



*Bùi Xuân Đức (third from left), Dương Thị Hoàng Thu (second from right) with NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (third from right). (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)*

June 23: Shao Tungfang, head librarian at Stanford University's East Asia Library, presents a lecture at the NCL on the topic, "Overview of International Academic Research on the Bamboo Annals."



*Shao Tungfang (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)*

June 29: Liang Yingbin, representative of the Taipei Representative Office in Vietnam, visits NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku for discussions on establishing academic cooperation between the two sides.



*Liang Yingbin (left) with NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (right).*

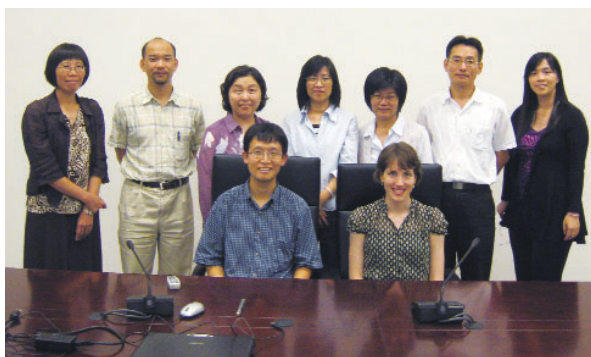
## Chinese Studies Symposium

### ■ May 26-27

A two-day seminar was jointly held by the Center for Chinese Studies and the Department of History of National Chi Nan University on the latter campus in Puli, featuring three inspiring talks given by the visiting scholars of the Center for Chinese Studies and chaired by Professor Lee Kwongkien.

1. Brigid Vance (PhD candidate, Princeton University), "Dreams in *An Explication of the Profundities in the Forest of Dreams*".
2. Xing Hang (PhD candidate, UC Berkeley): "Hair and Clothing: On the 17<sup>th</sup> Century East Asian Maritime Identity and legitimacy in the Zheng-Qing Peace Treaty Negotiation".
3. Natasa Vampelj Suhadolnik (Assistant Professor, University of Ljubljana) "The Reformation of Slovenia's University System and My Sinology Journey".

Based on *An Explication of the Profundities in the Forest of Dreams* and books related to dreams, such as Chen Shiyuan's *Thoughts on Dream and Dream Divination*, Ms. Vance proposed that the author had attempted to connect dreams to reality and further categorized dreams into astronomy, geography, figures (characters), appearances, politics, objects, food and beverage, curiosa etc. Dreams were differentiated into two-level divination and signs. Dreams were also been functionalized to correlate with the reality. Mr. Hang examined the peace negotiation between Qing Court in Mainland and the Zheng regime in Taiwan from 1667 to 1669. He pointed out that Qing proposed various terms and conditions, however, above all, Taiwanese had to alternate to Qing clothing and shave their hair. Mr. Hang proposed that we cannot restore the historical status of the Zheng regime only until we separate it from the political movement of opposing Qing and attempt to revive Ming. Finally, Dr. Vampelj introduced Slovenia's history of independence and nation-building, and four universities, University of Ljubljana, University of Maribor, University of Primorska, and University of Nova Gorica. She further explained the Slovenia's system and its



*Xing Hang (front left) and Brigid Vance (front right). (Photo provided by Jane Liaw)*

dissimilarities from other European and American ones.

#### ■ June 4

The seminar entitled “Moon in the Water: The Interchanging Dream Narrative between Reality and Illusion in Tang and Six Dynasty Dream Novels” given by Dr. Severina Angelova Balabanova (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Montreal) was jointly held by the Centre for Chinese Studies and Department of Chinese Literature of National Tsing Hua University. Professor Chu Pingtzu from the latter was invited to chair the seminar.

The talk focused on the exploration of the meaning of dream in Taoism and Buddhism through the inspection of its presentation in Tang and Six Dynasty dream novels under the influence of the two religions. It shows that there is certain connection between dream and reality. Dr. Balabanova linked the idea of “existence” and “non-existence” to the understanding of dreams, examined their meaning in reality through Taoism and Buddhism, and investigated the characteristics of dream novels.

#### ■ June 8

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Research Grant Program to Assist Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, Prof. Lee Jender, the chair of the department of history, National Tsing Hua University, hosted the symposium on “My Curious Journey of Sinology: Dialogue with Young Western Scholars”, featuring four current visiting scholars in Center for Chinese Studies, Dr. Wong Kwokyu (Canada), Dr. Severina Angelova Balabanova

(Bulgaria), Dr. Ekaterina Zavidovskaya (Russia), and Dr. Natasa Vampelj Suhadolnik (Slovenia) to share with audiences their journey of Sinology. They praised highly of the academic environment in Taiwan for providing easy access to concentrated resources and pluralistic and energetic academic activities. Furthermore, the friendly and obliging attitude of the Taiwan academia also encourages them to come and eases their anxiety conducting research away from home.

Some of the previous visiting scholars were also present to celebrate this meaningful occasion, including Dr. Ann Heylen from Belgium (Graduate Institute of Taiwan Culture, Languages, and Literature, National Taiwan Normal University), Dr. Stephan Schmidt from Germany (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica), Ms. Margret Tillman from the U.S.A. (Doctoral Candidate, Department of History, UC Berkeley), and Professor Jon Eugene von Kowallis (University of New South Wales). More than 300 publications by the visiting scholars in the past 20 years of the NCL’s collection were put on display.



