

# EATS News

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## Taiwan Scholars Adopt the Tübingen Manifesto Gunter Schubert

The twenty-one Taiwan scholars who participated in a symposium from June 22-23, 2018 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT), discussing the future of Taiwan Studies, adopted a manifesto whose aim is to appeal to the Taiwan government to reform its current funding structure for the promotion of Taiwan Studies.



The most important suggestion made in the manifesto is to establish a “Taiwan Foundation” as a new public diplomacy institution with different funding branches. Such an institution could reform the current model with different ministries steering their own programmes. The current funding structure has been particularly disadvantageous to setting up schemes for recruiting talented Taiwan scholars as regular staff members by universities outside Taiwan.

It was agreed among all participating scholars that the recruitment of tenured positions is critical for the sustainable development of Taiwan Studies worldwide. Taiwan may look towards South Korea and the utterly successful work of its Korea Foundation for inspiration in this regard. For instance, the Korea Foundation supports hundreds of foreign professorships in Korean Studies with the help of financial arrangements by which targeted universities agree to take over after a couple of

years or co-sponsor these positions on a long-term basis.

All public money spent on Taiwan Studies could be centralized in a “Taiwan Foundation” which would make it possible for these funds to be spent with more strategic foresight; it would also offer a basis for conducting sound post-project assessment. “Spending deep” may be better than “spending broad”, as the manifesto notes in this context, pointing at the observation that many projects that have been sponsored in the past by the Taiwan government have not

proven to be sustainable or to generate lasting effects concerning the entrenchment of Taiwan Studies at universities outside Taiwan.

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The new “Taiwan Foundation” should not come to the detriment of other private funding institutions like the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy or the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, which also finance project-based research and have contributed enormously to Taiwan’s positive international reputation concerning the support of Taiwan Studies.

The manifesto’s major objective is to trigger a debate within the Taiwan government, but also between the Taiwan government and concerned Taiwan scholars outside Taiwan, on a more effective allocation of its limited funding. During the mentioned symposium, all participating scholars emphasized their gratitude for the generous funding that the Taiwan government has granted to universities and research institutions around the world in the past.

The full text of the manifesto is appended below.

**Manifesto for the Further Development  
and Entrenchment of Taiwan Studies  
Within the Global Academia  
(Outside Taiwan)**

**Preamble**

The study of Taiwan outside Taiwan has developed remarkably over the last 15 years, with an increase in Taiwan-related courses at universities, the establishment of new Taiwan Studies centres and three vital regional associations of Taiwan Studies (NATSA, EATS, JAFTS), and the newly-launched International Journal of Taiwan Studies (IJTS). This has been an encouraging development for the entrenchment of Taiwan Studies within global academia. However, the further development of the field outside Taiwan is now at a crucial juncture. Major challenges exist for those who seek to make Taiwan Studies institutionally sustainable, such as a lack of faculty positions and long-term funding schemes for Taiwan scholars and Taiwan-related research and teaching. This manifesto puts forward potential solutions for overcoming the identified obstacle facing Taiwan Studies outside Taiwan and aims to trigger a debate among concerned Taiwan scholars and policy-makers in Taiwan on possible pathways towards the healthy development of Taiwan Studies worldwide.

**I.**

Genuine faculty positions for Taiwan scholars outside Taiwan are almost non-existent. The study of Taiwan at international universities is shouldered by academics who have not been hired as experts on Taiwan but as China or Asian scholars in area studies or disciplinary departments. Young scholars, who currently ride the wave of Taiwan Studies, probably will not find a tenured university position to teach and do research on Taiwan. However, these are the people who would recruit more students of Taiwan and help to entrench Taiwan Studies further within university systems. Regular faculty positions for Taiwan scholars are thus urgently needed.

**II.**

Creating positions for Taiwan scholars outside Taiwan requires new funding schemes which should not be restricted to third party funding but include money coming from university budgets. Only then do universities become stakeholders in those positions. However, international universities are reluctant to create such positions or to make Taiwan Studies figure more prominently in their disciplinary or area studies departments. Therefore, the Taiwan government would be well advised to come up with a coherent strategy to promote Taiwan Studies worldwide, including schemes to initiate the establishment of faculty positions for Taiwan specialists outside Taiwan.

**III.**

We further suggest to the Taiwan government to reform its current funding structure in order to support the global development of Taiwan Studies more effectively. This does not only relate to the establishment of new positions for Taiwan scholars. We also believe that the current funding of proposals for teaching courses, visiting scholar programs, lecture series, and workshops submitted to the Ministries of Science & Technology, Education, Culture, Foreign Affairs throughout the year should be more effectively brought to bear. We recommend that the allocation of project funding by the Taiwan government focuses on institutions and projects that have a proven track record of successful implementation and promise sustainability, instead of following a logic of ‘even allocation across the board’. Spending ‘deep’ may be better than spending ‘broad’.

#### IV.

These objectives may require a greater concentration and coordination of all existing funding schemes so far administered by different bureaucracies within the Taiwan government. We believe that the best way to promote Taiwan Studies globally and attract international universities to become stakeholders in the institutionalization of Taiwan Studies is to create an integrated public funding structure in Taiwan. For this purpose, we encourage the Taiwan government to consider the establishment of a new public diplomacy institution, which may be called the TAIWAN FOUNDATION.

#### V.

A new TAIWAN FOUNDATION would support international universities willing to promote Taiwan Studies to establish professorships, employ contracted faculty members, and appoint visiting professors to advance teaching and research on Taiwan (first funding branch). It would initiate fellowship programs for graduate and postdoctoral studies, as well as fellowships for field research (second funding branch). Finally, it would support special projects to promote Taiwan Studies, such as lecture series, workshops and conferences, and cultural events (third funding branch).

#### VI.

A new TAIWAN FOUNDATION would not replace but complement the important work of other funding institutions in Taiwan which operate independently from the Taiwan government. These could focus on smaller-sized research projects and spread their money more evenly across the board.

#### VII.

The establishment of professorships would best be based on schemes that attract universities to become stakeholders in their ongoing existence. Endowed professorships or tenure-track positions fully financed by the Taiwan government for a certain period before being taken over by university budgets, or co-financed from the very beginning, are viable options which may be pursued by a TAIWAN FOUNDATION. Without such initiatives, the future of faculty positions for Taiwan scholars outside Taiwan looks bleak.

#### VIII.

We encourage all regional studies associations to work together to help the further institutionalization of Taiwan Studies and promote the objectives spelled out in this manifesto. The secretariat of the World Congress of Taiwan Studies at Academia Sinica could fulfil a useful coordination function in this regard.

We appeal to the Taiwan government to seriously consider this 'manifesto' and make good use of the window of opportunity that the recent development of Taiwan Studies outside Taiwan offers.

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*Tübingen, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018*

**André Beckershoff**, University of Tübingen  
**Stefan C. Braig**, University of Tübingen  
**Dr. Isabelle Cheng**, University of Portsmouth  
**Prof. Chien Shiu-shen**, National Taiwan University  
**Prof. Stéphane Corcuff**, University of Lyon  
**Dr. Táňa Dluhošová**, Academy of Sciences  
of the Czech Republic  
**Dr. Dafydd Fell**, School of Oriental and African  
Studies, London  
**Prof. Thomas B. Gold**, UC Berkeley  
**Prof. Ann Heylen**, National Taiwan Normal  
University  
**Prof. Hsin-huang Michael Hsiao**, Academia  
Sinica  
**Prof. Christopher R. Hughes**, London School of  
Economics and Political Science  
**Prof. Henning Klöter**, Humboldt University  
**Dr. Lee Chun-yi**, University of Nottingham  
**Prof. Emerson Niou**, Duke University  
**Dr. Ming-Yeh Rawnsley**, Editor-in-Chief,  
International Journal of Taiwan Studies  
**Prof. Shelley Rigger**, Davidson College  
**Prof. Gunter Schubert**, University of Tübingen  
**Dr. Jon Sullivan**, University of Nottingham  
**Ass.-Prof. Tseng Yu-chin**, University of Tübingen  
**Beatrice Zani**, University of Lyon II  
**Sascha Zhivkov**, University of Tübingen

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# EDITORIAL

Adina Zemanek



The European Association of Taiwan Studies is developing at a fast pace indeed. Last year saw the launch of the *International Journal of Taiwan Studies*, now with two issues published and a solid subscription base. We inaugurate this year with a new programme dedicated to the promotion of Taiwan Studies in the humanities and social sciences – the **Small Research Grant (SRG)**, welcoming applications from all over the world. And you can now enjoy our **fully redesigned website**, which went live on January 1 thanks to joint efforts by our website managers Tom and Herman, EATS Secretary-General Isabelle Cheng, assisted by Ming-Yeh and Gary Rawnsley and EATS board members who provided suggestions and visual materials.

The present issue opens with a significant document – **the Tübingen Manifesto**, drafted by a group of scholars assembled at the symposium celebrating the 10th anniversary of the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan in June 2018. The Manifesto states the key role played by tenured academic positions in assuring the sustainability of Taiwan Studies as a discipline and appeals to the Taiwan government to reform its funding mechanisms for the promotion thereof.

We are always happy to see Taiwan Studies flourish within various centres and programmes. This Editorial is followed by an article by **Federica Passi** who discusses the development of Taiwan Studies in Italy, part of an *EATS News* series presenting the current situation of this discipline across the world. **Vanessa Frangville** introduces “New Voices from Taiwan”, a series of events on contemporary society and culture hosted by the recently founded research centre on East Asia at

the Université libre de Bruxelles.

Faithful to our tradition of promoting young talent, we include reports of library queries conducted in Taiwan and Hong Kong by the **awardees of our Library Research Grant**. Two **Dissertation Award winners** present their research, and **Emma Gordon**, a BA graduate of the University of Portsmouth, describes her first encounter with Taiwan.

**Astrid Lipinsky** reports on a recent conference on environmental and ethnographic documentaries she organized at the University of Vienna, a major event which brought together filmmakers, scholars of film studies and performance arts. We are also delighted to publish **Thomas Gold**'s report from a workshop at the University of California Berkeley exploring Taiwan and Eastern-Central Europe in a comparative perspective. It was inspired by EATS annual meetings held in Krakow or Prague and built on collaboration with EATS members based in that region and other European countries. We congratulate its success and look forward to further such initiatives.

The previous issue of *EATS News* contained an article on translation, which we believe to be a topic worth being continued in a special series. In this issue, **Gwennaël Gaffric** shares his experience of translating Hsia-Yu's multifaceted, sensorial poetry into the French language. The issue ends with a book review by **Chris Cockel** that offers the interesting perspective not of a Taiwan specialist, but a railway enthusiast.

This issue benefited from a larger than usual number of contributions from EATS members and friends informing us of their recent achievements and organized events. We take this opportunity to thank them, and to reaffirm our commitment to publicizing our readers' hard work.

Last but not least, we look forward to meeting our readers at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Nottingham Trent University in April this year!

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Dr Adina Zemanek currently works as Lecturer in Asia Pacific Studies at the University of Central Lancashire. She is also an EATS Board member, 2016–2020.



## **EATS SMALL RESEARCH GRANT (SRG)**

**Application Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

**Amount of Funding: Up to €1,500**

### ***1. About EATS Small Research Grant (SRG)***

EATS is delighted to announce the establishment of the Small Research Grant (EATS SRG) in order to encourage, support, and promote research projects about or related to Taiwan in the humanities and social sciences. This award, up to €1,500, is provided to partially cover the cost of organising conferences, lectures or seminars, recruiting research assistance, establishing archival digitalisation, conducting fieldwork, interpretation, transcribing, publication, or single-authored presentation at conferences, workshops, or seminars.

### ***2. Eligibility – Requirement of EATS Membership for Grant***

Researchers who carry on research projects about or related to Taiwan are eligible to apply. It is a prerequisite to acquire EATS membership for the application for this grant. Please visit [EATS website](#) for the registration of EATS membership.

Applicants who have received EATS Library Grant, Young Scholar Award or Taiwan Studies Dissertation Award may apply for this grant, but at least two years should have elapsed since the previous grant or award. This is in order to have EATS funding to be enjoyed by a broad number of members. Current EATS Board Members are not eligible for any of these grant or award.

### ***3. Evaluation of the Applications***

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria. Disciplinary as well as inter-disciplinary applications are welcome to apply. a. Originality, significance and contribution to Taiwan Studies; b. Feasibility of research design; c. Soundness or innovation of methodology

### ***4. Application Procedure and Final Reports***

a. **Abstract** (150 words); b. **Research Proposal** which must include the research design and methodology (three A-4 pages, excluding bibliography/references); c. **Detailed Budget** of the proposal to be listed in Euro; d. **Curriculum Vitae** of the research director(s), including a list of relevant publications. **Document Styling** is to be in Times New Roman, size twelve, 1.5 spacing, and page numbered.

### ***5. Application Procedure and Research Report***

a. Applications must be submitted by email. The deadline for submission is 1st April 2019. The results of the applications are expected to be announced around 15th June 2019. Emails are to be addressed to the following: [info@eats-taiwan.eu](mailto:info@eats-taiwan.eu) with CC to [chunyi.lee@eats-taiwan.eu](mailto:chunyi.lee@eats-taiwan.eu), [jens.damm@eats-taiwan.eu](mailto:jens.damm@eats-taiwan.eu), [Beatrice.zani@eats-taiwan.eu](mailto:Beatrice.zani@eats-taiwan.eu)

b. Funding will be provided in two stages: 1) A first instalment after the approval; 2) A second instalment after the submission of the research report

c. Awardees must submit a Research Report within three months following completion of funded activities. A Research Report should include: 1) A narrative report including research findings, outcomes or achievements; 2) A financial report including an Expense Form and all original receipts of expense related to the funded activities. Submissions should be sent to the above mentioned email account.

