

## Chinese Studies Symposium

### ■ NCL and AMU in Poland Co-organize International Conference

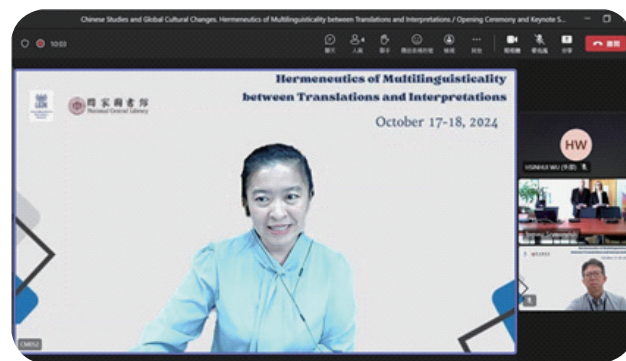
To address the new challenges faced by Chinese studies in the context of globalization, the National Central Library collaborated with the Department of Political Theory and Philosophy at the Faculty of Political Sciences and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poland to host the international conference “Chinese Studies and Global Cultural Changes: Hermeneutics of Multilinguisticity between Translations and Interpretations” on October 17–18, 2024, at Adam Mickiewicz University. The conference featured keynote speeches, including a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies delivered by Professor Jana S. Rošker from the Department of Asian Studies, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her presentation, titled “Transcultural Studies and the Method of Sublation,” explored methodologies in transcultural research. Additionally, the TECO Education Division in Poland attended the event to express strong support and recognition of efforts to promote bilateral academic and cultural exchanges.



*NCL and AMU collaborated to hold an international conference*

The opening ceremony of the symposium on October 17 was co-hosted by Professor Aleksandra Kaniewska-Sęba, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at AMU in Poznań, and NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang. Professor Kaniewska-Sęba warmly welcomed scholars from various fields, noting that the exchange not only brings

new perspectives to Chinese studies but also offers innovative approaches to cross-cultural dialogue. Director-General Wang highlighted the longstanding relationship between the National Central Library and Adam Mickiewicz University. In 2019, an international collaboration agreement was signed, establishing the Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) at AMU as a partner of the library. Since then, the National Central Library has consistently provided Taiwanese publications on Taiwan studies and Chinese studies, as well as access to important Taiwanese academic databases. The idea for the symposium originated in June 2023, when Professors Stelmach and Szymczyński visited the National Central Library and proposed the collaboration. After more than a year of planning and coordination, the event came to fruition this October. Director-General Wang expressed gratitude to Professor Szymczyński from the Department of Political Theory and Philosophy for his co-organization efforts, to the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism for their support, and to scholars from various countries for their participation, which ensured the success of this symposium.



*Director-General Wang during her remarks*

Regarding the theme of this conference, both organizing parties agreed that the precise meaning of Chinese studies has long been subject to diverse interpretations. Consequently, the conference invited scholars from various disciplines, including linguistics, translation studies, philosophy, social sciences, and comparative cultural studies, to share their research findings and methodologies.

Through two days of in-depth discussions at the conference, scholars from Taiwan, Poland,

the United States, Slovenia, Germany, and France engaged in reflective dialogues on the interdependence between Chinese studies and contemporary global cultural transformations. They explored the potential similarities and differences between global and local trends while highlighting shared humanistic values and ideas across diverse cultural contexts. For detailed topics, please visit the conference webpage: <https://isp.ncl.edu.tw/conf-isc2024>.

### ■ NCL Collaborates with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to Organize a "Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies"

The National Central Library (NCL) collaborated with its Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) partner, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to host a lecture titled "Why Ghost?" The keynote speaker was Professor Mu-chou Poo, a retired research fellow from the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica.

The event was held online on October 4 at 7:00 PM Central Time in the United States (October 5 at 8:00 AM Taiwan Time) and was moderated by Professor Wang Bing from the University's Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang also attended the virtual session to deliver opening remarks.

Director-General Wang Han-ching stated that the purpose of establishing the TRCCS is to collaborate with renowned universities and institutions worldwide to create a platform for international academic exchange and to promote the rich and diverse research features of Taiwan's Chinese studies. This lecture marks the second "Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies" organized by NCL in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since the establishment of the TRCCS at the university in November 2017. The speaker, Professor Mu-chou Poo, has taught in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mainland China, and the United States, including at the University of California, Columbia University, and Grinnell College. His research interests span ancient Egyptian history, the religious and social history of ancient China, and comparative ancient history. In recent

