

Chinese Studies Symposium

2015.08.11

The CCS hosted a Global Chinese Studies Series lecture, inviting CCS visiting scholar Dr. James Bonk from the College of Wooste to speak on “The Building of Prefectural Shrines for the War Dead in the Early Nineteenth Century Qing Empire.” The Prefectural Shrines for the War Dead was established as a memorial to remember the people who died in the war. Dr. Bonk’s research primarily focuses on the factors affecting the establishment of shrines and the changes in remembrance.



Remarks by Director General Tseng.

2015.08.20

The CCS and the Monumenta Serica Sinological Research Center at Fu Jen Catholic University co-hosted a Global Chinese Studies Series lecture, inviting CCS visiting scholars Dr. Piotr Adamek, from Germany’s Monumenta Serica Institute, and Prof. Deung Yearn Lee, from Chonnam National University in Korea, to share their research findings.

Dr. Adamek spoke on “Reflections on the Missionary Sinology: Selected Examples (Michael Boym, Hyacinth Bichurin, and Franz Biallas).” Dr. Adamek spoke on the life and contributions of three missionaries from different periods: Polish Jesuit Michael Boym (1612-1659), Russian Orthodox missionary Iakinf Bichurin (1777-1853), and German priest Franz Biallas (1878-1936). This highlighted the fact that during the 16th to 18th centuries Jesuits made an indelible contribution in the collation of documents, oral histories, and research on Chinese classics. They could be rightly called the ‘early Sinologists.’



Presenter: Prof. Piotr Adamek from Germany’s Monumenta Serica Institut.

Prof. Lee compared recently popular books on the history of Chinese literature, namely, Kuo-ying Wang’s *A New Take on the History of Chinese Literature* and Peng-chen Kung’s *History of Chinese Literature*. He explored similarities, differences, and unique aspects of the layout of the two books, their historical views, and narrative content. He saw both authors as emphasizing a need to overcome the many limitations inherent in current literature on the subject. He then outlined the “new” layout and historical views these authors have.



Presenter: Prof. Deung Yearn Lee from Chonnam National University in Korea.

2015.08.24

The CCS held the Second Term Presentations of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Taiwan Fellowship Scholars in 2015, showcasing research from four visiting scholars.



Presenters: Prof. Barthélemy Courmont, Dr. Jakub Piasecki (1st to 2nd left), Dr. Yongwook Ryu (2nd right) and Dr. Claudia Zanardi (1st right).

The first presenter was Professor Barthélémy Courmont from the Université Catholique de Lille. He spoke on “Territorial Disputes and Taiwan’s Regional Diplomacy: The Case of the Senkaku/Diaoyu/Diaoyutai Islands.” Dr. Courmont pointed out that despite President Ying-jeou Ma’s constant claims of sovereignty over the Diaoyutai Islands, the government has not taken any direct action. Rather, it plans to engage in multilateral talks with China and Japan in an attempt to mitigate the tension that exists between these countries. Dr. Courmont outlined the pros and cons of this foreign policy and the probability of formal talks. He also spoke on how this even could potentially affect and limit diplomatic relations in the future.

The second presenter was Research Fellow Jakub Piasecki from the Poland-Asia Research Center. Mr. Piasecki pointed out that several members of the European Union formed “The Taiwan State Lobby in Brussels” in 1991. This lobby has often worked with Taiwan’s MOFA, and has traveled to Taiwan for presentations and research on Taiwan’s difficulties in foreign affairs. Mr. Piasecki not only analyzed the important role that “The Taiwan State Lobby in Brussels” plays in the relationship between the European Union and Taiwan, he also listed its important achievements over the last 25 years.

The third presenter was Dr. Yongwook Ryu, a research fellow at Australian National University. His presentation was titled “Chinese Economic Statecraft and Cross-strait Relations.” Dr. Ryu pointed out that China’s economic policy toward Taiwan was purposely creating a trade imbalance, forcing Taiwan to rely on China’s economy. This, he feels, exerts a large influence on cross-strait relations.