#### **6. Acknowledgement**

Due acknowledgment of the support received from EATS should be made in any publication resulting from the research (article(s), book(s), conference paper(s) or other academic publications). Publications must be notified to EATS and one copy of any book and/or journal should be sent to EATS (or, at least, an electronic version).

In case of funding awarded for conference presentation, EATS support must be acknowledged in the awardee's presentation. The presentation slides (or other presentation aids) have to be submitted as part of the Research Report.

EATS will publicise on its website, and through EATS Newsletter, the awardees and the abstracts of their projects. Awardees are expected to contribute to EATS Newsletter after completion.

### **NEW BOOK**



***100 Years of Taiwan Literature: 1900-2000*** [百年降生：1900-2000 臺灣文學故事]

**Taipei: Linking Publishing, 2018**

This volume is a collective work that introduces the development of Taiwan literature and culture in the twentieth century by telling 101 stories. It is edited by Su-yon Lee 李時雍 and co-authored by a group of active young literature scholars from Taiwan. Although this book was written mostly by scholars from literature departments, it does not confine itself to the field of literature. In addition to different genres of literary works (such as fiction, poetry, essay, play, etc.), this book covers a wide spectrum of cultural productions from Taiwan, including film, art, theater, performance, media culture, literary debates and movements, as well as their relationship to the specific sociopolitical context of Taiwan in the twentieth century. Recently, this book was selected as one of the 10 best books of 2018 by the book review website [OPEN BOOK](#).

For the Linking Publishing website, please click [here](#).

# Taiwan Studies in Italy:

## General Overview and Main Publications

Federica Passi



In the context of Taiwan studies in Europe, Italy probably has a limited visibility. Nevertheless, when analyzing academic activities related to Taiwan, one cannot but have the impression that most Italian sinologists take Taiwan very seriously. This is evident from the number of grants and fellowships awarded to Italian scholars by the National Central Library, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation and other institutions. It is true, however, that the research they conduct in Taiwan is often related to broadly understood Chinese studies rather than to Taiwan studies.

I will try to trace how Taiwan studies have developed (and is developing) in my country, showing that its trajectory is basically different from that of other European countries. In order to do this, a few introductory remarks are required.

The limited visibility of research output on Taiwan produced in Italy has much to do with the Italian language in which most research articles or literary translations are written. Although international standard research requires the use of English, the use of the country's own language has great significance too, especially in the case of a field of studies that has developed only recently, such as Taiwan studies. In this case, asserting the new field also entails the responsibility of spreading knowledge on issues regarding Taiwan inside the country, both in the academic world and among the general public. This requires the use of the local language.

Generally speaking, the study of Taiwan in Italy remains anchored within disciplines with a well-developed tradition: Sinology and Chinese Studies. This is true both on a research level and on a didactic level, where Taiwan often appears together with China as part of research projects and teaching programs, thus contributing to a more comprehensive image of the complex and variegated "Chinese" world. In the same way, the Italian Association of Chinese Studies (AISC) has always welcomed presentations related to Taiwan:

this has been evident during the last two decades, when Taiwan was addressed especially through literature, but at times also through history, traditional music, economics and politics.

Another significant characteristic that should be pointed out here is that Italy has never been the destination of large-scale immigration from Taiwan and thus has never experienced the stimulating presence of Taiwanese PhD students and scholars who have contributed so much to the development of Taiwan studies abroad, especially in the United States and the United Kingdom.

As a consequence of all the above-mentioned factors, the study of Taiwan among Italian scholars seems to result from individual interest nurtured toward Taiwan among scholars and students, rather than from a structured and multidisciplinary field of study. This interest has developed out of the main tradition of Chinese Studies, and has kept literature as a focal point, at times also including other disciplines, such as history, art, cinema, and religious studies.

The late Professor Mario Sabattini, one of the founding fathers of Sinological studies in Venice, was also one of the first Sinologists who addressed Taiwan in his research activity. After a research leave at NCL in 1990-91, Professor Sabattini was well aware of the relevance of Taiwan authors in the realm of literature written in the Chinese language. He included two contemporary writers from Taiwan (Bai Xianyong and Chen Ruoxi) in his collection of Chinese fiction from the Ming dynasty to the present coedited with Paolo Santangelo (1997). Broadly speaking, however, Taiwanese literature in the 1990s was totally unknown to the general public, and a nebulous field even for Sinologists, who were used to see it only briefly sketched in appendixes to books dedicated to Chinese literature.

When I was writing my PhD thesis on the new literature during the Japanese occupation, I

actually felt quite isolated in the Italian Sinological field. My first publications devoted to the subject at the end of the 1990s and beginning of the new millennium were probably the first research works consciously addressing Taiwan literature as a separate field of study in Italy. After focusing on literary movements of the colonial period, on the problems of definition of Taiwan literature, and on specific authors (such as Zhu Dianren), I engaged in the publication of a literary history of Taiwan (2007) which has been a reference work for anyone interested in Taiwan literature in Italy since then. My interests subsequently evolved toward the use of irony in literary texts, modernist fiction, and the positioning of Taiwan literature in a wider context. Since the middle of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Anna Maria Paoluzzi (Unint University, Roma) has also been active in publishing research articles on Taiwan writers and literary phenomena, as well as in using translation to introduce Taiwan literary works (Wang Zhenhe, Li Ang, Bo Yang) to Italian readers.

After publishing a book on Yuan Qiongqiong (including translations of her stories) in 2007, Luca Pisano (Kore University, Enna) has written on various topics related to Taiwan literature, albeit not exclusively interested in Taiwan in his research activity. Among the topics he addressed include Bai Xianyong, Lin Wenyi, *juancun* literature, and literature and politics in the 1970s and 1980s. Another researcher not specifically engaged in Taiwan literature, but who has nevertheless made a significant contribution to it, is Anna Di Toro (University for Foreigners of Siena). Her courageous adaptation of Wang Zhenhe's *Rose, Rose, I Love You* (2014) has attracted much attention within and beyond Sinological circles. Besides writing an article on Wang Zhenhe, she also translated a short story by Luo Yijun. In recent years, Rosa Lombardi, a Sinologist engaged in contemporary Chinese literature and translation (Roma Tre University) has focused on Taiwan poetry, writing articles on it and publishing two monographic works: one dedicated to Xi Murong (2016) and one to Yang Mu (2017), including translation of their works.

Among recent translations of Taiwan works, one should be cited here for its relevance: Wang Dingguo's *My Enemy's Cherry Tree*, translated by Maria Gottardo and Monica Morzenti, two prominent and active promoters of Chinese fiction to Italian readers who thus paid their first homage to Taiwan literature.

Although it is evident that most of the studies dedicated to Taiwan in Italy focus on literature,

other fields should be mentioned here for the international relevance of related publications: Taiwan cinema and the Venice Film Festival (Elena Pollacchi, Ca' Foscari University), Taiwan contemporary art and the Venice International Art Exhibition (Felix Schoeber, who was a scholar and art curator in Venice), the re-interpretation of Chiang Kai-shek's historical role (Laura De Giorgi and Guido Samarani, Ca' Foscari University), and the development of Buddhism in Taiwan and China (Ester Bianchi, University of Perugia).

In considering academic activities at large, Ca' Foscari University of Venice has proven to be an active center in promoting Taiwan Studies in Italy. I was personally engaged (with other colleagues from my department) in organizing a Spotlight Taiwan Project with funding from the Ministry of Culture (2013-2016), focusing on topics ranging from literature to history, cinema to contemporary art, and politics to environmental movements in Taiwan. In 2017 my university hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> EATS Annual Conference (of which I was the local organizer). In October 2018 we organized an international workshop on Taiwan literature, and in November 2018 we received a book donation from the National Central Library and established the Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies in Venice. A similar center was established at Sapienza University of Rome. At Roma Tre University in Rome, Rosa Lombardi has also been particularly active in gathering scholars and organizing academic activities supported by both the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education (2013-2016). All these activities contributed to popularizing Taiwan among university students and academic instructors.

Finally, there has been an increasing number of PhD theses focusing on Taiwan (again, mainly on literature) written at different Italian universities, which show that the seeds that have been sown by isolated scholars during the last two decades, although apparently scattered and unsystematic, are now growing and promise more for the future. I hope this will lead to further engagement from young researchers in different disciplines, and to more collaborative projects which could contribute to rising the visibility of Taiwan studies as an academic field.

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**Federica Passi** is Associate Professor of Modern Chinese (language, literature and translation) at Ca' Foscari University, Venice. A member of EATS, she was the local organizer of the 14<sup>th</sup> EATS Annual Conference in Venice in 2017. Her research interests include Taiwan literature and translation.



## **The 22<sup>th</sup> Franco-Taiwanese Cultural Prize Awarded to Stéphane Corcuff**

Stéphane Corcuff, our colleague from Lyon's Institute of Political Studies (Sciences-Po Lyon) and former director of the French Center for Research on Contemporary China at Academia Sinica in Taipei (CEFC Taipei), has been awarded the 22<sup>th</sup> Franco-Taiwanese Cultural Prize. The prize has been conferred to French, other European and Taiwanese scholars, artists and translators since 1996 by the



prestigious Institut de France, created in 1743. In 2017, the board of the Fondation Culturelle Franco-Taiwanese, among them the Minister of Culture Cheng Li-chun and the members of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of the Institut de France, assembled to vote for that year's Laureates. For the first time in the long history of the prize, they decided to distinguish four individuals simultaneously, in order to underline the numerous realms of cooperation between Taiwan and Europe: two scholars, one film maker and one play director. Stéphane was awarded the prize with a special mention, "for the whole of his studies of Taiwan and his devotion to a better understanding of Taiwan in the world". A movie has been made on Stéphane on this occasion that can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

This is also an occasion to inform EATS members that, after many years spent in Taiwan, Stéphane is back in Europe, teaching at Sciences-Po. Together with the Francophone Association of Taiwan Studies, he will organize the 9th Francophone workshop for young scholars in Taiwan Studies on April 4-5, 2019, at Sciences-Po Lyon.

## **WORKING HOLIDAY IN TAIWAN: YOUTH MOBILITY SCHEME**

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan)**

If you are between 18 and 35 years of age, come to Taiwan to change your perspectives, build independence, and boost your competitiveness through a mix of travel, study, short-term training, and work! It is an opportunity that will pay lifelong dividends.

To help you make this happen, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has placed information on the Working Holiday Programme on its [website](#).

The countries covered by this programme are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. Amongst them, Belgium, France, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, Poland and Slovakia have signed reciprocal agreements with Taiwan on exchanging driving licenses without tests.

You can engage in any type of work, as long as it is legal. Most available jobs are in education, hospitality, and tourism sectors. If you're pursuing jobs in medicine, architecture, or accountancy, you should comply with related laws and regulations.

# CONFERENCE REPORT

## Beyond Beauty: Looking Through the Lens of Environmental Documentaries at Taiwan in the World

University of Vienna, 24 – 28 October 2018

Astrid Lipinsky

The origin of this international conference was the untimely death of environmental film director Chi Po-lin (齊柏林) in a helicopter crash on 10 June 2017 while filming for the sequel to his most famous documentary “Beyond Beauty. Taiwan from Above” 看見臺灣 (2013). During a brainstorming session with others in late 2017, my wish to promote Chi in Vienna developed into the planning of the first joint conference hosted by two Taiwan studies centers: the International Center of Taiwan Studies (ICTS) at National Taiwan Normal University, and the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies (VCTS) at the University of Vienna.

The Taiwanese Ministry of Education generously financed our plan to invite Taiwanese environmental documentary film directors to Vienna, with a focus on younger generation directors with less or no European experience. The French-Taiwanese Award received by VCTS Director Astrid Lipinsky in 2016 covered costs in Vienna as well as the invitation of a European speaker, Chris Berry, and a number of European-based discussants.

The conference responded to the fact that environmental documentaries are rarely known and discussion of environmental topics in film is lacking. Meanwhile, Taiwanese policy has recently focused on the environment, and worldwide interest in Taiwanese investment in green energy – including wind, solar and water power – is visibly growing. Furthermore, film has proven to be a very good way to introduce Taiwan to Western students as well as the general public. That was why the screening of “Beyond Beauty” and “Let it Be” 無米樂 (2004) in a public cinema were part of the conference, as were recent films shown by the directors during the conference.

The conference opened with a keynote lecture by Shiau Hong-chi from Shih Hsin University in Taipei. In “The Sensational, the Everyday Life and the Spectacular – Witnessing the Intersection of Documentary Filmmaking and Civic Movement in

**Beyond Beauty**  
TAIWAN IN THE WORLD

Through the Lens of Environmental Documentary 看見臺灣:從環境紀錄片的觀點看世界中的臺灣

International Conference with Taiwanese Experts  
Department of East Asian Studies/SIN1  
Campus of the University of Vienna, Austria

October 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**2018/10/24**  
18:30-22:00 *The Sensational, the Everyday-life and the Spectacular – Witnessing the Intersection of Documentary Filmmaking and Civic Movement in Taiwan* - Prof. Shiau Hong-Chi

**2018/10/26**  
10:00-12:30 Presentation and discussion with Prof. Hu Tai-Li  
Filmscreening: *Returning Souls*  
15:00-18:00 *Dancing with the Ocean: Making a Sensory Ethnographic on Freediving Spearfishing with the Amis of Taiwan* - Prof. Tsal Futuru  
Filmscreening: *Between Breathing*

**2018/10/27**  
10:00-11:30 *Taiwan's Indigenous Peoples and Feature Film Cinema: From Colonial Mascot to Eco-Citizen* - Prof. Chris Berry  
11:30-12:30 Filmscreening: *Return to Hometown: A Story of Taixi Village*  
14:00-16:00 *Can the Village Speak? Documentary Theatre in Taiwan* - Prof. Wang Chun-Yen  
16:30-18:00 *Beyond Chi Po-Lin: Environmental Movement and Documentary Filmmaking in Taiwan since the Dawn of 21<sup>st</sup> Century* - Round Table with speakers

Further program informations: [tsc-conference.univie.ac.at](http://tsc-conference.univie.ac.at)

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Taiwan” he provided an overview of the development of documentary filmmaking in Taiwan, concluding with an introduction of Chi Po-lin. He was also one of several speakers bringing related DVDs for future screening in Vienna. In the coming years, the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies plans to institutionalize regular Taiwanese film weekends at the University of Vienna and has already started a collection of Taiwan film DVDs that are beyond the University of Vienna library collections.

