. Her lecture was on “South China Sea - the place of rivalry and power management.” She asserted that land in East Asia, and the surrounding oceans have several overlaps in sovereignty which creates regional friction. She spent the majority of her lecture analyzing developments in the South Sea controversy and recent changes to the situation. She also pointed out that the situation is becoming increasingly tense.

The final presenter was Assistant Professor Darryl E. Brock from the University of Bridgeport in the U.S.A. He spoke on “Taiwan’s Diplomacy and Foreign Aid to Latin American Nations: An Assessment of Presidents Chen’s and Ma’s Differential Strategies.” He specifically looked at the period between 1990–2000, when intense competitiveness was apparent between the Republic of China and the People’s Republic of China. He also analyzed Shui-bian Chen’s and Ying-jeou Ma’s diplomacies, as well as developments in Taiwan’s international relations with Latin America.



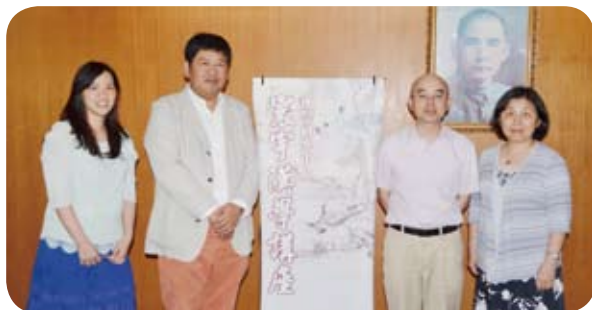
*Group photo of presenters and participants*

2015.05.21

The CCS held the “Global Chinese Studies Series” inviting Professor Yangsu Kim, from Department of Chinese language and literature, Dongguk University, to speak on “The Family Clan concept conveyed by film director Hsiao-hsien Hou’s movies.”

Professor Kim, using the four works of Hsiao-hsien Hou as example, explored the definition of

“the individual,” “the family,” “the family clan” and their changes in the contemporary East Asia history as well as their relationship between “the countries.” Besides discussing the development of family clan through the different colonial era, through war system and dictatorship period and other contexts, he also discussed the changes in the “family clan” concept. Furthermore, he pointed out that in East Asia of the late 20th century, there is an increasing divorce rate, a declining birth rate, an increasing cohabitation, the increase in out of wedlock births and other issues. These lead to new changes in the composition and definition of the “family clan.” In the past, the foundation of sustaining modern family clan relationship that relied upon marriage and childbearing, is beginning to be shaken. The “family clan period” is beginning to become the “individual period.”



*Professor Kim (2nd from left) with NCL colleagues.*

### **2015.06.16**

The CCS held Global Chinese Studies Series inviting Mr. Timothy Clifford, doctoral candidate from Department of East Asian Languages and Civilization, University of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Lorenzo Andolfatto, doctoral candidate from Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy, to speak on “Late Ming ancient-style essay anthologies and the problem of Ming literary “formalism” and “Paper Worlds: The Late Qing Utopian Novel and the Question of the ‘Utopian’ Genre,” respectively.

Mr. Clifford pointed out that most Ming

writers, harried by “eight-legged essays” and social writing, pursued classical prose as an empty formalistic exercise. In the sixteenth century local education officials collected “ancient-style prose” essays to rectify both the writing and the moral behavior of their students. Mr. Andolfatto analyzed the plot and roles of several utopian novels written during late Qing and early Republic. He used this to elucidate the authors’ implications of utopian thought and their expectations for China as a nation.



*Presenters Mr. Timothy Clifford (1st from left) and Mr. Lorenzo Andolfatto (1st from right)*

### **2015.06.17**

The first session of the Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies for 2015 was held at University of Oxford’s China Centre. Professor Lung-chih Chang from the Institute of Taiwan History at Academia Sinica, Taiwan spoke on “Digitalizing Taiwan: From Academic to Public History.”

In addition to reviewing and commenting on the modern history of historical studies in Taiwan, Prof. Chang outlined recent achievements in Taiwan’s digitization of historical records. He also introduced the multifaceted knowledge traditions of Taiwan history, including research on local histories in China, on the history of the Japanese colonial period, on regional history in Europe, American and East Asia, as well as on Taiwan society. He specifically addressed how, since the late 1980s, these four traditions established the academic foundation of Taiwan studies. That foundation has brought much growth and innovation, such as a greater organization of historical materials, more up-and-coming talent

emerging, and increased internationalization of research and insights.

