



From left: Director Keng Li-chun, Ms. Sigrid Winkler, Prof. Martin Svensson Ekstrom, Associate Professor David Holm, Prof. Jon Eugene von Kowallis, and Asst. Editor Liao Jane

Eugene von Kowallis, head of the Department of Chinese and Indonesian Studies at the University of New South Wales; Associate Professor Martin Svensson Ekstrom of the Department of Oriental Languages at Stockholm University, Sweden; and Ms. Sigrid Winkler, a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute for European Studies in Brussels, Belgium. The visitors were accompanied by Ms. Keng Li-chun, director of the Liaison Division at the CCS, and CCS Assistant Editor Liao Jane. The CCS group joined over 3,000 other VIPs in the baroque guest house and garden to enjoy a presentation of the opera "Legend of the White Snake," as well as acrobatics displays and other performances. There were also displays showing calligraphy, aboriginal woven textiles, sticky rice cake making, dough figure making, and other traditional arts. The banquet cuisine was equally colorful, with steamed buns from DinTaiFung, Tainan-style dan-zih noodles, and bakery goods from Children Are Us Bakery, among other treats. (Chinese text by Liao Jane)

■ *CCS Seminars*

Visiting scholars were invited to present papers at three seminars held by the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) on August 20, September 23, October 29 and November 27, 2008.

August 20, 2008 (Four Seminars)

The first lecture on August 20 was presented by Prof. Youngseo Baik of the Department of History at Yonsei University, Korean. Prof. Baik presented a paper on the topic of "Historical Studies as an Institution and a Social Movement: Comparative Research on Taiwan and Korean Historiography during 1970-80." The seminar was chaired by Prof. Chen Fang-ming of the Graduate Institute of Taiwanese Literature at National Chengchi University. Prof. Baik analyzed the production of historical knowledge in the Taiwan and Korean university systems, and the historical knowledge rejected by these university systems. He compared differences in the handling of local history, regional history (East Asian history), and world history by historians in the two countries. Although the academic activities within and outside the university systems of the two sides have developed independently, common historical threads are evident in the efforts of the two sides to explore their national identities in the post-colonial, post Cold War era.

The second lecture was given by Dr. Wook Yoon of the Department of History at Yale University, U. S.A., which was also chaired by Prof. Chen. Dr. Yoon presented a paper on the topic of "Development of the Transmission Systems of Memorials in the Late Qing Period." Dr. Yoon believes that the modern postal service of the late Qing period could not replace the traditional courier post system, and this was the main reason that local governments oppose it. Since revenue from the traditional post system provided a major source of funds for local governments and officials, the local officials found innumerable reasons to oppose the

centralization of postal service. Dr. Yoon's research showed that the inability of the central government in Beijing to fully control the local governments was a major obstacle to the modernization movement of the late Qing period.



Dr. Wook Yoon (left), Prof. Youngseo Baik (right), Prof. Chen Fang-ming (center)

The guest speaker at the third seminar was Prof. Katherine Carlitz of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature at University of Pittsburgh, U. S.A. On the subject of "The Evolution of the Jiading county local history from 1557 to 1605: The 'Chaste Maiden Zhang' Incident and More." The seminar was chaired by Prof. Lin Li-yueh of the Department of History at National Taiwan Normal University. In her paper, Prof. Carlitz found that the materials on this incident in the 1557 and 1605 Jiading county gazetteer contradicted each other.



Prof. Katherine Carlitz (right), Prof. Lin Li-yueh (left)

The final speaker on August 20 was presented by Prof. Jana Ro_ker of the Department for Asian and African Studies at University in Ljubljana,

Slovenia on the topic of "Modern Chinese Epistemologies: Towards a New Holistic Entity." The seminar was chaired by Prof. Li Hsien-chung the Department of Philosophy at Soochow University, Taiwan. Prof. Ro_ker believes that traditional and certain modern Chinese epistemologies can be treated as relational epistemologies because the pertinent subjects are related. This relation forms a type of structure. This type of thinking is based on traditional Chinese epistemologies because it considers the external world structure and our internal structure to be the same. This holistic quality is what enables us to accept and understand externalities. Therefore, Chinese epistemologies believe that the structure formed by the union of the internal and external is the foundation for creation and the so-called external world.