The conference continued with filmmaker Hu Tai-li from Academia Sinica, who with her film “Returning Souls” is a pioneer of ethnographic filming in Taiwan. She also brought her film “Voices of Orchid Island” that is specifically relevant to students and future researchers, as it

includes a reflection on documentary filmmakers and the individuals they film. In addition, Orchid Island is a focus of environmental debates in Taiwan. Hu Taili also highlighted the fact that environmental issues are often related to the aboriginal population. This aspect was deepened by Futuru Tsai, who introduced the Ami tradition of spear-fishing to the Vienna audience.

The second overview was by Chris Berry, King's College, UK, on indigenous peoples and feature film cinema in Taiwan – making use of the “Fourth Cinema” put forward by Barry Barclay (2003). Wang Chun-yen (NTNU, Taiwan) then presented the Chung Chiao documentary film “Return to Hometown: A Story of Taixi Village” (2016). The English language subtitling of this film was also part of our project. When planning the conference, we found that environmental documentary films are often not accessible via English language subtitles. This is also true for German language environmental documentaries.

Discussants Adina Zemanek (University of Central Lancashire, UK), Stefano Centini (Rome, Italy and Taipei), Gwennael Gaffric (University of Lyon, France) and Judith Schöne (Free University of Berlin, Germany) provided diverse European perspectives. Their inputs were further differentiated according to their fields of expertise, all of them Taiwan-related: Adina Zemanek – popular culture, Stefano Centini – filmmaking, Gwennael Gaffric – literature and literary translation, Judith Schöne – politics.

A volume based on the conference will be edited by Astrid Lipinsky and Shiao Hongchi as part of the peer-reviewed Vienna Taiwan Studies Series. A call for papers in addition to the conference articles will be issued.

The conference ended with a field trip to the Lobau Nature Park not far from Vienna. From the Park, we continued with a walk through the Vienna City Neubau (‘new development’) district, guided by a member of the locally governing Green party, focusing on Austrian local environmental policies. The city walk and the Lobau field trip were especially planned for the Taiwan conference guests, who found them of special interest.

The conference opened and suggested multiple issues for future Taiwan studies and Taiwan teaching. We expect the outcomes to be numerous, including environment-related term papers by BA and MA classes taught this term, and hopefully cooperation in future research.

Details about the conference are available on the website of the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies <https://tsc-conference.univie.ac.at/ongoing-event/beyond-beauty-international-conference-in-vienna/> and include an extended program with speakers' abstracts. A conference brochure is available from: [Astrid.lipinsky@univie.ac.at](mailto:Astrid.lipinsky@univie.ac.at)



**Astrid Lipinsky** is the co-founder and managing director of the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies that will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2019. Dr. Lipinsky studied Sinology and law at Bonn University, Germany, and universities in Taiwan. Her research interests are gender and Taiwan studies. She teaches at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna, Austria. Her publications are available on her homepage at [www.sinojus-feminae.eu](http://www.sinojus-feminae.eu)

## EATS Taiwan Studies Dissertation Award Winners

ISE OUHAMMA

### **Development and Gender Equality in China and Taiwan: A Comparative Study**

Economic development, the expansion of the service industry and the popularisation of higher education resulted in an increase in the number and competitiveness of female labour participation in China and Taiwan (Takeuchi & Tsutsui, 2016, p. 100). Both countries have a Confucian cultural heritage but have experienced different political, social and economic development over the last century, which resulted in different gender-role attitudes (Yang, 2016, p. 73). While the preceding Mao era had emphasized

gender equality in China, post-1979 development and economic reform resulted in a return of gender division in the workforce (Yang, Fu & Li, 2016, p. 21, Yang, 2016, p. 78). Because of women's traditional home-based role, they are generally seen as being less committed to their career (Fang Lee, 2010, p. 2260). With the existing mindset of "men work outside, and women stay at home" (Yang et al., 2016, p. 31), it does not look as if change is on the horizon. Modernisation and democratisation in Taiwan have benefitted women in terms of material conditions and individual autonomy, even though gender bias and the double burden of work and home responsibilities on women persists (Yang, 2016, p. 80). The fact that the Taiwanese economy consists of small and medium businesses gives women a greater chance to negotiate maternal leave and flexible working hours (Takeuchi & Tsutsui, 2016, p. 103). Next to that, Taiwanese women can resort to kin networks and other services such as nannies for childcare which helps them combine work- and family- life (Takeuchi & Tsutsui, 2016, p. 103). Overall, it appears that development has had a fairly positive impact on gender equality in both countries. It has mainly been the traditional gender roles based on Confucian principles that have prevented reaching full gender equality.

This essay assesses the significance of China and Taiwan's foreign aid and seeks to address how both countries perceive and implement development for Africa. Through examining the distinct features of their foreign aid and the motivation for providing it, this piece concludes that both states will arguably be significant in shaping the future of aid policy in emerging and established donors as well as the nature of the international aid architecture.

It can be argued that for China and Taiwan, aid has always been an active foreign policy-tool. Both states regard their overseas aid policies as a means of exerting foreign policy, with the goal of luring potential diplomatic allies to switch their international allegiance from Taiwan to China or vice versa. Both sides have been criticized for playing "dollar diplomacy" by offering unconditional funds to high-ranking officials of diplomatically "allied" nations (Chien, Yang, & Wu, 2010, p. 1189; Tubilewicz & Guilloux, 2011, p. 335). As a means for escaping from this ongoing attempt to make Taiwan diplomatically 'invisible', Taiwan has sought to expand official relations with other nations, in many cases sparking a diplomatic competition with Beijing (Taylor, 2002, p. 125). This complex political relationship limits Taiwan's activities in Africa, and highlights that aid is used as a tool to achieve status change by promoting upward mobility, internationally and building stronger relationships with countries aspiring similar economic growth. China has also strengthened its broader economic ties with a number of African countries, investing in mining projects and dam building and has developed close military relations with a number of African countries, particularly Sudan, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria.

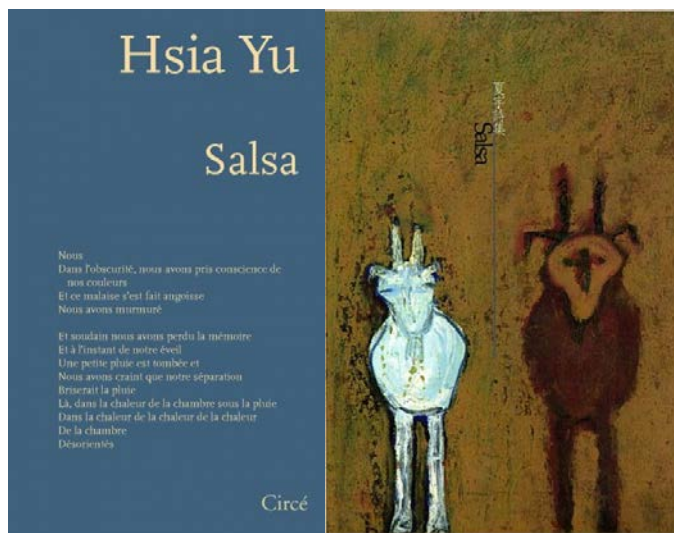
Clearly, Africa is not insignificant in Chinese and Taiwanese foreign policy, and it is most probable that the diplomatic competition between the two will continue for the foreseeable future, with Africa continuing to play a significant role in Taiwan's broad foreign relations (Taylor, 2002, p. 140). Current opinion seems to see more benefit from China's trade-based approach compared to Taiwan's more diplomatic approach in serving as a catalyst for African development.

SUSIE BOWMAN

### **Using Aid as a Diplomatic or Economic Tool: The Motivation and Approach of Aid to Africa by Taiwan and China**

# Hsia Yu's *Salsa* in French: Translation as a Shared Musical Experience

Gwennaël Gaffric



Hsia Yu, *Salsa*, tr. G. Gaffric, Paris, Circé, 2017 and 夏宇, 《Salsa》, 2009

Hsia Yu 夏宇 is an unclassifiable artist and a major figure in the contemporary Taiwanese literary scene. She is often presented as a bohemian and a wanderer poet who divides her life between Taiwan and Europe, especially France (where all the poems of the *Salsa* collection have been written).

As an elusive poet, Yu goes where her encounters, desires and discoveries guide her. Always looking for new ways of doing poetry, she attaches great importance to the links between writing and visual arts (photography, painting, video editing...). More than a coherent and consistent whole, Yu's poetry collections must be understood as independent artistic works, in which each element, from the cover to the format of the book, from the font to the texture of pages, contributes to exploring the essence of poetry.

*Salsa* is an assembly of intimate murmurs that also surprises the readers by its materiality: in the original collection published in Taiwan in 1999, in addition to the paintings created by Yu herself, the pages of the book are not cropped, but still bonded together, as if the printer had forgotten a step in the printing process. It is then by carefully detaching

the pages, for fear of tearing them, that readers discover Yu's poetic whispers, one after the other. The act of reading thus appeals not only to the eyes and the mind, but also to the touch.

Ironic, individualistic, ambiguous, sensual, sometimes violent and erotic, Yu's poems do not correspond to the traditional standards of a romantic, embellished and sentimental so-called "feminine" poetic writing. Her originality also lays in the fact that she is not in dialogue with any national and/or political discourses, but with her own creation.

Yu's writing is also marked by the intermingling, the merging and sometimes the colliding between different languages, including Chinese, French and English. The collection *Salsa* is one of the most brilliant examples. A multilingual poet, Yu's multilingualism is not manifested by the juxtaposition of words or expressions belonging to different languages, but by her re-composition of the Chinese language itself. The elasticity and its sponginess characteristic of the Chinese language allow it to absorb structures coming from foreign languages, and to play on the ambiguity of genders and tenses.

The *Salsa* collection (released in 1999 in Taiwan) has a particularly close link with France. The poems that compose it were mostly written between 1991 and 1998, years during which Yu lived in Paris and Provence. Therefore, the reader should not be surprised to discover poems about Montmartre, pastis, Tarot or Cézanne. However, Yu never falls into the traps of exoticism or nostalgia. On the contrary, the countries that parade in the verses of her poems are so many in-between places, both foreign and familiar, particular and universal.

During the translation of *Salsa* for the collection of Taiwanese poetry series directed by Marie Laureillard at Circé Publishers, I had the chance to personally experience this incessant back and forth between languages.

Yu has indeed taken an active part in the French translation, thanks to her fine knowledge of the French language. A few months before Circé Publishers gave me the opportunity to translate and publish the collection, Yu contacted me to propose to work together on the translation of one of her poems (〈繼續討論厭煩〉 / “Continuer à parler de lassitude”). I did not know her yet, but I gladly accepted. Soon, we felt that we had a good chemistry, and the desire to share this experience of translation together was appealing to both of us. Over the months, our complicity grew, and we enjoyed spending a lot of time talking about literature, translation and more.

The translation process of *Salsa* was often like this:



I made a first translation of three or four poems in French and sent them to Yu by email. Then, the same evening, we discussed (on Skype) the translation. The idea was that I read the poems in French aloud, to allow the author to feel the poetry, the cadence, the music of words. On this basis, Yu helped me to

rewrite some sentences, to adjust my score, as if I was playing a violin piece with a trumpet. When, at the end, the music of the poem satisfied both of us, we froze this version, even if sometimes we still modified some words a few days or weeks later, after having let it simmer in our minds.

Yu had no intention to “explain” the poems, just as I did not question her about what she meant, but she told me the place, and sometimes the atmosphere in which she had writing, or the music she had listening to. After all, poetry is often more about sensation than meaning.

Translation, and perhaps even more that of poetry, involves an incessant process of deterritorialization and reterritorialization, as Deleuze would say. These processes were not only carried out in this case by the poems, but also by the poet herself. On many occasions, Yu invited me, even pushed me, to seek more radicality in my mother tongue, allowing me (which is rare in translation) to move away sometimes considerably from the *meaning* of the original, to better express its *effects*.

Where I was seeking syntactic consistency, Yu directed me more towards ungrammaticality and de-structuring. I think she was right: the poetic nature of Yu’s poetry lies less in her use of a complex lexicon, but in the arrangement of words and images, in her way of venturing to create new analogies every few sentences, as if the irregularity of her verses and the unfinished fragments of her metaphors allowed an infinity of other possible poems to emerge, as if certain things were kept silent, waiting only to be revealed by the readers. The emphasis in Yu’s poetry is on the performance of the poem more than on its narration.

With *Salsa*’s translation, I came across an intense, physical experience where the orality and the music of the poem count as much – if not more – as its written transcription. It was a shared adventure, in the same sense that poetry and translation are arts of sharing as well.

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**Gwennaël Gaffric** is Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Literature at the Université de Lyon (France). He is also translator of Chinese, Hongkongese and Taiwanese contemporary novels. His research interests include literary studies (especially science fiction), ecocriticism and postcolonial studies.

## 2018 EATS LIBRARY GRANT REPORTS

In order to gather research materials and conduct interviews for a conference paper to be presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Taiwan Studies (WCTS) held at the Academia Sinica in Taipei in early September 2018, I traveled back to Taipei and stayed from mid-June to late September.

