

04/13 “Remembering the Great Ones as Life Passes like a Dream: The Taiwan Mind and Friendship of the Lishe Poets.” Chen-fu Liao, Professor of Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature and Transnational Cultural Studies, National Chung Hsing University.

04/27 “You Are the Wind that Is Blowing: Poetic Responses and Friendships of Modern Sinophone Poets.” Wen-wei Shiu, Professor of Department of Sinophone Literatures, National Dong Hwa University.

■ Australian Author Markus Zusak’s New Book, *Bridge of Clay*: Discussion Forum



The captivating discussion between Mr. Markus Zusak and Ms. Hui-ching Chang.

On the evening of February 15, 2019, the National Central Library (NCL) and Ecusbooks co-hosted a forum discussing a new book, *Bridge of Clay*. The book’s Australian author, Mr. Markus Zusak, known for his previous book *The Book Thief*, and Taiwanese author Hui-ching Chang were invited to the NCL to participate in a Q&A and discussion.

In her opening remarks, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng thanked Ecusbooks for once again inviting Markus Zusak to bring his new book to meet readers attending the 2019 Taipei International Book Exhibition. The NCL’s role is as the bridge between books and readers, increasing the ways in which Taiwanese readers can encounter internationally famous authors.

Mr. Markus Zusak’s *Bridge of Clay* is another moving book about love and affection. The author shared his emotional and psychological journey writing the book, how he utilized his imagination and created the story. The discussant, Ms. Hui-ching Chang, said she believed that *Bridge of Clay*’s many plots led the reader to a deeper appreciation of the characters in the story.

After the talk, the enthusiastic audience took the opportunity to ask the author questions, each of which he responded to with kindness. There was a book signing, where Zusak added a scribbled autograph to each book, an unexpected surprise for his avid readers, and which gave the public the chance to get up close to this warm and kind author.



Mr. Zusak signs the book for Director-General Tseng.