Prof. Jana Rosker (front row, second from left), Prof. Li Hsien-chung (front row, second from right)

September 23, 2008 (Three Seminars)

Ms. Sigrid Winkler, a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute for European Studies in Brussels, Belgium, presented a paper on "EU Attitude towards Taiwan's Quest for Sovereignty." The seminar was chaired by Associate Professor Su Hung-dah of the Department of Political Science at National Taiwan University. Ms. Winkler's paper outlined factors influencing the European Union's (EU) Taiwan policy by analyzing the European attitude towards Taiwan's efforts to participate in international organizations. Ms.

Winkler, a former intern at the EU representative offices of Belgium and China, brought an international perspective to this subject.



Ms. Sigrid Winkler

The guest speaker at the second seminar was Prof. Jon Eugene von Kowallis, head of the Department of Chinese and Indonesian Studies at the University of New South Wales, Australia. Prof. von Kowallis presented a paper on the topic of "Modernity in Classical-style Verse: Fan Zengxiang's 'Song of Rainbow Cloud' and the Popular Legend of Sai Jinhua, Cross-cultural Courtesan of the Late Qing Era." The seminar was chaired by Prof. Cheng Yu-yu of the Department of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University. Prof. von Kowallis is an expert of modern Chinese literature and history and has extensively studied classical-style poets of the early Qing period. He noted that the classical-style verse depiction, given the constraints of the form, presents a portrayal of female protagonist which is clearly more than one-dimensional.



Prof. Jon Eugene von Kowallis (left) and Prof. Cheng Yu-yu

The third speaker on September 23 was Ph.D. candidate Ms. Huang Jing-hua of the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Ms. Huang's paper looked at "The Symbolism of Freeing Life and the Literati of the Late Ming Period." The presentation was chaired by Prof. Chang Che-lang of the Department of History at National Chengchi University. Ms. Huang noted that the practice of releasing animals from captivity underwent significant developments up to the late Ming period. Once a custom of releasing animals into a pool at the emperor's command, the practice became popularized as a means for officials to wish for the emperor's longevity and incorporated Confucianist associations.



Ms. Huang Jing-hua (front row, far left), Prof. Chang Che-lang (front row, far right) and other seminar participants

October 29, 2008 (Two Seminars)

The first lecture on October 29 was presented by Prof. David Holm of the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne, Australia on the subject of "The Traditional Character Script of the Zhuang People of Guangxi: A New Approach to Sinology and Southeast Asian Studies." The lecture was chaired by Associate Professor James R. Wilkerson of the Institute of Anthropology at National Tsing Hua University. In his paper, Prof. Holm introduced the traditional character script of the Zhuang people and its relation to other academic fields and explored such issues as the universality and social function of the traditional script among the Zhuang people.



Prof. David Holm (left) and Prof. James R. Wilkerson

The second lecture that day was given by Secretary-general Wang Jian of the Center of the History of Taiwan at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, which NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku chairing. Secretary-general Wang introduced Taiwan history studies in China, identifying three major phases. In the first phase, from 1949 to 1966, Taiwan history studies were more politically leaning. A second phase of greater academic emphasis ensued from 1976 to 2000, with increased attention to the Japanese occupation period in Taiwan. In phase three, from 2001 to the present, more attention has been placed on basic research and the establishment of institutions for Taiwan studies.



Secretary-general Wang Jian (front row, second from left), NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (front row right 1), and other seminar participants

November 27, 2008 (Two Seminars)

The first lecture on November 27 was delivered by Prof. Stéphane Laurent of the Art History Department at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, France on the topic of Culture, Style and

Globalism: The Reception of Western Ornament in China and Taiwan." The seminar was chaired by Prof. Wang Cheng-hua, an associate fellow at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica. In his paper, Prof. Laurent considered the question of globalism as a struggle between international influences and national and local customs and heritage.



Prof. Stéphane Laurent (left) and Prof. Wang Cheng-hua

The second lecture was presented by Assistant Professor Dinu Luca of the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures at the University of Bucharest, Romania on the topic of "Text, Metatext and Figure in Liu Xie's Wen xin diao long: Reading the Xuzhi chapter." The seminar was chaired by Prof. Tsai Ying-chun of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at National Tsing Hua University. Prof. Luca observed that the Xuzhi chapter is both marginal and central, both text and metatext, both within the Wen xin diao long and without the Wen xin diao long, both within and without the xuwen genre, both ordering and dis-ordering.



Prof. Dinu Luca (left) and Prof. Tsai Ying-chun