The main focuses of my paper were as follows: 1) the poetics and theatrics of *The Puppetmaster* (《戲夢人生》, *Xi Meng Ren Sheng*); 2) the *Yun-Kuai* editing method and Taoist editing philosophy in the film; 3) how the historical background of the film has been represented through “historiophoty,” a term coined by the American historian Hayden White. The semi-documentary film released in 1993 is based on the former half of the life story of the Taiwanese puppet master, Li Tien-Lu (李天祿, 1910-1998) from 1910 to 1945, to the point at which the Japanese government ceased their colonial rule in Taiwan. I also sought to learn more about the local development of the art of Taiwanese puppetry. In order to fulfill the stated research purposes and interests, I conducted an archival research at the Taiwan Film Institute (TFI, 國家電影中心) in Taipei city during the summer.

Founded in 1979 as the previous Film Library of the Motion Picture Development Foundation, the TFI has gone through several stages of administrative change and became the current institute in 2014. Located close to the Shandao Temple Station of the Taipei MRT, my archival research was mainly conducted at its library on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the TFI. As the most crucial and resourceful film archive in Taiwan, the TFI offers a wide range of digital and printed film resources, including *City Entertainment Magazine* (《電影雙周刊》) published in Hong Kong from 1979 to 2007. Through my archival research at the TFI's library, I found several issues of *City Entertainment Magazine* that feature interviews and articles related to *The Puppetmaster*, as well as other film magazines and journals introducing Hou Hsiao-Hsien's (侯孝賢) distinguished filming style and Liao Ching-Song's (廖慶松) editing aesthetics. At the library, I also re-read and closely examined the original film script of *The Puppetmaster* written jointly by Chu Tien-Wen (朱天文), Wu Nien-Jen (吳念真), and Hou Hsiao-Hsien. I spent approximately two weeks researching at the TFI's library in July.

In addition, I arranged two interviews in Taipei, one with the film editor of *The Puppetmaster*, Liao Ching-Song, and another with the “I Wan Jan Puppet Theater” (「亦宛然掌中劇團」, hereinafter referred to as *I Wan Jan*) originally founded by Li Tien-Lu in 1931, later administered by the puppeteer's second son, Li Chuan-Tsan (李傳燦) after 1998 and before 2009. Currently, *I Wan Jan* is being taken care of by Li Chuan-Tsan's son

### Vivian Szu-Chin Chih

#### Project Title:

Remembering

*The Puppetmaster*: 2018  
Summer Library Visits and  
Interviews in Taiwan

#### Libraries Visited:

Library of the Taiwan Film  
Institute,  
National Taiwan  
University Library,  
National Central Library  
of ROC



and grandsons. *I Wan Jan* is in the mountainous area of Sanzhi District in New Taipei City, where the Li family manages the Li Tianlu Hand Puppet Museum. According to Li Chun-Kuan (李俊寬), his grandfather was not only a pioneer artist of Taiwanese puppetry, but also a strict puppetry teacher and father, and a very kind and doting grandfather. From Chun-Kuan and his mother, I learned several interesting anecdotes about Li Tien-Lu, as well as recent developments of *I Wan Jan* and Taiwan's puppetry art.

I also conducted an interview with Liao Ching-Song, who won the Special Contribution Award of Taiwan's Golden Horse Film Festival in 2018. The interview took place at the Central Motion Pictures Corporation (CMPC, 中央電影公司) in Taipei. Having edited more than a hundred Taiwanese and Sinophone films since 1973 and being the most senior and respected film editor in Taiwan, Liao appeared humble and easy-going. His studio faces the mountains and is filled with books he enjoys reading. In reply to my question about the seemingly Taoist-like editing aesthetics employed in several of Hou's films, including *The Puppetmaster*, Liao attributed the influence on his erudition in Chinese philosophies, Western and Eastern hermeneutics, and traditional Chinese poetry. As a student in literature doing research on Taiwanese and Sinophone cinema, I was very intrigued by how these literatures had inspired Liao's editing, and how he was able to visually embody these abstract concepts through the practice of film editing.

I also paid frequent visits to the main library of National Taiwan University for book research and printing, as well as to the National Central Library for academic theses and historical periodicals published in Taiwan during the past decades regarding Taiwanese puppetry and *The Puppetmaster*. I received helpful feedback after my presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> WCTS on September 7<sup>th</sup> from the moderator, the other two presenters, and the audience of the panel. This conference paper and the summer research results are aimed to be integrated as part of my PhD thesis in the near future. I would therefore like to extend my sincere gratitude to the European Association of Taiwan Studies for awarding me this generous library research grant, without which my summer travel back to Taipei and all the above-mentioned research endeavors would not have been possible and rewarding.

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**Vivian Szu-Chin Chih** received her B.A. from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at National Taiwan University, and holds an M.Phil. in East Asian studies from Cambridge University. She has been serving as the editor-at-large for Taiwan for the online literary translation journal, "Asymptote" since 2013, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. degree at the Department of Literature in UCSD.

### ***Taiyupian* in Vilnius**

Ming-Yeh Rawnsley (SOAS) and Chris Berry (KCL) continued the screening tour part of their "Taiwan's Lost Commercial Cinema: Recovered and Restored" project on the *taiyupian* Taiwanese-language cinema of the 1950s to 1970s in Vilnius, Lithuania, at the invitation of Deimantas Valanciunas, Associate Professor of Film and Popular Cultures in the Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies at Vilnius University. On 19 September of 2018, they hosted a joint lecture entitled "Taiwanese Language Cinema and Taiwan Cinema," followed by a screening of *Fantasy of the Deer Warrior*. On 20 September, they introduced *Vengeance of the Phoenix Sisters*, and the following day *The Bride Who Has Returned from Hell* was screened. The audience on the first day was approximately fifty people. Their questions indicated they found it easy to understand the complicated situation of a small country with big neighbours, and the audience grew bigger with each screening.



## Description of the Research Project

My research project examines the post-war history of Taiwan, the Kuomintang (KMT), Chiang Kai-shek, and Japan against the background of the Cold War in East Asia. It focuses on the history of the White Group (*Baituan*, 白團), a secret Japanese military advisory group consisting of former Imperial Japanese military officers.

There is a consensus among historians that it was the Korean War (1950-1953) that triggered US intervention in the Taiwan Strait, which in turn led to the signing of the Mutual Defence Treaty between the US and the Republic of China (ROC) in 1954. It “accidentally” gave the Nationalist state rooted in Taiwan its permanent shape. Nevertheless, before the Korean War and the arrival of the US Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), it was the White Group who helped Chiang and the KMT regime survive the pressing crisis that followed their total defeat in the Chinese Civil War in the end of 1949 by reconstructing the ROC military and re-introducing the wartime mobilisation system and military training guidelines, which are still in use in Taiwan today. In other words, the backbone of the post-1949 ROC Armed Forces was built with the assistance of the White Group.

This project will study the White Group’s mission in Taiwan from 1949 to 1969. It will analyse its role in: reintroducing conscription; making mobilisation guidelines; drafting plans for retaking the mainland; offering military education to ROC military officers. It will also discuss its significance in the Battle of Kinmen in 1949 and the Taiwan Strait Crises of 1954-1955 and 1958. The history of the White Group will be perceived as part of what might be loosely termed two consecutive waves of militarisation which shaped Taiwan’s modern trajectory. First, as part of the Japan’s mobilisation of its militarised domains in the late 1930s and early 1940s; and second, as part of the Nationalist government’s Total Defence Mobilisation System (TDMS) in Taiwan after 1949. My project’s concerns are twofold. First, it assesses the impact of the Imperial Japanese military ideas on the development of post-1949 ROC military culture and ethos. Secondly, it inquires into how the overlay of Imperial Japanese Army culture forged on the drill grounds of Sagami-hara and the battlefields of China in the 1930s became ingrained in aspects of Taiwanese politics, economy, society and culture. The aim of this project is to trace the genealogy and impact of the White Group over time and to argue for its centrality to the Nationalist nation-building and developmental state forged after 1949.

Through analysing the history of the White Group, the project will further examine the history of decolonisation in Taiwan after the fall of the Japanese imperial rule. It will also show how the ROC in Taiwan reshuffled and re-established itself after the KMT’s defeat in the civil war. It will hopefully help in better understanding the history after the dismantling of the Japanese empire, its continuity or legacy in post-war

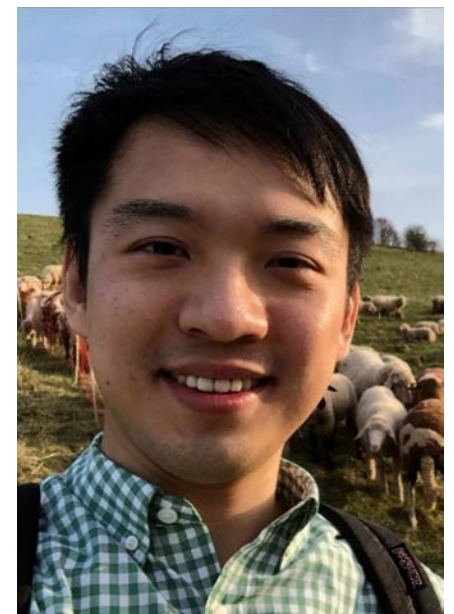
## Ko-Hang Liao

### Project Title:

Rethinking Defeat: Japan, Chiang Kai-shek, and the “White Group” in Taiwan, 1949-1969

### Libraries Visited:

The Academia Historica and the National Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan



East Asia and in rethinking the meaning of “defeat”. This is a story of how the ROC, which emerged as a victor in WWII while a loser in the Chinese Civil War, cozied up to its former enemy, Japan, and unofficially sought its assistance to accomplish their unfinished revolution to resist a common enemy: Communist China.

### **Research Work at the Academia Historica**

The Academia Historica in Taipei contains abundant archival documents regarding the ROC government from the Nanjing decade to the most recent Tsai administration. The documents that I have consulted at the Academia Historica were composed in the period between the late 1940s and the late 1960s. An investigation of these archives contributed to my understanding of the missions the White Group executed and their interactions with Chiang and other KMT officers. For instance, in *Tejiao Dangan: Junshi* [Specially submitted archives: Military] of *Jiang Zhongzheng zongtong dangan* [President Chiang Kai-shek Collections], one can find the outline of the TDMS proposed by the White Group, including the details of the mobilisation of Taiwanese people to participate in military operations against the PLA and retake mainland China. The outline of the *Guang, Kai* and *Project National Glory*, the military plans for retaking mainland China which the White Group also played part of a role in, and the military deployment in front-line islands such as Kinmen and Matsu, and military assistance from the US during the two Taiwan Strait Crises can also be found from the digital archives in the reading room in Taipei and the publications by Academia Historica. In addition, the collections can also help better understand the relationships between Chiang and other KMT generals such as Sun Liren, He Yingqing and Bai Chongxi, and how Chiang gradually consolidated its supremacy in Taiwan after the mid-1950s. For instance, *Tejiao Dangan: Waijiao* [Specially submitted archives: Foreign Affairs] enabled a better comprehension of Chiang’s reactions to the MAAG’s intervention on the White Group’s involvement in the ROC military training and their role in helping Chiang counterbalance the MAAG influence and checkmate Sun Liren.

### **Research Work at the National Central Library**

Since my project contains chapters investigating the dramatic changes of Taiwanese people’s resistance (from anti-Allies during the wartime to anti-Nationalist misgovernment during the 228 Incident and to anti-Communism after 1949), the role of the Japanese legacy in post-war Taiwan, the two Taiwan Strait Crises, and military plans for retaking mainland China, it is very important for me to also consult secondary sources relevant to these topics. For this reason, the National Central Library is crucial for my secondary sources, which include out-of-print books. I made photocopies of several such books including *Chenfeng de zuozhan ji hua*, *Kuoguang ji hua: Koushu lishi* [Kuoguang War Plan: An Oral History Collection] that delineated the secret *Project National Glory* through oral interviews of the participants. *San you ji* [Anthology of the Three Friends] was recommended during an interview with Mr. Chung Yi-ren, the captain of the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade which fought against the Nationalist Army after the eruption of the 228 Incident. This book helped better comprehend the tangled relations between some Taiwanese and Chinese key figures before and after the incident.

Overall, the archival research in Taipei was very helpful and beneficial to my project as the primary and secondary sources I collected and consulted during the trip enabled me to contrast with the sources I collected in my first year and possibly create a new insight into the White Group and post-war history of Taiwan. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank EATS for their support to my archival research trips at the Academia Historica and the National Central Library in Taipei. With these valuable sources I am more confident with my research project.

### **Advice for Other Researchers**

Most of the archives in the Academia Historica have been digitised, but some are only available on computers in the reading room in Taipei. Photos are allowed in the reading room. One can also pay for high-definition

printouts or digital copies. Account registration is required before consulting those archives in the reading room. Simply follow the instruction on the official website of the Academia Historica. Both the Academia Historica and the National Central Library can be easily reached by MRT or buses. However, I would like to remind researchers of the operating hours as libraries might close during holidays or long weekends.

**Ko-Hang Liao** is a PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (FAMES), University of Cambridge. He is also a member of Professor Barak Kushner's five-year European Research Council (ERC) funded project on *The Dissolution of the Japanese Empire and the Struggle for Legitimacy in Post-war East Asia*.

### **THE FRENCH TAIWAN STUDIES PROJECT**

French Taiwan Studies is the result of a collaboration between Taiwan's Ministry of Education, the CNRS (Centre national de la recherche scientifique – French National Center for Scientific Research) and the EHESS (École des hautes études en sciences sociales – School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences). It was created on the initiative of Samia Ferhat, researcher at the Centre for Studies on Modern and Contemporary China (CECMC) and lecturer at Paris Nanterre University. The project aims to contribute to the dissemination of knowledge on Taiwan's history, society and culture.