*Scholars at the symposium. (Photo by Caesar Tsai)*

#### ■ June 11

Five young visiting scholars from the Center for Chinese Studies shared their encounters with Chinese Studies and research topics with the audiences on the symposium entitled “My Sinologist Journey: the Sharing of Research Experience of Foreign PhD Students” jointly held with the Department of History of National Taiwan University. Mr. Xing Hang’s dissertation focuses on

the trade and identity of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century East Asian maritime. He puts the Zheng's regime in Taiwan under the context of maritime trade to examine the competition and corporation with the Qing Dynasty and the Dutch. Leikuan Rongdao Lai's research reviews the Buddhist reform movement led by Master Taixu in the republican period from the nationalist perspective. Adopting an alternative approach from international political economy, Ms. Anna Rudakowska observes how normative power and values play a role in EU policies towards China and Taiwan. Ms. Brigid Vance analyzes the dreams and dreaming of the literati in late Qing and early Ming China, and explores their visualization and translation to written form. Finally, by observing the intensive interaction between American Studies and Asian academia in the Cold War period, Mr. Daisuke Wakamatsu uses this as a litmus paper to discuss the formation and characteristics of the East Asian academia.



Anna Rudakowska (left), Brigid Vance (second from left), Xing Hang (third from left), Daisuke Wakamatsu (second from right), and Leikuan Rongdao Lai (right). (Photo provided by Jane Liau)

### ■ July 21

Dr. Nataša Vampejl Suhadolnik (Assistant Professor, University of Ljubljana) and Dr. Wong Kwokyu (Assistant Professor, Susquehanna University) gave talks on topics entitled “Reflection of the Correlative Cosmology in the Han Wei Jin Grave Mural Paintings” and “Sense and Sensibility: On Two Perspectives of the Transformation of Literati Culture at the End of Medieval China”, respectively. Professor Zheng Wenhui (Department



Nataša Vampejl Suhadolnik, Zheng Wenhui, Kan Huaichen, Wang Kwokyu (left from right, front row). (Photo by Caesar Tsai)

of Chinese Literature, National Cheng Chi University) and Professor Kan Huaichen (Department of History, National Taiwan University) chaired the seminar.

Dr. Vampejl dealt with the issue of the ancient Chinese cosmological concepts as reflected in the iconographical design of the grave paintings during the Han and Wei Jin period. She presented a general review of tombs with murals, and then represented the image of celestial bodies, the symbolic polarity of the cosmic forces *yin* and *yang*, the symbolism of the four directions and the four seasons and the symbolic circling of the five *xings* as depicted in Han tomb murals. Later, she focused upon the Buddhist influence as reflected in the grave iconographical schemes designed at the end of the Han and in Wei and Western Jin period and further examined the Buddhist elements incorporated into the grave art, and the changes in the construction and art design of the Wei and Western Jin mural tombs in comparison with Han tombs and to which degree traditional correlative cosmology was still present in the Wei Jin grave pictorial culture.

Dr. Wong attempted to introduce some personal preliminary ideas of this topic from the perspectives sense and sensibility. By examining specific academic examples and literary activities and putting them in the political, social or cultural context in the late Tang and Five Dynasties, hopefully we are able to trace the development of literati culture in the Tang-Song ideological transformation.



## ■ July 24

A seminar jointly held by the Center for Chinese Studies and Popular Religions of the Han Chinese Research Team of the Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica featured a talk given by Ekaterina Zavidovskaya (research fellow, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy Sciences) entitled “Rural Temple Communities *she* and *hui* of Western Shanxi and North Shaanxi Provinces and Their Religious Activities: Field Study Report”. Reserach fellow Chang Hsun (Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica) chaired the seminar.

Starting from early 1980s, Chinese villages took up massive fund raising to restore temples that had been pulled down in 1930-1950s. China’s religious revitalization, temple construction has been an issue much-discussed by academia during past decade. In 2007-2009, Dr. Zavidovskaya has been conducting field work in the villages located in several parts of Shanxi province and northern part of Shaanxi province to learn about structure and management of temple communities called either *she* (mostly in Shanxi), or *hui* (in the North of Shaanxi). “Temple community” is an alliance of several up to dozens of neighboring villages integrated in order to conduct worship of communal tutelary deities who are holding protectorate over the area of community. Some villages would join two communities to secure protection of more than one deity. Dr. Zavidovskaya primarily focused on organization and functions of how *she* is, the process of temple restoration as presented in



Dr. Ekaterina Zavidovskaya. (Photo by Jane Liao)

interviews and interactions with informants, temple committee, local administration, and main religious activities held at communal temples. Traditional body of rural self-government *she* has been influenced by modernization, therefore a group of leaders representing each village is now called “committee”(weiyuanhui), which stays in peaceful coexistence and close cooperation with village and township administration. Dr. Zavidovskaya made conclusions about differences in cultural accumulation between areas of Shanxi and Shaanxi and draw comparisons of ritual practices from North China and Taiwan.

## LIS Seminars

Library Connect Seminar: Next Gen of Librarians  
Organizers: National Taiwan Normal University Library; Elsevier Taiwan  
Date: June 12, 2009  
Venue: Taiwan Normal University Library

2009 International Conference on Institutional Repository Workshop  
Advising Agency: Ministry of Education  
Organizers: National Sun Yat-sen University; National Chiao Tung University; National Cheng Kung University; Hsiuping Institute of Technology; Kun Shan University; National Tsing Hua University; National Chi Nan University; National Taiwan University  
Date: June 19, 2009  
Venue: National Taiwan University Library  
<http://ntur.lib.ntu.edu.tw/seminar/200906/>

2009 Annual Meeting of the Digital Dissertation Consortium  
Organizers: National Chi Nan University Library; National Taiwan University Library  
Date: August 13, 2009  
Venue: Management College, National Chi Nan University  
[http://www.tbmc.com.tw/ddc\\_seminar98/index.html](http://www.tbmc.com.tw/ddc_seminar98/index.html)