The last presenter was Ms. Claudia Zanardi, a doctoral candidate at King’s College in London. She spoke on “Taiwan as Maritime Frontier and Its Role in China’s Coastal Defense from a Historical Perspective from the Sixteenth Century.” Ms. Zanardi’s research is primarily concerned with Taiwan’s evolving role in Chinese maritime defense policies from the 16th century onward. She’s especially interested in how Taiwan transformed from an unimportant island with no economy or defense value into an important location whereby foreign powers can threaten China’s coast.



Group photo of presenters and participants at the Presentations of MOFA Taiwan Fellowship Scholars in 2015.

2015.08.24

The NCL and the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR) co-hosted a session of “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies” at the ASCR. They invited Prof. Siao-chen Hu, a research fellow at the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy in Academia Sinica, to speak on “Burning the Midnight Oil: The Making of Verse Narrative Texts by Qing Women.”

Prof. Hu’s a specialist in early modern Chinese literature, especially Ming-Qing narrative and women’s literature. Her lecture explored the development and change in female Plucking Rhymes novels during the Ming and Qing dynasties, as well as the creation, acceptance, presentation, and publication of this genre. Dr. Ondřej Klimeš from the Department of East Asia at the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic served as the moderator.

Prof. Hu explained clearly why plucking rhymes (a talking-singing art form popular in southern China) were especially embraced by female readers, as well as how this genre inspired female writers to write novels and engage in female self-expression and literary imagination. The lecture was lively and replete with intriguing information, with active audience participation.



Group photo at the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

2015.08.27

The CCS, the National Library of Latvia, and the University of Latvia co-hosted a session of “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies,” as well as the exhibition of ancient Chinese books- “Exhibition: Imprints of Civilization.” About 100 special guests were in attendance, including Representative Kuang-yueh Ko from the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia, Latvian parliament members, and cultural officials, and others.

Prof. Siao-chen Hu, a research fellow at the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy in Academia Sinica, was invited to speak on “Burning the Midnight Oil: The Making of Verse Narrative Texts by Qing Women.”

The exhibition runs from August 27 through October 30 at the National Library of Latvia. This is the first exhibition of its kind in Europe, following three large exhibitions by the CCS in the U.S. during 2012-2013. Each of these were an important milestone.

This exhibition was focused on the development history of Chinese printing and related technologies, including the writing, printing, and distribution of books and other book-related activities. On display were inventions related to printing techniques and the developments in the printing industry. These showed the influence printing had on traditional social values in China. The exhibition also provided attendees the opportunities to try their hand at block printing, movable-type printing, thread-bound books, and Chinese calligraphy, allowing them to better understand Chinese culture and the content of the exhibition.



Many people attend the “Exhibition: Imprints of Civilization.”

CCS News and Activities

■ 2015 Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration Tea Party for Visiting Foreign Scholars

On September 21, 37 visiting scholars and their families from 19 countries of the CCS Research Grants for Foreign Scholars in Chinese studies and MOFA Taiwan Fellowship were invited to a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration tea party. The occasion aims to offer scholars, besides doing research, the opportunities to experience the cultural significance of the traditional folk festivals in Taiwan.



A visiting scholar plays the pipa at the tea party.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ Taoyuan City Public Library Promotes Newborn and Toddler Reading Activities

The Taoyuan City Public Library and its 33 branches held step-by-step reading activities for children 0-5 years of age. This year, not only can children receive a Reading Goodies Bag by going to any branch library with their household registration, those aged 0-5 can also enjoy a host of other activities.

■ New Taipei City Public Library Unveils Mobile Card Application and Free E-Resource Services

In an effort to promote reading and to diversify the ways one can apply for a library card, the New Taipei City Public Library has introduced a new service. In crowded places throughout the city, the library is setting up a mobile stall where the public can apply for