#### ***A multidisciplinary approach***

The project is structured around different learning tools:

- The seminar, eight sessions that take place every year at the EHESS
- The website, which collects various documents and works about Taiwan studies
- The organisation of scientific workshops, activities and events, in cooperation with both French and foreign researchers
- Fieldwork grants, awarded to students who are enrolled in the seminar and conducting research on Taiwan



This project was the subject of a memorandum of understanding between the Taiwan's Ministry of Education, the CNRS and the EHESS, signed on 21 October 2017.  
(Photo credit: Bureau de représentation de Taipei en France – Taipei Representative Office in France)

<http://frenchtaiwanstudies.org>

## Description of the Project

My PhD research deals with Taiwanese and Korean artists' national identity expressed in their paintings and writings during the Japanese colonial period and analyses such ideas and sentiments that formed the Local Colour Movement in the 1920s. My research was initiated by a fundamental question about how both Japanese colonies' artists coped with colonial rule and presented their thoughts in their artworks. Therefore, my thesis began with art in Japan of the late nineteenth century as it widely affected Taiwanese and Korean artists at the time. It explored Western-style painting education in Japan and the beginning of Local Colour Movement and examined how it links to early Taiwanese and Korean Western-style artists who studied in Japan. I also extensively researched Local Colourists of Korea and their art coteries from the 1920s to the following decade, along with the Joseon Art Exhibition run by the Japanese Government-General of Korea as the artists' nationalist sentiments were distinctly featured in the annual exhibition.

## Current Research Activities

My research now proceeds to Taiwanese artists under the Japanese rule, therefore I was very much looking forward to visiting the National Taiwan Library and the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts Library to find essential materials for further study. My field trip to Taiwan aimed to find reading materials and paintings of Taiwanese artists in the first half of the twentieth century and check the *Catalogues of Taiwan Art Exhibition* 臺灣美術展覽會圖錄: 1927-1936 and the *Taiwan Governor-General's Art Exhibition* 臺灣總督府美術展覽會圖錄: 1938-1943.

I visited Taiwan in early October and went to the National Taiwan Library first, which has a large collection of documents related to Taiwan studies. I tried to contact staff members of the libraries by email in advance, but I could not receive any reply from them. I was a bit concerned about the extent to which I would be able to access the library collections. However, when I talked to the library staff in person, they were kind and welcoming. Since I only studied Mandarin Chinese before and could not properly read nor write traditional Chinese texts, I had some problems using the library facilities. The library employees I met were very helpful and allowed me to use all the books I needed. I spent two whole days in the library and read the entire series of art exhibition catalogues published from 1927 to 1943. Both the *Catalogues of Taiwan Art Exhibition* and *Taiwan Governor-General's Art Exhibition* were fundamental to developing my research on Taiwanese artists' ideas and art trend during the colonial period.

At the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, I not only conducted a library query, but also saw a special exhibition entitled "Aggregation & Blooming: Artists Groups and the Development of Fine Arts in Taiwan", based on the museum's art collection. This exhibition was about

## Boram Lee

### Project Title:

Taiwanese Artists' Sense of Nationalism in the Local Colour Movement During the Japanese Colonial Period

### Libraries Visited:

National Taiwan Library  
National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts Library



Taiwanese art groups that were active from the 1920s to the 1990s, including colonial-era artists and their entourage who initiated modern art development in Taiwan. It was a great opportunity for me to see actual paintings of Taiwanese artists, which gave me inspiration that I could not obtain from print media. Due to this exhibition, the museum published a catalogue of about thirty-eight Taiwanese artists and twenty-five local art groups in the Japanese colonial period. The museum library also organised a special section for it, displaying many books about each artist covered in the exhibition, which offered me a good reference list for my research. The book collections of Chen Cheng-po (1895-1947) who received art training at Tokyo School of Fine Arts and actively participated in Taiwan Art Exhibition and Taiwan Governor-General's Art Exhibition, were especially useful for me as he will be a main figure for my study on Taiwanese artists section.

Based on my field trip to Taiwan, the focus of my study moved on to the part concerning Taiwanese artists, which will become the third chapter of my PhD thesis. I will examine images of paintings from the catalogues available at the National Taiwan Library and attempt to analyse the artists' sense of nationalism presented in their paintings that led the Local Colour Movement in Taiwan. I have not had enough time to read through all the materials that I brought from Taiwan yet, but they will certainly be highly valuable for my study.

I am grateful to the European Association of Taiwan Studies for supporting my visit to Taiwan. Thanks to the Library Research Grant, I could collect basic and essential data for my research, as well as personally see Taiwanese artists' paintings. This field trip not only greatly inspired me to have new ideas, but also laid the foundation for my further research.

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**Boram Lee** is a third-year PhD student at the School of History of Art, University of Edinburgh. She received her bachelor's and master's degree in Art History and Chinese Language & Literature in Korea. She obtained a second master's degree in History of Art & Archaeology of East Asia at SOAS, University of London in 2016. Her PhD research focuses on national identity of Taiwanese and Korean artists and their paintings during the Japanese colonial period.

### **7th "Young Scholars Workshop" at the CCKF-ERCCT Summer 2019**

The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan - A CCK Foundation Overseas Center at Eberhard Karls University Tübingen will hold a workshop for emerging young scholars from **30 June to 7 July, 2019**. Applicants shall be Ph.D. students (3<sup>rd</sup> year and above) and postdocs and are particularly encouraged to submit proposals related to the workshop's leading topic on "**China's New Sharp Power: Consequences for Taiwan and Europe**". **However, submissions on any other topic in the field of social science research on contemporary Taiwan or Cross-strait relations are welcomed as well.** The workshop will provide young scholars with the opportunity to:

- present their research to an international audience
- engage in scholarly exchange on theory and methodology
- get to know Tübingen, the CCKF-ERCCT and its university;

Travel expenses and accommodation will be fully covered by the CCKF-ERCCT. Successful applicants are required to submit a research paper after the workshop to be published online in the CCKF-ERCCT Online Paper Series.

Interested candidates are invited to send their CV and an outline of their research project (5-6 pages) **until 15 March, 2019** to: **Stefan Braig, M.A., ERCCT Managing Director, Mail: [stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de)**

## **Project Background**

Last summer, I conducted my PhD thesis fieldwork research in Taipei for half a year. I then took a two-week break in my hometown Hong Kong and utilized the time there to collect data for a side research topic regarding the Kwang Hwa Information and Culture Centre in Hong Kong. This is a topic that has been developed for a long time and the topic is generously supported by the EATS Library Grant programme.

Although Taiwan has suffered a series of diplomatic setback since DPP won office in 2016, they manage to maintain “non-diplomatic” relationships with different countries and cities to facilitate political and cultural exchanges through establishing quasi-diplomatic offices with the status of Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO). For instance, Taiwan operates the Kwang Hwa Information and Cultural Centre in Hong Kong. In this research, I am trying to look at the case of Hong Kong and to see how the Kwang Hwa Centre demonstrates Taiwan’s public diplomacy.

## **Research Activities Conducted Under the Grant**

During my short but fruitful stay in Hong Kong, I had the chance to return to my alma mater, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), after graduating in 2015. Although it is always nice to browse and explore the abundant resources in the library located up the hill, information and official records regarding the Kwang Hwa Centre are disappointingly limited. Nevertheless, I managed to locate two different important resources in the CUHK library. One is the monthly newsletter published by the Centre from 2001 to 2003. Even though the newsletter collection only covered for a relatively short period, it clearly showed that the Centre was more like a learning centre rather than a cultural hub like today. It held movie-screening and different courses regularly by then.

The other important official record from the centre is located at the Closed Stack session of the library. It is the Special Issue published at the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Centre in 2000. In this Special Issue, a number of welcoming notes/speeches given by the leaders from both the Hong Kong and Taiwan cultural scene offered a comprehensive and revealing picture of the centre’s background. Unfortunately, because of the strict library regulations, only a small portion of this “closed stack” archive could be photocopied.

## **Tommy Chung Yin Kwan**

### **Project Title:**

A Case Study of Taiwan  
Public Diplomacy:  
Kwang Hwa Information  
and Culture Centre in  
Hong Kong

### **Libraries Visited:**

The Chinese University of  
Hong Kong



All in all, this small-scale research carried out at the CUHK was an important first-step for this Kwang Hwa project. I believe this would be a project that connects Taiwan diplomacy to scholars and people interested in Taiwanese culture. I am looking forward to presenting my findings at the coming EATS conference in Nottingham. Again, I would like to express my gratitude to EATS for their kind support.

Tommy Chung Yin KWAN is a PhD candidate, Department of Politics and International Studies at SOAS, University of London. He is also a writer and a regular contributor of Ming Pao, commenting on Hong Kong and Taiwan's political and cultural scenes. He is now a Short-Term Resident Fellow at ERCCT, University of Tübingen.

### **New Grant Program of the National Museum of Taiwan Literature**

The National Museum of Taiwan Literature located in Tainan (國立台灣文學館) has initiated a new grant program entitled "Translators of Taiwanese Literature in Residence Project 台灣文學譯者駐村計畫" to start in 2019. Invited translators can live in Tainan for one month to meet authors, publishers, researchers and other translators. The first two recipients of the grant invited to Tainan for February and March 2019 are EATS member Thilo Diefenbach from Berlin (Germany) and Shimomura Sakujiro 下村作次郎 from Tenri (Nara, Japan). Both will present their latest books at the Taipei International Book Fair.

### **New Events at the University of Zurich**

A new Zurich Taiwan Film Screenings Series was inaugurated in 2018 with two screenings of Wan Jen:

- **November 1, 2018:** [Super Citizen Ko](#)
- **November 8, 2018:** [It Takes Two To Tango](#)
- **May 14-16, 2019:** two film screenings of Taiwanese language cinema, accompanied by presentations by Prof. Chris Berry (King's College London) and Dr. Ming-Yeh T. Rawnsley (SOAS, University of London)

The current edition of the Zurich Taiwan Lecture Series includes the following:

- **November 27, 2018:** a lecture by Dr. David Huang, current Representative of Taiwan and scholar of International Relations: [The New Security-Economic Nexus in the Asia-Pacific: The Role of Taiwan](#).
- **April 9, 2019:** a lecture by Dr. Elizabeth Zeitoun from Academia Sinica : A Study of Japanese, Hakka and Taiwanese Southern Min loanwords in Saisyat from a phonological and morphological perspective
- **May 15, 2019:** a lecture by Prof. Chris Berry of King's College London

Other events:

- **April 7-9, 2019:** a block seminar by Dr. Elizabeth Zeitoun from Academia Sinica: Contemporary Issues on Formosan Languages

## Acknowledgments

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to EATS for entrusting me with the 2018 Library Grant to conduct research activities in Taiwan. It was a great and very useful opportunity that allowed me to explore main libraries and bookshops located in Taipei and to collect the materials I needed for my research project.

## Description of Research Project

My PhD project deals with the emergence and development of Modernism in Taiwan in the 1950s and 1960s. In particular, I aim at finding links between the 1930s Chinese modernist trend of the School of the New Sensibilities and the 1950s and 1960s Taiwanese modernist movement, in order to redefine the latter as a transcultural and transnational phenomenon. In order to do so, the first part of the project will mainly focus on the leading figure of Ji Xian (1913-2013), a Chinese poet who moved to Taiwan in 1948 and became a pioneer in the introduction of Modern literary theories and contents to the island. Having cooperated with the Chinese School of the New Sensibilities in Shanghai, this writer would appear to play the pivotal role of a cultural and literary bridge between Mainland China and Taiwan in the transmission and later indigenization of Modernism on the island. In 1953 he started publishing the first magazine on modern poetry, *Modern Poetry Quarterly (Xiandai shi)*. In 1956, he founded the Modernist School, a group of poets aimed at defining a new form of poetry by borrowing ideas from Chinese modern literature and Western Modernism. The second part of my project will deal with the development of Modernism in fiction by examining the literary production of some of the most prominent figures in the literary circles of the 1960s, such as Bai Xianyong (1937-) and Wang Wenxing (1939-).

## Research Activities Conducted in Taiwan

I conducted my research activities mostly at the Taiwan National Central Library. The library holds an exhaustive and well-organized collection of works on Taiwan studies. It is situated in the heart of Taipei, and it is easy to access. Within the library, it is possible to register at the main desk to scan books and magazines free of charge for 30 minutes and there are copy machines on the first and third floor. Moreover, in order to request books kept in closed stacks, the library provides a digital system that can be accessed using the library card. The materials I collected in the library include anthologies of modernist writers, critical volumes on Taiwanese Modernism, modernist magazines, and relevant articles on the issue. In particular, I found many of the works of Ji Xian, such as *Ji Xian huiyilu* (Memories of Ji Xian) and *Ji Xian shilun* (Ji Xian's Poetic Theories), and several numbers of the modern magazine *Xiandai Shi*.

Apart from the National Central Library, I also visited the Fu Jen Catholic University Kungpo library which I found well-organized and well-stocked. Moreover, admission to the library is free of charge and a personal identification document is required upon registration. Finally, I spent three days in Tainan to visit the National Museum of Taiwan

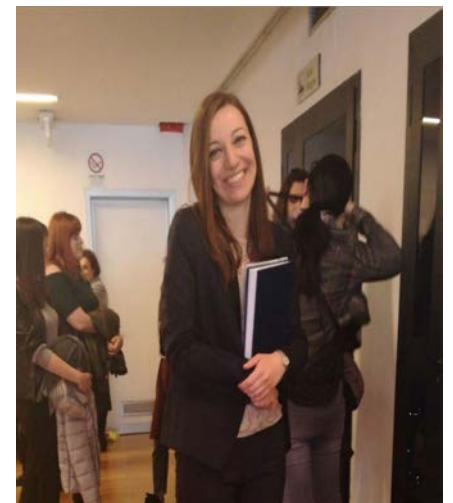
## Silvia Schiavi

### Project Title:

Transnational and  
Transcultural Literary  
Trends: Taiwan 1960s  
Modernism as Case Study

### Libraries Visited:

National Central Library,  
Fu Jen Catholic University  
Library,  
National Museum of  
Taiwan Literature





Literature. The museum, opened in 2003, holds a permanent exhibition on the history of Taiwan literature from its origins to the 1990s, and a library where it is possible to read or even buy volumes. All volumes published by the museum are also available and purchasable. I found interesting studies on the development of Modernism in Taiwan in the fields of poetry and fiction such as Liao Shufang's *Tansuo de niandai: zhanhou Taiwan xiandaizhuyi xiaoshuo jiqi fazhan* (The Age of Exploration: Taiwan Postwar Modernist Fiction and its Development).

