

world to visit and deliver lectures. Between October and December, 2020, eleven scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On October 27th, 2020, Dr. Roman Shapiro, Associate Professor of Department of Chinese Studies at University of Masaryk University, Czech Republic, gave the lecture on “The Chinese Princess in the West: from Persian Fairy-tales through Puccini’s Turandot to Traditional Chinese opera”. At the same day, Mr. SIM Kok Meng, Persatuan Kesenian Belia Heart towards the Sun, Kula Lumpur Dan Selangor, Malaysia, gave the lecture on “Discovering Taiwan’s Drama Historical Materials via “Rescue of Malaysia Chinese Drama Historical Materials Campaign”.

On November 4th, 2020, Mr. Georgijs Dunajevs, University of Würzburg, Germany, gave the lecture on “The Pēteris Šmits Collection of Materials in Chinese and Tibetan in the National Library of Latvia”. At the same day, Dr. Ying-kit Chan, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands, gave the lecture on “Ethnicity and Frontier Studies in Southwest China: Pan-Thai Nationalism and the Wartime Debate on National Identity, 1932–1945”.

On December 3rd, 2020, Dr. Soonbang Oh, Professor of Department of Chinese Language and Literary, Soongsil University, South Korea, gave the lecture on From the “Novel for Enlightenment” to the “Revolution of Novel”: Enlightenment Activities Regarding the Late Qing Novel and the Imagination of Civilized Nation”.

On December 9th, 2020, Dr. Nancy Ann Guy, Professor of Department of Music at University of California, USA, gave the lecture on “Garbage Truck Music and Sustainability in Contemporary Taiwan: From Cockroaches to Beethoven and Beyond”. At the same day, Dr. Evelyn Shih, Assistant Professor of Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations at University of Colorado Boulder, USA, gave the lecture on “Funny Noises: The Audio-Visual Parasite in 1960s Taiwan Cinema”.

On December 15th, 2020, Dr. Jaewoong

Jeon, Social Science Teaching Fellow in the Social Sciences at University of Chicago, USA, gave the lecture on “Sugar Capitalism in Taiwan and Korea: A Historical Observation”. At the same day, Dr. Edgar Zavala-Pelayo, Assistant Professor of Sociological Studies Center at the College of Mexico, gave the lecture on “The Governmentality of the Presbyterian Missions in 19th-century Taiwan”.

On December 25th, 2020, Mr. Ilia Mozias, East Asian Studies at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, gave the lecture on “Daoist Internal Alchemy Scripture Jindan Zhenchuan: Dual Cultivation and the Quest for the Sacred”. At the same day, Ms. Caroline Pires Ting, State University of Rio de Janeiro, gave the lecture on “Studying Chinese Art and Poetry in Macau at the Turn of the XIXTH into the XXTH Century”.

CCS News and Activities

■ NCL Invites Foreign Scholars on a Cultural Excursion to Experience Taiwan’s Natural Beauty and Diversity



A group photo at Heping Island Park.

To give visiting foreign scholars an opportunity to understand Taiwan’s rich natural scenery and oceanic culture, on October 21, 2020, National Central Library invited recipients the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Taiwan Fellowship to attend a cultural excursion. They traveled to Heping Island Park, National Museum of Marine Science and Technology - Regional Exploration Building, an

archeological site of an old Spanish church, and the New Taipei City Government Gold Museum.



Scholars tour an archeological dig on Heping Island.

National Central Library is one of the important channels through which foreign scholars are invited to Taiwan. From 1989 to present, these two research grants have been awarded to over 1,500 individuals from 48 countries. This excursion was headed up by NCL Deputy Director-General Ying-mei Wu and MOFA's Department of Policy Planning Director-general Klement Ruey-Sheng Gu. A total of 50 scholars attended, coming from 26 countries, including the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Peru, France, England, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Poland, Russia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, and South Africa.

The activity began at Heping Island in Keelung, where they toured the archeological site of an old Spanish church and gained an understanding of Taiwan's maritime history. Scholars from European countries, especially from Spain, felt a special cultural and historical connection between their home country and Taiwan. Then they enjoyed unique scenic views and oceanic history at Heping Island Park. Arrangements were also made for them to make their own sea glass. This helped them understand the innovative ways that Taiwan deals with trash in the ocean and guides the public in thinking about environmental issues. They also toured National Museum of Marine Science and Technology - Regional Exploration Building, where

the museum director Su-fen Chen made time during the noon hour to give a special introduction to the museum's holdings. She welcomed NCL's foreign scholars and was happy that they could get a better understanding of the museum's rich holdings and exhibitions, especially during the pandemic.

In the afternoon, the scholars braved the wind and rain as they traveled to the New Taipei City Government Gold Museum, where they viewed local ecosystems, old mines, scenic views, historical memories, and cultural assets. They also got to experience the old ways of panning for gold and heard the story of the mining industry's development. The excursion was a wonderful way for scholars to experience the natural beauty of Taiwan, the diversity and exquisiteness of its culture, and its unique history so that these can be shared with those back home.



Scholars get to experience the joy of panning for gold.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ Taiwan-Original Picture Book Integrates AR Interaction Visits Kaohsiung Public Library with Mino!

Kaohsiung Public Library's self-developed AR parent-child interactive games have scored another success. This time, the library is cooperating with Taiwan's first winner of the Bologna Ragazzi Award, picture book author Shin-Yu Sun, in launching Mino's Fantasy Journey. In the game, children and the character Mino, from Mino And His Bag, make