



Mr. Hanno Lecher (middle), Head Librarian at Heidelberg University's East Asian Library visits NCL to discuss possible collaboration

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 and 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 July and September, 2019, eleven scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On July 18th, 2019, Dr. Jia-Chen Fu, Assistant Professor at the Department of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures at Emory University, gave the lecture on “The Other Milk: Reinventing Soy in Republican China.” At the same day, Dr. Vladimir Kurdyumov, Head of Chinese

Language Department and Professor at Moscow City University, gave the lecture on “Typology and Theory of Chinese Language for Universities' Students in Taiwan and Abroad.”

On July 30th, 2019, Dr. Steven L. Riep, Associate Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature, Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, gave the lecture on “Remapping Taipei: Street Names, Political Symbolism, and Artistic Responses in Fiction, Poetry, and Film.” At the same day, Dr. Aaron K. Reich, Assistant Professor at Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, USA, gave the lecture on “Becoming a Daoist God: A Study of The Canonization Scroll of Li Zhong, a Ming Dynasty Certificate of Canonization .”

On August 2nd, 2019, Dr. Zhang Songjian, Associate Professor with Tenure at the School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, gave the lecture on “The Influence of Taiwan Modern Poetry on Singapore.” At the same day, Dr. Nicolas Standaert, Professor of Sinology at University of Leuven, gave the lecture on “Chinese Voices in the Rites Controversy.”

On August 13th, 2019, Dr. Stefan Kramer, Professor at University of Cologne, Germany, was invited to give the lecture on “Time and Space Aesthetics: On Film and New Media.” At the same day, Dr. Andrew Birtwistle, Associate Professor of Canterbury Christ Church University, gave the lecture on “Unhealthy Realism: Representations of modernity in the films of Pai Ching-ju.”

On August 20th, 2019, Dr. Hanung Kim, Junior Fellow of Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts at Southern University of Science and Technology, was invited to give the lecture on “Between Nāgas and Dragons: The Historical and Religious Meanings of Tibetan Rainmaking Rituals on

the Sino-Tibetan Borderland.” At the same day, Dr. Maud M'BONDJO, Associate Researcher of East Asian Civilisations Research Centre, gave the lecture on “Some Confucian junction points of philosophical and political spheres: Past and present perspectives.”

On September 17th, 2019, Dr. Philip Thai, Associate Professor of History at Northeastern University, was invited to give the lecture on “Coastal Smuggling, Illicit Markets, and Symbiotic Economies in New China, 1950-1965.”

CCS News and Activities

■ A Dialog between Tea and Music: A Mid-Autumn Tea Party for Foreign Scholars

To aid foreign scholars in experiencing traditional festivals in Taiwan and to promote cultural exchange, NCL held a mid-Autumn tea party for foreign scholars on September 16, 2019 at Fo Guang Shan's Taipei Vihara. Invited to the event were more than 40 MOFA and CCS grand recipients from 25 countries, as well as their family members.

The event was hosted by NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, with Ambassador Tu Sheng-kuan from the MOFA's Department of Policy Planning invited to give remarks.

The focus of the activity was to experience a zen tea ceremony. Leading the ceremony was Master Manqian, who was accompanied by more than ten other monks who demonstrated the ceremony. Music played on a zither accompanied the various stages of the ceremony, including the monks making offerings of fragrant flowers, zen meditation, the dhyana technique through seeping tea, the single flavor of tea zen, admiring the tea leaves and the spring of water, admiring the spring of water by returning to sweetness, and

thanking the tea through standing zen. After the ceremony, volunteers at Fo Guang Shan provided the group with a tour of the facilities, including the Hall of Great Strength, the Beautiful Life television station, the Fo Guang Yuan Art Gallery, and the Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA), which has NGO association status in the United Nations. Later, they enjoyed a vegetarian dinner and vibrant conversation.

The event provided scholars with an opportunity outside of their academic research to experience the exquisite tea culture and zen meditation. Those in attendance were highly appreciative of the experience and were especially impressed with Fo Guang Shan's method of promoting culture by blending technology with the humanities. They were also grateful that NCL and MOFA provided the opportunity to tour the Fo Guang Shan Taipei Vihara. It is hoped that these scholars now have a greater understanding of zen and tea ceremonies, as well as an appreciation of the freedom and diversity that exists in Taiwan with regard to religion, tea ceremonies, and zen practices, so that they can share this with their friends and acquaintances overseas.



Foreign scholars experience a zen tea ceremony