During my stay in Taiwan, I also attended the Third World Congress of Taiwan Studies (September 6th -8th) where the challenges and the recent achievements of the field of Taiwan Studies were discussed and delineated. During this conference, I had the opportunity to meet local and European scholars who gave me useful advice about my research project and hints on the best local libraries and bookshop to visit.

### Suggestions for Other Young Scholars

For those who wish to spend a research period in Taiwan, I strongly recommend visiting the National Central Library due to the relevant materials available and the excellent services provided. Moreover, I would also recommend visiting the well-stocked local bookshops near the National Taiwan University whose staff are always welcoming towards foreign researchers. Finally, for those interested in literature, I specifically recommend the National Museum of Taiwan Literature in Tainan.

**Silvia Schiavi** is a Ph.D. candidate in Chinese language and literature at Roma Tre University, Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures. She obtained an MA degree in 2017 with a thesis on the life, literary and film production of the Taiwanese writer Liu Na'ou (1905-1940). Her current fields of research include Taiwan and Chinese Modernism, Transcultural and Transnational studies, Taiwan Urban Literature and Literary Translation.

## Workshops on coherence in Taiwan literature

Two successive workshops on the issue of coherence in Taiwan literature were organised by Carsten Storm and Federica Passi. The first was entitled *In Search for Coherence: The Fictive, the Fictional, and the Possible in Taiwan Literature* and took place on March 25, 2017 at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg.

It was followed by a second workshop *Coherence and The Creation of Mimetic Processes in Taiwan Literature*, University Venice. The small team of organizers, as well as Sandrine Yin, and Pavlina Krámská, who discussions.



that considered the results of the first: *Meaning: The Fictive, the Fictional and* held on October 19, 2018 at Ca' Foscari participating scholars included the two Marchand, Gwennaël Gaffric, Lin Pei-engaged in intensive textual work and

The workshops aimed at gaining back that takes the specific narrative mode achievements of the linguistic turn. interpretation which would lay open kinds as well as intra- and intertextual provide the ground for establishing is then possible to analyse fiction with a reliable way, especially aspects of power and the relations between the fictional and the fictive as well as between theory, practice, and reality. The authors selected for discussion included Guo Song-fen, Ji Ji, Kao Yi-feng, Ouyang Zi, Shui Jing, Syaman Rapongan, Wali Nokan, Wang Wen-hsing, Wu Ming-yi, and Ye Shitao. A subsequent publication will soon follow.

a hermeneutic reading of fictional texts seriously without seeking to reverse the Rather, it is only a seriously performed varieties of textual operations of all references and structures, that could options of coherence. On this ground it the arsenal of "post-turn" theories in a

## Description of the Project

My doctoral dissertation is a study of the nation-state formation conducted from the perspective of church-state relations. More specifically, it inquires into how it was possible for a tiny Presbyterian church based in an East Asian island to leave an imprint of its own image on the making of an island republic. In understanding the making of the Taiwanese nation-state as a nascent and ongoing phenomenon, I argue that since the 1970s the Church has made an impact on the course of nation-state formation by producing three successive nation-shaping ideologies.

To substantiate this argument, this study empirically explores the questions of how a mature inclusivist thesis of the postwar Taiwanese nationalism was born within the Church, how the Church's practical institutionalized arrangements for aboriginal evangelization unintentionally brought about the autonomism-oriented aboriginal nationalism, and how a social conservatism organizationally based on cell-like congregations has emerged and manifested itself in opposition to same-sex marriage. In other words, this study empirically aims to explore the "genesis" of the three ideologies that has political consequences shaping the invention, transformation, and ongoing direction of the Taiwanese nation-state. By tracing the "genesis" of the three ideologies back to a common origin, i.e., the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, this study offers insights into the articulation of postwar Taiwanese nationalism that foretold and guided the making of the Taiwanese nation-state, the rise of aboriginal nationalism and its demands for aboriginal self-government and asymmetric federation, and the emergence of social conservatism that claims to rescue the nascent nation from societal atomization.

This study relies heavily on the immense amount of original materials that appeared in PCT's internal documents and publications for the public. These documents include Church laws and regulations, annual reports of the PCT General Assembly, Church statistics, manifestos, pamphlets for internal training and evangelization, faith confessions, pastoral letters, church declarations, articles from PCT-based periodicals and newspapers, theologians' works, personal diaries, autobiographies, memoirs, and collections from imprisoned church leaders.

## Research Activities Conducted in Taiwan

With the EATS Library Grant 2018, I visited and collected materials from three institutes affiliated to the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT), all of which are located in Tainan. The first is Tainan Theological College and Seminary Library, where I checked special collections donated by the Elder Loā Éng-siông, a scholar of bibliothecography who had worked for the Harvard-Yenching Library, dipped into some first-hand materials related to Shoki Coe, former Principal of the Seminary and the prominent theologian of PCT. The second is the Center of Historical Materials based in Chang Jung Senior High School, which stores early Church newspapers and periodicals (such as the *Messenger*) as well as meeting minutes and annual reports of the Southern Synod (and its

## Ek-hong Ljavakaw Sia

### Project Title:

Crafting the Nation in its Own Image: The Constitutional Isomorphism between the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the Taiwanese Nation-State

### Libraries Visited:

Tainan Theological College and Seminary Library,  
The Center of Historical Materials based in Chang Jung Senior High School, and Taiwan Church Press



predecessor) during the late Qing and Japanese periods. The third is Taiwan Church Press, where I bought church publications and reprints of important historical materials needed for conducting my studies. I am grateful to have the EATS Library Grant help me conduct this research trip and collect key materials.

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**Ek-hong Ljavakaw Sia** is a Ph.D. candidate in politics and research fellow at the European Research Center of Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT), University of Tübingen, Germany. His research interests include nationalism, church-state relations, environmental governance, and indigenous self-rule.

## **International Workshop**

### **“The Invisible Within. Actors, Relationships and Activities in Chinese Migrant Families”**

**University of Central Lancashire, November 15-16, 2018**



On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 the University of Central Lancashire in cooperation with the University of Portsmouth hosted the international workshop “The Invisible Within. Actors, Relationships and Activities in Chinese Migrant Families” at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. Eighteen young and established scholars presented their papers across six panels which addressed different aspects of invisibility in the context of Chinese family migration. Seven papers were devoted to Taiwan.

The keynote speech was delivered by Professor Janet Carsten of the University of Edinburgh: “Imagining and Living New Worlds: The Dynamics of Kinship in Contexts of Mobility and Migration”. The workshop also featured other activities, such as screenings of two films: “Nowhere to Call Home: A Ti-betan in Beijing” (Jocelyn Ford, 2014) and “Border People” (Elena Barabantseva, 2018).

This workshop was attended by twenty-nine academic delegates, forty-five students registered in the BA module “Taiwan in the Asia Pacific” at the University of Central Lancashire, and two persons from the general public.

# My Study Abroad Experience in Taiwan

Emma Gordon

I travelled to Taiwan roughly two weeks before I was due to register at NTNU's Mandarin Training Centre, in order to allow myself time to find accommodation. I was armed with just a suitcase and some recently converted NTD. Upon exiting the airport, I was greeted by Taipei's iconic yellow taxis, a cheap and convenient mode of transport utilised by many in Taipei. The humidity in Taiwan is very noticeable and at its absolute worst in summer, when stepping out of air-conditioned rooms reminds one of stepping out of the shower into a steam filled bathroom.

My first task was to find some accommodation. This can be quite a stressful endeavour when you take into consideration the language barrier, cultural differences, and the fact that there are landlords who will simply often say "the property is not suitable for foreigners". Most expats tend to rely upon Facebook to secure accommodation. There is a prominent Facebook group "Looking for Roommates and Apartments in Taipei" that landlords and prospective tenants both post on, and where I eventually found my room.



Despite the difficulties, it is still very achievable. Most people tend to rent a shared apartment, or a small studio, which often includes a small kitchen area within a bedroom/living area and a balcony



with a washing machine. The rent will usually be about £100-300 a month, depending on whether you share or get your own place. It's rare in a small studio room to have large appliances such as ovens. Most people manage with a hob and a rice cooker/slow cooker and microwave. Therefore, should you like to cook, this may be something to keep in mind. In Taiwan food is everywhere, and

accessible all the time. Lots of people find eating out to be very cheap and affordable. There's also a lot of variety, from hotpot to night markets, fast food, or an authentic dumpling restaurant. You can find almost any type of food, at any time of day.

The density of 7/11s, FamilyMarts and other convenience stores is so high that you'll often see several on the same street. Almost all are 24/7 having seating areas inside, providing postal and banking services, serving hot food, cold food as well as all the other confectioneries you'd expect. Taipei is a city of convenience. Travel is no different. The subway system in Taipei is called the MRT; it's cheap, efficient and exceptionally clean due to the strictly enforced and followed "no drinking or eating" rule. £10 was often enough to allow me to travel freely all around the city for a week. You can pay per journey, but most people purchase an Easycard which is like a Taiwanese Oyster. It can be topped up and used to ride the MRT, to rent one of the many U-Bikes, or to make purchases in just about any chain store in Taiwan.

At times the strangeness of day-to-day life (and the confusion that can arise from even the simplest interactions) can become exhausting. Every foreign student occasionally has a few days where they seek refuge in the comfort of their bedroom...

The administration in Taiwan can often be frustrating from an outsider's perspective. Opening a bank account or sending post can be tiresome in your home country but become long

and complicated endeavours sometimes taking weeks in Taiwan.

Another thing to consider is the fact that Taiwan is very ethnically homogeneous, with 98% of the population being Han Chinese. You can probably expect some staring, and stereotypical questions coming your way. You may possibly experience this to a higher degree if you are not of European descent as a minority within an already tiny minority. But it is rarely the result of malice – more often than not, it is simply curiosity. Nevertheless, it can become tiresome after several months, and for myself personally my stressful days weren't aided by people staring or stopping me to take photos. Whilst seeing foreigners around is becoming quite common, particularly in the cities, you will stand out all the time.

That being said, the majority of Taiwanese are friendly and polite, often complimenting and encouraging your Mandarin, and asking for



directions from the locals will frequently result in someone offering to simply walk you the way to your destination. Taiwan is also incredibly safe with a very low crime rate. I once had my purse returned with all the money inside, and people will often leave their doors unlocked, bikes unchained etc.

There has been a strong emphasis on strengthening global connections in Taiwan over



the years; there are many international students from every continent in Taiwan. Many are completely funded on full government scholarships, and they have enjoyed living in Taiwan for several years.

Despite some difficulties, I would still say that studying in Taiwan is definitely to be recommended. As I mingled with students from across the world, I realised just how limited my social horizons had been beforehand, and how many of my “personality traits” were societal constructs that disappeared, were swapped out or altered as soon as I began to reside in another country.

If you're looking for a unique experience studying abroad, one that will expand your vision of the world and could easily change the course of your life, head to Taiwan. I enjoyed a completely different style of living in Taipei: one where evening hotpot, karaoke, night market shopping, and daily vocabulary tests became my day-to-day.

More importantly, however, I made great progress with a language that has offered me another perspective, changed the way I think, and opened the door to communicating with over a billion more people.

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Emma Gordon is a graduate of the School of Languages and Area Studies, University of Portsmouth (2016), and is now working at a higher education institution. She spent her Year Abroad at National Taiwan Normal University.

# “New Voices of Taiwan” at the Université libre de Bruxelles in Belgium

Vanessa Frangville

In November and December 2018, the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) hosted a series of events related to Taiwan's contemporary society and culture, entitled “New Voices From Taiwan”. The activities were proposed and organized by the ULB's research centre on East Asia (EASt), with the support of the Taiwanese Ministry of Culture and the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium.



The second part of the project was devoted to new migrations to Taiwan and new migrants' voices. Lara Momesso (University of Central Lancashire) gave a very stimulating lecture on migration between China and Taiwan. A roundtable was also organized to discuss French graphic novelist Clément Baloup's work on migration marriage between Vietnamese and

Initiated by Gwennaël Gaffric during his year at the ULB as an EASt postdoctoral fellow, the main objective of the project was to invite writers, translators, artists and scholars to discuss new individual and collective trajectories in a Taiwanese society that constantly reinvents itself. The overall aim was to appeal to a Belgian audience relatively unfamiliar with Taiwan, as events were open to students, scholars and the wider public.

Taiwanese (*Les mariées de Taiwan*, La boîte à bulles, 2017). The roundtable gathered Clément Baloup, Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot, Senior researcher in anthropology and specialist of marriage migration in Asia, and Fabrice Prayat, Professor in French literature and specialist in comics and graphic novels. Clément Baloup shared his experience and fieldwork in Taiwan among Vietnamese women and explained how he translated this experience into a graphic novel.

The first part of the project focused on new trends in Taiwanese literature. Taiwanese writer Huang Chong-Kai was invited to present the French translation of his novel *Further Than Pluto* (比冥王星更遠的地方; in French: *Encore plus loin que Pluton*, trans. L. Modde, *Asiathèque*, 2018). Gwennaël Gaffric (Université Lyon 3, France) and Huang Chong-Kai gave a series of lecture in Brussels and Ghent and joined a roundtable at *L'Architecte* bookshop in the centre of Brussels. The video of the first event at ULB is available online [here](#).

A screening of the 2017 film *The Great Buddha+* by Huang Hsin-Yao was also organized and commented by Huang Chong-Kai who shared his insights on those socially and economically marginalized in today's Taiwan.



