

Twentieth Century Tibet.” He discussed the interaction between British and Qing dynasty officials, merchants, and explorers in the Kham region of Tibet, and how this influenced Chinese government policy towards the region.



Prof. Scott Relyea (center) and Prof. Jui-te Chang (張瑞德).

On August 24, the CCS hosted a Global Chinese Studies Lecture. Prof. Marie Bizais-Lillig, an associate professor in Chinese Literature at the University of Strasbourg, the USA, was invited to present some of the research she had been engaged in during her time in Taiwan, where she had been financially supported by a 2017 MOFA Taiwan Fellowship. The lecture was moderated by Prof. Yu-yu Cheng (鄭毓瑜) of National Taiwan University's Department of Chinese Literature.

Prof. Bizais-Lillig had conducted considerable research in the field of ancient literature and literary criticism, including *Shijing* (詩經), poetics, and *Wenxin Diaolong* (文心雕龍). Her lecture centered on the Commentary on *Botanical and Zoological Terms in the Book of Songs* (毛詩草木鳥獸蟲魚疏), a work by the Three Kingdoms period scholar Lu Ji (陸璣), and a Ming dynasty enlarged edition of the same work by Mao Jin (毛晉).



Prof. Marie Bizais-Lillig (left) with Prof. Yu-yu Cheng.

These two important works that interpret *Shijing* describe the different kinds of plants and animals that appear in the poems. Citing sections of the books, Prof. Bizais-Lillig explained how these works of literary interpretation offer the reader abstract and non-abstract, cultural and non-cultural information. After this she went on to explore some of the basic problems commonly encountered when reading literary works from the point of view of literary criticism.

## CCS News and Activities

On September 25, the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) held “A Dialogue between Tea and Music,” a Moon Festival tea party for visiting scholars, at the Nanhai Academy (南海學園). All scholars supported by a CCS Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies or MOFA Taiwan Fellowship were invited to the event, which took place with the Moon Festival just around the corner. 47 scholars hailing from 20 countries attended the party, where they had the chance to experience a traditional Taiwanese festival celebration.



*NCL Director-General Tseng welcomes the scholars and their families.*

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng (曾淑賢) and Deputy Director of the MOFA's Department of Policy Planning Kuo-ting Tan (譚國定) both gave welcoming speeches before the party began.

Then, to create a festive atmosphere, Mr. Kuang-yu Hou (侯廣宇), a famous flute player, was invited to perform to kick off the celebrations. The half-time performance was given by Ms. Ya-yun Chen (陳雅筠), a young guzheng (古箏) player, who gave a wonderful interpretation of the tune "Western

Chinese Fantasy." At the end of the party, Mr. Chun-jern Pan (潘俊仁) put on his make up and took to the stage to perform "Concubine Yu's Sword Dance." The scholars were full of praise for Mr. Pan's gentle and lovely movements in his portrayal of a woman. The audience could not take their eyes off him as they cheered and clapped, bringing the Moon Festival tea party to a climax.

During the tea party, the scholars and their families not only tasted festival foods such as mooncakes and Taiwanese pomelo, but enjoyed chatting with their colleagues from other countries. They shared both their experiences of living in Taiwan and the research resources useful in their respective fields and what they had learned. In addition, all the invited guests also paid a visit to the Taipei Botanical Garden (臺北植物園). They were amazed to be able to see the worldwide plant specimens collection in the garden and the Guest House of Imperial Envoys, built in 1888 at the location of the Taipei Zhongshan Hall (中山堂) and relocated to the current site in 1933.



*Chun-jern performs Pan "Concubine Yu's Sword Dance."*



*The foreign scholars assemble in front of the Guest House of Imperial Envoys.*