

Group based in Fujian Province, China, arranged to pay a visit to the National Central Library. The visitors mainly wished to visit the services and facilities housed on the various floors of the library, such as the Center for Chinese Studies Materials Reading Room and Rare Books Room, and to find out about the library's related collections and resources.



The delegation visits the Rare Books Room of NCL.

Chinese Studies Symposium

■ The Center for Chinese Studies Holds Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies Lectures

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) promotes academic exchanges in order to increase interaction between the local and overseas Chinese Studies communities. To this end, the CCS established the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, which every year assists 15-20 overseas scholars in coming to Taiwan to conduct research for periods of between 3 to 6 months. Besides hosting Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies from time to time at which these scholars can present the fruits of the research, the center also often invites renowned scholars from around the world to visit and deliver lectures.

Between April and June, 2019, two scholars gave presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:



From left: Dr. I-yi Hsieh, Prof. Rebecca E. Karl, and Prof. Hon-wai Ho.

On May 8, 2019, Dr. Rebecca E. Karl, Professor of New York University's Department of History, gave the first lecture on "The Magic of Concepts: History and Method." Research Fellow of the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Prof. Hon-wai Ho, served as moderator. In addition, Prof. Karl's student, Dr. I-yi Hsieh, the Postdoctoral Research Fellow of Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences at National Taiwan University, was invited as the discussant.



Presenter Dr. Wei-ting Guo (left) and Moderator Prof. Hsi-yuan Chen.

The second lecture was held on June 11, 2019. Invited to speak was Dr. Wei-ting Guo, Assistant Professor of Department of History at Simon Fraser University, Canada. He spoke on “Summary Execution and Chinese legal culture in the Qing Dynasty.” The moderator was Prof. Hsi-yuan Chen, Associate Research Fellow of the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica.

CCS News and Activities

■ The NCL Holds a Course for Foreign Scholars on Using Academic Resources

Every year, the National Central Library (NCL) organizes a one-day program of activities familiarizing visiting scholars with Taiwan’s academic resources and explaining how to utilize them. The first program of 2019 took place on April 11. In the morning, scholars attended a session on using the resources available at the library. This was followed by an afternoon visit to the National Archives Administration (NAA).



Foreign scholars visit the National Archives Administration.

Around 30 scholars attended the day’s activities. In the afternoon, the scholars paid a visit to the NAA, where they were met by the NAA chief secretary, Mr. Yen-sheng Hsieh. Section Chief Ms. Ya-huei Wei then gave them a tour in English of the rich collection and resources held in the archives and explained how to apply for archive access, request documents, and deal with authorization issues. She also took them to view the NAA’s permanent and current exhibitions.

During the visit, the foreign scholars eagerly asked questions and affirmed the overall direction of development taken by Taiwan regarding archive management and openness. They were able to ascertain the likely benefit and value of the collections held by Taiwan’s institutions to their research. They said that they would share the experience of their visit with colleagues upon returning to their home countries.

■ Foreign Scholars Experience the Beauty of Yilan

To help foreign visiting scholars better understand the local customs and conditions in Taiwan, National Central Library (NCL)’s Center for Chinese Studies invited the MOA Taiwan Fellowship recipients and the Center’s Foreign Scholar Research Grant in Chinese Studies recipients to take a cultural excursion on May 24, 2019. Joining the excursion were Director-General Ruey-sheng Gu from the MOFA’s Department of Policy Planning and staff