Overall, the project contributed to deepening EASt's relationship with Taiwan scholars and to developing its expertise on Taiwan. EASt is a relatively young research centre, established at the ULB in September 2016 and hosted by the ULB's Maison des Sciences Humaines. As a transdisciplinary platform and a catalyst for advanced research

on North and South East Asia, EASt gathers nearly 50 scholars across various departments and

faculties of the ULB. Its collective agenda, based on individual researchers, includes 4 main areas: youth, values and social norms; production and use of public spaces; circulation of knowledge; gender, family and migration. The geographic areas covered mainly include Japan, China, Laos, Vietnam and the Philippines, but EAST scholars also embrace studies on Korea, Mongolia, Thailand and Taiwan.

Taiwanese studies in particular are a dynamic and expanding area supported by the Université libre de Bruxelles. In the terms of teaching, a series of lectures on Taiwanese literature, performing arts and history were held annually since 2015, with various guest speakers from Taiwan studies, including Gwennaël Gaffric and Liu Chan-yueh (Montpellier 3) among others. Colleagues from Taiwanese universities were also invited to give MA seminars on Chinese opera (Hsu Lingling, NCU) and Taiwanese geopolitics (Chang Tai-lin, NCCU). Under this impulse, MA theses in political sciences, literature and communication on Taiwan increased in number, including various topics ranging from the feminization of politics in Taiwan to Taiwanese literature and LGBT+ culture.

In terms of research, EAST organized a book launch in 2017 to promote *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Taiwan*; and a seminar on Taiwan's cyber security strategy. Thanks to the efforts of Gwennaël Gaffric and Coraline Jortay, EAST was lucky to host three renowned Taiwanese writers in 2018: Kao Yi-feng, Walis Noka and Huang Chong-Kai as mentioned above. In the same vein, in 2016, the ULB hosted the Fourth Francophone Young Scholar Workshop on Taiwan (Journées des jeunes chercheurs en études taiwanaises) supervised by the Association Francophone d'Etudes Taiwaises (AFET). The ULB will also be the host institution of the 2020 EATS annual conference.

Beyond the academic community, EAST became a hub to organize or support events for the larger society. For instance, ULB scholars were invited to contribute to the organization of the Cinematek's Hou Hsiao-Hsien retrospective and Taiwanese film panorama in 2015. Moreover, Prof. Thierry Kellner and Bruno Hellendorff were some of the EAST members frequently invited for interviews after Taiwan's elections in 2016 or to comment on cross-traits relationships.

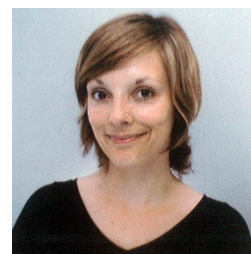
Overall, the ULB is actively seeking to expand and enrich its existing network with Taiwanese universities. As a result, new MoUs were signed over the past few years with National Taiwan Normal University and National Central University



to promote student exchange and research collaborations. In this context, Coraline Jortay and Raphaël Van Daela, EAST PhD fellows in literature and philosophy, have benefited from two Taiwanese scholarships to study at National Taiwan Normal University in 2017 and 2018. Coraline Jortay, also a member of EATS, has been particularly active in promoting Taiwanese literature through the translation of short stories by Taiwanese writers Kan Yao-ming, Tong Wei-ger and Shu Kuo-chih. She is also the translator of Atayal writer and poet Walis Noka's collection of short texts *The Trail of Dreams* (in French: *Les sentiers des rêves*, L'Asiathèque, 2018).

Many more Taiwan-related events are on the go. Meanwhile, the ULB and its centre on East Asia, EAST, are very much looking forward to holding EATS 2020 Conference

**Vanessa Frangville** is Senior Lecturer in Chinese studies at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium; and Director of EAST, the ULB's research centre on East Asia. Her research deals with discourses on ethnicity and nation building in modern and contemporary China, with a special focus on cinema and "ethnic minority" film.



## CONFERENCE REPORT

# Constructing Post-Imperium Identity: Taiwan and Eastern Europe

20-21 September 2018, University of California Berkeley

Thomas Gold



The inspiration for convening this workshop at Berkeley was offered by EATS conferences which took place in Eastern-Central Europe and by colleagues from that region. Some of the participants (such as Bi-yu Chang, Tana Dluhosova, Jacob Tischer, and Adina Zemanek) are EATS members.

The Eastern and Central European countries presented were: Czech Republic, Macedonia, Finland, Albania (by a Hungarian), Slovenia, Poland, Germany, and Romania. Each presenter introduced the experience of their country of origin as it left a larger imperium, such as the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Ottoman Empire, Japanese Empire, Nazis, fascism, Russia and USSR, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Soviet bloc or China, and then

constructed an identity by selecting from different events and strains in its history. A concurrent process was that of building new nation-states and institutions. The complexities of this latter process are often best observed in national history museums, but also in textbooks, popular culture, and media. After each individual presentation, the discussants Martin Dimitrov (originally from Bulgaria) and Natalie Koch offered comments and questions before opening the floor to general discussion.

The participants from Taiwan specifically addressed the main theme running through the meeting: how society and state in Taiwan have constructed an identity drawing on but separate from China, and how this identity is being (re)presented in museums, textbooks, media and so on. This naturally led to discussions of the relation between this process and democratization that opened the door to frank inquiries into previously sensitive and unquestionable topics. As not all the participating European scholars were familiar with Taiwan, their questions and comments were particularly fresh and stimulating.

The workshop was multidisciplinary and multinational and covered a very wide range of topics and themes. The main questions we pondered (and still require answers) are listed below:

- What is the distinction between an ethnic and a civic nation?
- The process of nation-state building is one of continuities and ruptures. This raises numerous questions: how to deal with the past? What is remembered and what is “forgotten?” What is glorified? How to balance pride and shame? What role does resentment play, and against whom – external and internal actors. Is there a sentiment of self-victimization? How do current elites and civil society deal with elites of pre-democratic regimes? Is there a process of transitional justice and who leads it? Have old elites from authoritarian era taken prominent roles in new institutions, either all along or returning as part of ongoing reversal of democracy? (is there a “deep state”?)
- Is there a process of “deleting” the effect of empire, such as deSinitification in Taiwan and deBulgarianization in Macedonia?
- Who has the power to “tell the story”? To determine what is “sacred”? What role does civil society play in this? This relates to Bourdieu’s concept of symbolic capital.



- What is unique about the history? How is “who we are/who we aren’t” articulated and represented both through official presentations and popular culture? Is the audience mainly internal or external?
- Is there a nation or type of nation that is emulated? What role does the Western “gaze” play?
- How are history and the current status of the nation-state embodied, such as in the flag, monuments, national anthem, ceremonies, spectacles, official name? What is the current relationship with former imperial power (if it still exists) or the attitude toward it as taught in history or expressed through politics or culture?
- “Nation” is a concept of “peoplehood” – who is in and who is not (and why)? How are ethnic groups incorporated, excluded, protected? Is there a census and what are its consequences for particular groups? What role do diasporas play, especially those across borders in other states, such as Albanians or Germans? What is the status of members of former imperial powers who stayed in new nation states, such as Russians in Baltics and Central Asia? (“beach diaspora”) What is the attitude/policy to new immigrants?
- What are differing policies towards various types of “minorities”: ethnic, class, political, immigrants, religious, etc? Can we explain the variation?
- What was the process of withdrawing from the imperium? Through war? Negotiation? State collapse? Independence movement? Peaceful or violent? Once a country has achieved independence what aspect of sovereignty must be sacrificed to join a new group such as the EU or UN? Why are state swilling to make this sacrifice?
- How difficult was it to achieve international recognition? How does one find external allies?
- How important is religion in national identity? Is it linked to a larger religious organization, such as the Roman Catholic church?
- What is language policy? How contentious is it?
- Is there nostalgia for the authoritarian regime? Is “democracy” as practiced messy? Is there a populist reaction against the socio-political situation as it exists?
- How do the Holocaust and Cold War figure into self-image, presentation, the teaching of history? Do they mean very much to younger generations?
- How is the nation “branded?” (“presentation of self” in sociological terms)
- How secure are borders? How does geography factor into relations with neighbors?
- How does temporarily play into the process of nation-state building?

On Saturday after the conference, as a reward for everyone's hard work, participants visited three wineries in the beautiful Napa Valley: Grgich Hills, V. Sattui and Kien Hoang. They enjoyed private tours and tastings at all three. It was the time of crush so they also learned about the process of wine making and the outstanding quality of California wines.

This workshop was an initial foray into a complex and still-evolving topic. Certainly a key theme was: who tells the story of a nation-state and how it is presented to domestic and external audiences. All of the stories have tragic and awkward elements as well as positive and inspiring ones, so confronting history honestly is a difficult but necessary task, and some people will never be satisfied with the product at different times. Although democratization has provided an opening for frank discussions about history and identity, the recent trends of populism and illiberalism indicate that this process is far from complete or settled. Participants indicated much enthusiasm for a follow-up conference with academic research papers.

### **Workshop Participants:**

Bi-yu Chang (SOAS, University of London)  
 Martin K. Dimitrov (Tulane University)  
 Tana Dluhosova (Czech Academy of Sciences)  
 Thomas B Gold (University of California, Berkeley)  
 Natalie Koch (Syracuse University)  
 Nenad Markovic (SS. Cyril and Methodius University)  
 Mikael Mattlin (University of Helsinki)  
 Ferenc Nemeth (University of Graz)  
 Zlatko Sabic (University of Ljubljana)

Mirosław Sadowski (University of Wrocław)  
Michał Thim (Association for International Affairs)  
Jacob Tischer (Boston University)  
Horng-Luen Wang (Academia Sinica)  
Rwei-ren Wu (Academia Sinica)  
Adina Zemanek (Jagiellonian University; University of Central Lancashire)



**Thomas Gold** is Professor of the Graduate School at the University of California, having retired as Professor of Sociology there. He made his first trip to Taiwan in 1969 to study Chinese, taught at Tunghai University from 1970-72 and conducted fieldwork for his doctoral dissertation during 1977-78. He is currently working on a book titled *Remaking Taiwan: Society and the State Since the End of Martial Law*.

### **EATS Contribution to the Third World Congress of Taiwan Studies 6-8 September 2018**

EATS former secretary-general Ming-yeh Rawnsley led a delegation to the Third World Congress of Taiwan Studies held at Academia Sinica and presented at a panel entitled 'Assessing the Study of Taiwan in Europe: An EATS Outlook'. This panel offered a recount of EATS's facilitation of the development of four specific fields:

- Federica Passi presented 'The Study of Taiwan Literature in Europe'
- Dean Karalekas presented 'Cold War or Hot Peace: A Survey of the European Perspective on Cross-Taiwan Strait Security'
- Niki Alsford presented 'Assessing the State of Taiwan History and Historiography: An EATS Outlook'
- Lara Momesso presented 'Assessing the State of Migration to and from Taiwan: An EATS Outlook'.

EATS former Secretary-General Ming-yeh Rawnsley and current Board Member Chun-yi Lee also joined a roundtable on 'Collaboration among Three Regional Taiwan Studies Associations in the World'.

Current and former EATS members were active at this conference, giving the following presentations:

- Ming-Yeh Rawnsley presented 'Rediscovering Taiwan's Lost Commercial Cinema of the 1950s-1960s'
- Dafydd Fell presented 'Making Taiwan Studies Teaching Programmes Sustainable: The SOAS Experience' and 'Party Switching in Taiwan's 2016 Elections: How, Why and So What?'
- Scott Simon presented 'Taiwan Studies in Ottawa, Canada's Bilingual Capital' and 'Hunting, Ecological Knowledge, and Governance of Forests: Sejiq / Truku Perspectives'
- Gunter Schubert presented 'Fostering Postgraduate Research and Promoting Scholarly Exchange: The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT) at the University of Tübingen'
- Thomas Gold presented 'The Significance of the Taiwan Case for Social Theory'
- Stéphane Corcuff presented 'Mobilization and Technology: The Emergence of New Actors and Values through New Digital Media in the Sunflower Movement in Taiwan'
- Paul Jobin presented 'Taiwan's Environmentalism: At a Critical Turn in a Critical Zone'
- Isabelle Cheng presented 'They Know Where I Am from as Soon as I Open My Mouth: Gender, Ethnicity and Class in the Linguistic Rite of Passage of Migrant Women in Taiwan'
- Astrid Lipinsky presented 'Globalization of the Taiwanese Women's Movement? The Impact of the UN Human Rights Conventions and their Adoption in Taiwan. With a Focus on CEDAW'
- Táňa Dluhošová and Lung-chih Chang presented 'Digital Humanities and the Study of Elites: Defining the Political Capital of Ruling Elites in Taiwan (1935-1950)'

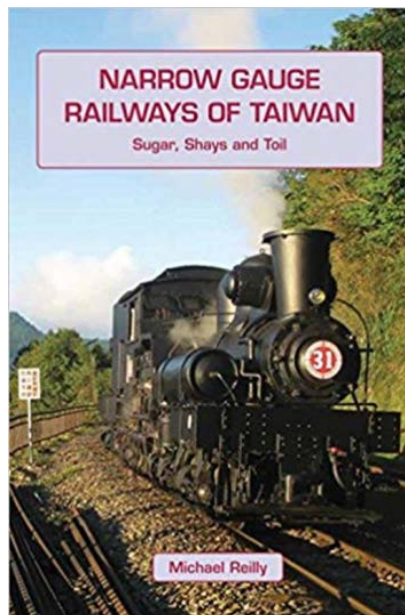
## BOOK REVIEW

### *Narrow Gauge Railways of Taiwan – Sugar, Shays and Toil*

Chris Cockel

From the point of view of a European railway historian or dedicated enthusiast, it can be difficult to find a topic that has not already been more than adequately covered by numerous authors. Against this background, Michael Reilly's *Narrow Gauge Railways of Taiwan – Sugar, Shays and Toil*, comes as a refreshing breath of air, and makes for compelling reading for anyone interested in railway heritage, the development of Taiwan into an industrial powerhouse, or a visitor to Taiwan eager to see beyond the modern glossy veneer. Reilly's book is the ideal blend of text, broken up by fascinating black and white and colour photographs and maps on virtually every page. For this railway enthusiast at least, a railway book without this nice mix would not be worth reading. Globally, there seems to be an almost universal love of steam motive power, regardless of how dirty and unpleasant it might have been for those engaged in its operation, such that it's still easy to come across redundant and silently decaying industrial locomotives in many of Taiwan's urban parks. Thankfully, some are now being restored and returned to steam. Like other developing countries in a hurry to modernise and to raise household incomes for its citizens, Taiwan, has to some extent been all too happy to cast aside anything that might be seen as "old-fashioned", "backward", and "colonial" in any way. However, thankfully, at what seems like the eleventh hour, Taiwan's increasingly enlightened government agencies and the population in general are beginning to recognise that historical artefacts and architecture, including those originating in the Japanese colonial period (1895-1945), help to define a people and trace the path to what it is today.

