

from the Local Chinese Gazetteer Control Group Office led a delegation of six to visit the NCL. Deputy Director-General Ying-mei Wu welcomed them. In addition to touring the library, they also held a discussion with NCL staff from Special Collections and Knowledge Services Divisions.

On Dec. 21, 2017 Assistant Dean Yang Guanghui from Fudan University's Graduate Institute on the Preservation of Ancient Chinese Books and fifteen students from the institute visited NCL. NCL's Special Collections Division personnel showed them NCL's collections and digitization facilities. The group also saw the book restoration area and exchanged ideas and experiences in this discipline.

## Chinese Studies Symposium

Professors Axel Schneider and Peter B. Ditmanson were invited to give a talk at the Academic Seminars for CCS Scholars Worldwide on Oct. 3. In the first session, Prof. Schneider delivered his lecture, entitled "What is Conservatism? A Reflection on Intellectual History." Prof. Schneider pointed out that Conservatism was not at all uninterested in progress, but values tradition, stability and genial change.



*Left to right: Prof. Axel Schneider, Prof. Jo-shui Chen, and NCL Director-General Tseng.*

In the second session of the seminar, Prof. Ditmanson lectured on "Early Ming Dynasty Book Publication and Its Supporters." He argued that the preface functioned not only to introduce the author, but also to reveal information about the book's publication. Asking a grand secretary to write a preface was just like a guarantee to gain the government assistance, and so the preface of each book reflects the social networks of an author.



*Prof. Ditmanson (left) and Prof. Hung-tai Wang.*

Prof. Manas Ghosh shared the fruit of his research on the films of Taiwanese director Hsiao-hsien Hou on Oct. 18. Prof. Ghosh remarked that Hou's works were influenced by Hong Kong's New Wave Cinema of the 1970s. The national discourses of Asia and Taiwan mainly center on the binary opposition of city and village. Small town society does not fit this binary, however, and is closer to be a link between city and village. Director Hou challenges this convention.

On Nov. 8, Prof. Philip Clart of Leipzig University's Institute of East Asian Studies was invited to speak at the Academic Seminars for CCS Scholars Worldwide. In his lecture on "Religious Museums in Taiwan," Prof. Clart described how he visited religious museums around Taiwan, investigating the founding aims and layout of

each museum. He argued that Taiwan's religious museums have the secular function of connecting the different religions, but are essentially still closely connected with the teachings of the religious sect that created them.

On Nov. 21, four scholars were invited to speak at the Academic Seminars for CCS Scholars Worldwide presenting their research on modern Chinese history, followed by a fifth lecture given by Dr. Judith Pernin.

The first lecture was delivered by Dr. Gary Chihung Luk, a post-doctoral researcher in the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Study. In his lecture entitled "Reinterpreting the Opium War," Dr. Luk discussed the impact the military conflict between the British and Qing empires had on China's coastal and river regions, and how ordinary people finding themselves caught up in these clashes regarded the war.

Mr. Ying-kit Chan, a Ph.D. candidate in Princeton University's Department of East Asian Studies, gave the second lecture. In his lecture on "OuJujia and Provincial Consciousness in 1900s China," Mr. Chan described how OuJujia's experiences, his acquaintance and dealings with political reformers Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao, and his observations of international affairs, led him to distance himself from the reformist model of late-Qing Han Chinese intellectuals.

The third lecture, entitled "Diaspora and Diplomacy between Taipei and Mecca during the Cold War," was given by Ms. Jeong Hyeju, who is a Ph.D. candidate in Duke University's Department of History. Around 20 thousand Muslims were exiled to Taiwan after 1949. These Chinese Muslims who

had scattered around Taiwan and those who had escaped to Saudi Arabia took full advantage of the influence of religious organizations, making use of non-governmental exchanges and material donations to construct a cold war era Islamic diplomacy.

A Ph.D. candidate in Northwestern University's Department of History, Keith Clark, gave the fourth lecture, "Students and States: Two Student-Democracy Movements in 'China,'" in which he compared the Tiananmen protests with the Wild Lily Student Movement that emerged in Taiwan the following year.



*Left to right: Director-General Tseng, Mr. Clark, Mr. Chan, Prof Whei-ming Chou, Dr. Luk, and Ms. Jeong.*

After the modern Chinese history related lectures, Dr. Judith Pernin of the French Center for Research on Contemporary China delivered the final lecture, entitled "Post-2000 Documentary Films in Taiwan and Hong Kong: Identity, Politics and the Aesthetics of Protest." In her lecture, she summarized her research on films documenting social movements in Taiwan and Hong Kong since the millennium.



*Prof. Wen-chi Lin (left) and Dr. Judith Pernin.*

## CCS News and Activities

### ■ The 2017 National Day Reception

The 2017 National Day reception was held at Taipei Guesthouse, as is customary. The National Central Library (NCL) made special arrangements to have CCS's recipients of the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' recipients of the Taiwan Fellowship and their spouses to attend. A total of 42 scholars and their spouses from 29 countries were in attendance.

This year's National Day theme was "2017: Better Together." Displays put together by Taiwan's world renowned floral designers decorated the entrance of the reception. A layered effect resembling a firework display symbolized the rising strength of the nation. A bedding of moon orchids, a butterfly orchid indigenous to Taiwan, where it is affectionately known as "Taiwanese Grandma," symbolized the idea of Taiwanese roots advancing into the world to create a better Taiwan in 2017.

More than 4,000 guests from Taiwan and overseas enjoyed musical and theatrical performances together. These were given by groups including the National Taiwan College of Performing Arts, who

tour extensively around the world performing, and seasoned performers the 25 Degrees Orchestra. The performances were an audio-visual feast that mingled native, innovative, and diverse elements, creating a joyful atmosphere in which the guests celebrated National Day.



*Overseas scholars at the National Day Reception.*

## Library and Information Science Seminars in Taiwan

### ■ The Fourth Xuanlan Forum

Organizer: NCL

Co-organizer: Nanjing Library & Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology

Date: October 17, 2017

Venue: NCL

### ■ 2017 Digital Dissertation Consortium Annual Meeting: Knowledge Management and Open Innovation

Organizer: National Tsing Hua University

Co-organizer: ProQuest & Transmission Books & Microinfo Co., LTD.

Date: October 20, 2017

Venue: National Tsing Hua University

### ■ Conference on Library's Installation

Organizer: New Taipei City Library & Gaya Foundation