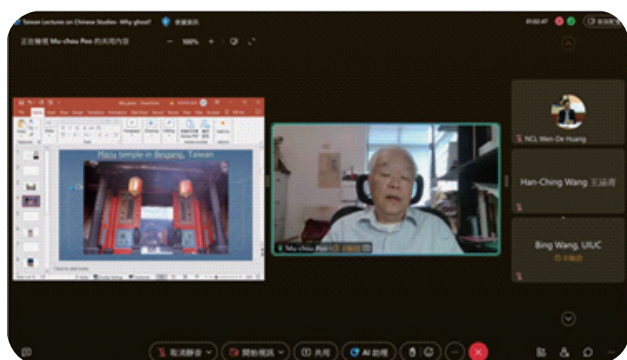
years, he has focused on comparative studies of ancient civilizations. Professor Poo's significant works include *Witchcraft and the Collective Mentality in Han and Tang China*, *Burial and the World of the Dead: Reflections on Ancient Chinese Religion*, *The Literary Art of the Nile: Selected Ancient Egyptian Texts*, *In Search of Longevity and Happiness: The World of Ancient Chinese Beliefs*, *Lands of the Pharaohs*, and *Ghosts and Religious Life in Ancient China*. Many of these works are also available in simplified Chinese and English editions.



*Director-General Wang during her remarks*

In the lecture, Professor Mu-chou Poo shared his long-standing research on the concept of "ghosts" in ancient China, offering insights into the interplay between religious activities, literary imagination, and social life. He began by discussing how his personal beliefs and doubts about religion inspired his exploration of the representation of "ghosts" in religious contexts. He elaborated on the process of reconciling his personal uncertainties with historical realities, presenting his research findings in the process. Professor Poo then explored the idea of ghosts as a reflection of another facet of humanity, explaining how the tug-of-war between humans and supernatural forces has driven the development of religion. Through comparative studies of non-Chinese notions of ghosts, he expanded the understanding of the role ghosts play in human history. Finally, Professor Poo explained how his research on the evolution of the ghost concept in ancient China revealed a connection between imagined heavens and the pursuit of personal well-being in reality. The lecture concluded with a lively Q&A session, where participants engaged in enthusiastic discussions. The event received positive feedback, with attendees praising the depth of the

lecture and the stimulating exchange of ideas.



*Prof. Poo during his lecture*

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ Letting Libraries Eliminate the Sustainable Recycling of Old Books: Yunlin "Micro-Book Corner" Attracts Japanese and Korean Members

In order to provide better places for obsolete books in libraries, Yunlin County Government has been cooperating with stores in the county since 2017 by proactively providing second-hand books to create a "Micro Book Corner" to make reading culture more integrated into people's lives. Currently, there are nearly 300 such locations in the country, and such cooperation will expand to South Korea in 2023. Recently, eight new stores in Sado City, Japan, have joined, creating new achievements in "reading diplomacy".

The director of Yunlin County Government's Department of Culture and Tourism said that the county government allocates funds every year to purchase books. When new books are purchased, old books need to be stored. In order to prevent these books from sitting idle in the warehouse. In 2017, the county government cooperated with stores in the county, providing such books to help stores create micro-book corners, so that books can continue to be provided to readers in need, and a sustainable circulation of books achieved. The micro-book corner was registered in 2020 as Yunlin's reading brand and won the 2024 Asia-Pacific Sustainability Action Gold Award.

The Micro-Book Corner reading brand is not only in Yunlin and Taiwan, but can also be promoted to more places around the world. At the same time, it also allows more Taiwanese and Chinese friends traveling abroad to have the opportunity to come into contact with it and read books, so that every book can circulate sustainably and ubiquitously.

### ■ National Chung Hsing University Library's Hsing Chill Station Library On-site Counseling Service Goes Smoothly Online

The Health and Counseling Center of the Office of Student Affairs and the library of National Chung Hsing University have jointly launched the Hsing Chill Station—Library On-site Counseling Service, which has gone smoothly online and will open a new chapter in caring services for students!

President Jan of National Chung Hsing University said that, under the school management philosophy of "friendly environment and happy campus," he has promoted the Hsing Chill Station Library On-site Counseling Service since taking office, hoping to take care of students' physical and mental health in a more comprehensive way.

Director Hui-yun Sung of the National Chung Hsing University Library said that the results of this cooperation with the Office of Academic Affairs are in line with the core mission of university libraries around the world to support student happiness and, through more dialogue, they will jointly create a library that belongs to everyone. "Hsing Qi Station" is translated as "Hsing Chill Station." We hope that students of National Chung Hsing University will not only pursue the academic advancement provided by learning when they come to the library, but also, through Hsing Chill Station and Anxiety-Release Study Room, pursue a very CHILL attitude of their own towards life, and, in a busy and high-pressure life, cultivate the resilience of flexibility and self-care, take good care of themselves, be ready to meet challenges at any time, and create more wonderful moments in life!