This is very much the case with the development of Taiwan's railway infrastructure as very nicely outlined by Michael Reilly. Still, the pace of change in Taiwan over the last twenty years has been so fast that even for someone who visits Taiwan relatively frequently, it is easy to see history disappearing before one's eyes. In this sense, Reilly has mercifully done all the hard work of researching Taiwan's narrow-gauged history before it disappears forever. Reilly begins by justifying his credentials as a railway historian, with an interest dating back to childhood in the 1960s. Appearing first in English, this is clearly a book aimed at the international railway enthusiast, with an increasing interest in exploring the world's railway "backwaters". As with any ground-breaking work, Reilly's book may serve to awaken a latent interest in railway history across Taiwan to stimulate further works aimed at a Chinese-language readership.



In Chapter One, Reilly sets the scene by introducing the reader to Taiwan's predominantly mountainous geography, its climate, seismicity, colonial experience, and demographics. With just enough detail, Reilly describes the role of Imperial China in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the origin of Taiwan's first railway line based on a desire to connect important west coast trading ports, and to capitalise on the island's potential for producing major cash crops. Quite rightly, Reilly highlights the importance of push carts not just for transporting goods, but for moving passengers from A to B. For the more technically-minded, Reilly goes into some detail on the subject of gauges (p.9, p.22) and numbers (p.58, p.85) with boxed sections of text that could be easily skipped over by the more casual reader.

Even for someone intimately familiar with modern-day Taiwan and brought up on the development of British steam railways, the notion that the island's industrial railways developed from a hand-powered push cart system seems extraordinary.

Chapter Two looks at the development of Taiwan's narrow-gauged sugar mill railway, again with evocative photographs from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and right up to the end of regular narrow gauge steam power in Taiwan in the early 1980s. As is the case with narrow gauge railways in other parts of the world, some former industrial lines in Taiwan have more recently been turned over to tourist traffic, although as outlined by Reilly, sadly the cost of maintaining such lines has been underestimated, leading to lines being abandoned once again.

Surely, Taiwan's most famous narrow gauge railway is the line from the southern city of Chiayi up Alishan. Justifiably, Reilly dedicates the whole of Chapter Three to this extraordinary railway, built by the Japanese to exploit the mountain's rich timber resources. For anyone visiting Alishan today, Reilly's book would be an indispensable companion to understand the development and history of the line. Reilly goes into further detail on the subject of motive power and rolling stock in order to unpick the bewildering diversity of vehicles put to work on the line over the decades.

In Chapter Four, Reilly delves deeper into lesser known and mostly vanished mountain railways. To uncover these former lines is no mean feat and Reilly should be commended for bringing their stories back to life. Chapter Five takes the reader to the less-populous east of Taiwan, and nicely paints a picture of the natural barriers, be they geographic, climatic or seismological, or sociological barriers due to friction between aborigines and the government, to building a railway in this exposed region of the island. As in other chapters, Reilly documents the expansion of operations, both passenger and freight, under different administrations and the motive power employed. He also touches on the use of ropeways once used to transport workers to higher elevations and includes helpful links to YouTube

footage showing the extent of decay, reclamation by Mother Nature, and the potential perils of independent exploration, as well as some wonderful, but sadly short, footage of push-carts still in use in 1976. Also provided is a link to a Japanese website with many more fascinating historical photographs of Taiwan's narrow gauged railways.

The final chapter focuses on operation of lines of Wudu and the coast, the Pingxi valley and Wulai including details of Taiwan's very last push-cart line which lasted until 1976. The chapter closes on a note of optimism and an acknowledgement that efforts are now being made to ensure that Taiwan's narrow gauge railway heritage is finally being given the attention it deserves to allow future generations the opportunity to understand the role played "in opening up and developing this enchanting country".

Acknowledging earlier scholars of Taiwan's railway history and the fact that he has only been able to scratch the surface in this short, but very readable book, Reilly concludes by highlighting further reading for those inclined to delve deeper.

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Michael Reilly is a Non-resident Senior Fellow in the Taiwan Studies Programme at Nottingham University. A former career diplomat, he spent over 30 years working for the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, principally handling UK policy towards East and South East Asia. He has had diplomatic postings in Korea, the Philippines, to the OECD and to Taiwan. His final FCO appointment was as Director of the British Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei from 2005-2009, the de facto British ambassador to Taiwan. Upon leaving Taiwan he joined BAE Systems, initially as Director, Far East, responsible for strategic advice on the company's business development in North East Asia, before going on to serve as the company's Chief Representative in China, based in Beijing, from 2011 to 2014. He retired from BAE Systems in 2015, since when he has pursued academic research, principally on the EU's relations with Taiwan, but also on Taiwan's railway history. In 2016, he was a Visiting Fellow at

Academia Sinica in Taipei under the auspices of the Taiwan Fellowship programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China

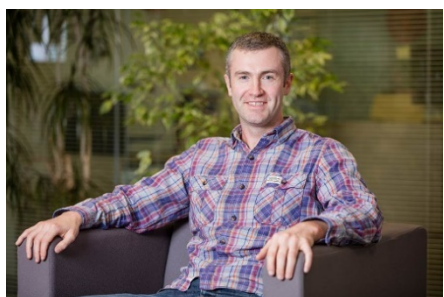
(Taiwan). He has a PhD in Economic History from the University of Liverpool and a diploma in Korean from Yonsei University in Seoul.



**Chris Cockel** obtained a PhD degree in physical geography at Queen Mary, University of London. He is currently affiliated with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and is a keen railway enthusiast hoping for further exploration of Taiwan's railway heritage.

### **The 16<sup>th</sup> EATS Annual Conference**

**“Recognising Taiwan: A Conference Exploring Taiwan’s Society and Political World” will take place at Nottingham Trent University, 10-12 April 2019**



#### **Local Organiser**

Dr. Colin Alexander is a Senior Lecturer in Political Communications at Nottingham Trent University within the School of Arts and Humanities. He completed his PhD at University of Leeds under the supervision of Prof. Gary Rawnsley on the topic of China and Taiwan's public diplomacy in Latin America. In 2013, he was a Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Research Fellow studying Taiwan's public diplomacy in the Caribbean. Dr. Alexander is the author of two monograph books: *China and Taiwan in*

*Central America: Engaging Foreign Publics in Diplomacy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) and *The Raj and World War II: The Indian Civil Service, Broadcasting and Famine* (Oxford University Press, 2019). He is currently working on a historical research project re-examining the derecognition of Taiwan by the United States in 1978.

#### **About the School of Arts and Humanities and Nottingham Trent University**

The EATS Conference 2019 will be hosted by the School of Arts and Humanities at Nottingham Trent University. The school is made up of four departments including English, Communications, and Philosophy where Dr. Alexander has his lectureship. The Head of Department is Dr. Sharon Ouditt (*Impressions of Southern Italy: British Travel Writing from Henry Swinburne to Norman Douglas*, Routledge, 2013; *Women Writers of the First World War*, Taylor and Francis, 1999). Since 2015, the School has been led by the Dean, Angela Brown, who has developed a range of international partnerships including the opening of a small campus in Beijing at Communication University of China in 2016. The School offers BA undergraduate degrees, MA postgraduate taught and research degrees, and PhDs to a multinational cohort of students in subjects including Media, Communications, Film and Television, History, English, Linguistics, Philosophy, Global Studies, International Relations and a host of modern languages including Mandarin.

Nottingham Trent University can trace its origins to 1843, with the establishment of the Nottingham Government School of Design, which still exists within the university today. It is the 13th largest university in the UK with around 30,000 students split over four campuses. In 2018 *The Complete University Guide* placed Nottingham Trent as the top 'post-1992' University in the UK. The University was awarded the title of University of the Year at the 2017 *Times Higher Education* awards and the Modern University of the Year by the *Sunday Times* in the same year. In 2018 *The Guardian* placed Nottingham Trent as the 16<sup>th</sup> best university in the country.

## NOTICE BOARD

### NEWS OF EATS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

**12-13 October 2018:** Former EATS member Gunter Schubert organised a conference on “East Asian Migration Governance in Comparative Perspective: Norm Diffusion, Politics of Identity, Citizenship” at *Freie Universität Berlin*. At the workshop, he presented 'Immigration, Social Exclusion and Identity Politics in Postcolonial Hong Kong', and current member Isabelle Cheng presented 'On a Steep Learning Curve: Taiwan's Proximity to Sovereignty, Selectivity and Benevolence'.

**15 October 2018:** Isabelle Cheng at the University of Portsmouth organised the screening of 'Small Talk', a documentary recording the unfolding of the difficult mother-daughter relationship, as part of the Taiwan Film Festival.

**21 November 2018:** Isabelle Cheng at the University of Portsmouth organised a briefing on Youth Mobility Scheme and scholarship for studying in Taiwan for students who read politics, international relations, and international development studies. Dr. Michael Reilly, the former British ambassador to Taiwan, shared with the students his rich experiences as a career diplomat specialising in East Asian politics and economy.

**September 2018:** Dr. Adina Zemanek was appointed Lecturer in Asia Pacific Studies at the University of Central Lancashire.

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

**4-5 April 2019:** “AFET 2019 Annual Conference for Young Scholars in Taiwan Studies”. Lyon. Francophone Association of Taiwan Studies, Sciences-Po Lyon, Ministry of Education of Taiwan, Taiwan Representative Office in France.

**2-3 May 2019:** “National Identities and the Youth in East Asia: Popular Culture, Political Mobilisation, and Digital Spaces”. Workshop at the Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

**27-28 June 2019:** Taiwan Studies Programme 2019 Annual Conference “Taiwan's Future and Past, Challenges and Opportunities”. University of Nottingham, UK.

**10-12 October 2019:** “Taiwanese Philosophy and the Preservation of Confucian Tradition”. University of Ljubljana, EARL Ljubljana, and TRCCS (Taiwan Research Center for Chinese Studies) in Taipei.

**25-26 October 2019:** “Researching and Communicating Taiwan's Public Diplomacy”. Taiwan Studies Centre, University of Vienna.

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY EATS MEMBERS

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**Cheng, Isabelle, Lara Momesso, and Dafydd Fell.** (2018). “Asset or Liability: Transnational Links and Political Participation of Foreign-Born Citizens in Taiwan.” *International Migration*. DOI: 10.1111/imig.12534.

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- Lams, L.** (2018). "Issue salience and framing in the Taiwanese 2016 presidential election campaign: an analysis of the KMT and DPP campaign discourses." *International Journal of Taiwan Studies*, 1 (2), 301-330; DOI: 10.1163/24688800-00102004
- Lim, Jason.** 'The Language of Cross-Strait Tensions'. *The Interpreter* (4 May).
- Lim, Jason.** 'Political Blackmail in the Taiwan-China Contest'. *The Interpreter* (10 September).
- Sia, Ek-hong Ljavakaw 謝易宏.** (2018). "Taiwan's International Status." Keynote speech given at the Youth Pre-Meeting of the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum in Hsinchu, Taiwan on 27 November. <https://reurl.cc/19Old>
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## Join EATS and Become a Member!

The European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS) is a registered non-profit charitable organisation which is dedicated to promoting Taiwan Studies in Europe. We facilitate individual and collaborative research on Taiwan within EATS and foster links between EATS and similar organisations in other countries. We organise an annual conference in a different European city every year, publish a newsletter, EATS News, twice a year online and in print, and we bestow a Young Scholar Award (2011-present) and Library Research Grant (2014-present) to encourage young talent in the field. Your membership is extremely important in allowing us to work on the administration of the conferences, organisation of publications and awards, website development, research, archiving, etc., and in turn, contributing to the growth of Taiwan Studies.

EATS membership is renewed annually and is valid from 1 January to 31 December. Our online registration system is now active. There are several benefits for being an EATS member: (1) eligibility to apply for EATS Young Scholar Award and EATS Library Grant; (2) lower rate of conference registration fee; (3) you will receive an EATS email account which will enable you to access all the previous EATS conference papers available; (4) you will have a personal profile page in EATS website if you wish; (5) you will often receive news/information about EATS and Taiwan Studies communities around the world; (6) you will receive a major discount to subscribe to the [International Journal of Taiwan Studies](#).

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4. Upon receipt of your payment, you'll receive the EATS Treasurer's receipt and a link to a 2nd form.
5. Fill in the additional information, which will form the basis of your online profile on EATS Website in the future.
6. Once completed, you'll receive a welcome message from the EATS Board.

If you wish to renew your membership, please log in using your eats-taiwan.eu email account to fill in a simplified version of the online form.

### **EATS Membership fee, 1 January–31 December 2019**

- Non-student member €50
- Student member €35

We appreciate your support. Please pay your annual fee and become an EATS member.