Prof. Chang's lecture was absolutely brilliant, attracting many British sinologists, scholars of Taiwan's history, and faculty and students at Oxford. The lecture was co-hosted by Oxford, which also set up a TRCCS. Hosting this first session at Oxford is helpful in increasing visibility of research achievements and scholarly publications of Taiwan, and in promoting international scholarly exchange.



*Group photo at the University of Oxford*

### **2015.6.18-20**

The NCL was invited to participate in the Second World Congress of Taiwan Studies that was held at the SOAS, University of London, on June 18-20. The CCS of NCL featured about 70 kinds of publications and DVDs related to Taiwan Studies published in Taiwan these past three years for display at the congress. Some museums and publishers in Taiwan, and Taipei Representative Office in the UK were invited to put up aboriginal exhibit posters, Taiwan Studies publications and Taiwan scholarships information. After the Congress, all the books and DVD were donated to the TRCCS at SOAS, University of London.



*NCL attends the Second World Congress of Taiwan Studies and organize a book exhibition.*

The Congress was hosted by the Academia Sinica, Taiwan. This year, there were more than twenty sessions on various topics attracting more than one hundred scholars and experts in the field of Taiwan Studies from universities worldwide. Participating scholars and experts were in awe and admiration before the quality of books displayed. The NCL hopes that through this book exhibition, the international world on Taiwan Studies may better understand the fruits of Taiwan's Studies as well as its current publishing situation thereby strengthening the promotion of international academic cooperation and increasing foreign scholars' interest in Taiwan studies.



*The book exhibition attracts many visitors.*

### **2015.06.22**

The NCL and the Leipzig University, Department of East Asian Studies co-organized "Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies." Professor Paul R. Katz, a Research Fellow from the Academia Sinica Institute of Modern History was invited to deliver a speech on "An Unbreakable Thread? Preliminary Observations on Cross-Strait Religious Interaction during the Modern Era" to explore the various factors that led to religious interaction from both sides of the Strait since the 1980s as well as Cross Strait concrete situation of religious relation. Many teachers and students participated. It also attracted many Western Chinese Studies scholars. Among them were Professor Adam Yuet Chau from the University of Cambridge and Professor Robert Campany from Vanderbilt University, USA. Martin Hofmann, Andreas Berndt former CCS visiting scholars



from Leipzig University and many others were also present.



*Group photo at the University of Leipzig*

### **2015.06.25**

The CCS organized a “Global Chinese Studies Series,” inviting Professor Florian C. Reite from Institute of Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University, Berlin (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), and Professor Peter Zarrow from Department of History, University of Connecticut, to share their research findings.

Prof. Reite discussed, using the Taoist classics as reference, on the similarities and differences between “Five Thunder Skills” of Sung dynasty and the Qingwei school of Yuan dynasty. Moreover, Prof. Zarrow also explored the implied concept of utopia in the political thought of four contemporary Chinese representatives of utopian thought. The lectures of the two professors attracted many students and professors from many national universities as well as visiting scholars of the CCS.



*Group photo of presenters and participants*

## **CCS News and Activities**

### **■ 2015 Dragon Boat Festival Luncheon for Visiting Foreign Scholars**

On June 10, 44 visiting scholars and their families from 20 countries of the CCS Research Grants for Foreign Scholars in Chinese studies and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Taiwan Fellowship were invited to a pre-Dragon Boat Festival celebration luncheon. The occasion aims to offer scholars, besides doing research, the opportunities to experience the cultural significance of the traditional folk festivals.

Director General Tseng and MOFA Department of Policy Planning Deputy Director General, Vincent Jing-Yen Liu were all present to joyfully celebrate with the scholars and their families. All enjoyed the Dragon Boat Festival specialties: rice dumplings, lychees and other delicacies. A video clip introduced the Dragon Boat Festival in the context of Taiwan Festival traditions. The venue was filled with laughter the whole ambiance relaxed and convivial.

Many visiting scholars also showed their individual talent, making the atmosphere more warm and lively. An assistant professor from Lawrence University, Brigid Vance, using bilingual magic tricks shared her personal research experiences which arose resonances among the other scholars; Mr. Tatsuo Araki, PhD candidate from the University of Tokyo, presented the Chinese version of the traditional Japanese Rakugo, performed “Super Scary Bun.” This amused the audience and filled the venue with laughter. MOFA Department of Policy Planning deputy representative, Li Yn Chou, sung in Huangmei tone (a Chinese folk song) the “Butterfly Lovers-Visit Yingtai,” which received an enthusiastic applause.