



CCKF-ERCCT Newsletter

February 2024 - No 16



舞龍迎春!

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GREETINGS

*Dear colleagues and friends of the ERCCT,
Post-pandemic times have finally arrived at
the ERCCT - our "academic traffic" is almost
back to normal.*

*This newsletter will give you a good insight
into what has happened during the winter
term and what is to come in 2024. It is clear,
however, that scholars from Taiwan have
yet to resume their travel routines. We also
have the impression that the number of
Taiwanese PhD students and postdocs
coming to Europe has decreased in recent
years. This is unfortunate because contacts
and cooperation between Taiwan and
Europe are more important than ever. No
matter what, the ERCCT will do its best to
contribute to the efforts to strengthen
Europe-Taiwan relations and academic
cooperation.*

Prof. Gunter Schubert, ERCCT-Director and Chair of Greater
China Studies, University of Tübingen

ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER

Taiwan Colloquium Winter Term 2023/24

During both the summer and winter terms, the Taiwan-Colloquium serves as a **weekly gathering for ERCCT Research Fellows, Visiting Scholars, and interested students**. The colloquium provides a platform for sharing project ideas, discussing intended field studies, scrutinizing applied theory and methodology, and critically assessing empirical findings gathered in the field. The participation of our Visiting Scholars is particularly valuable as they not only evaluate the projects of the Fellows but also present their own research, opening it up for academic debate.

Nov 9 - Prof. Alex Tan

Professor Alexander Tan, a distinguished member of the Political Science Department at the School of Language, Social and Political Sciences, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, kicked off our winter term (WT) colloquium and delivered a compelling presentation titled 'Taiwan: The Party System of a Young Consolidated Democracy' during the Taiwan Colloquium on November 9.

In his discourse, Prof. Tan delved into the impact of pivotal factors, such as the 2004/2005 change in the voting system for the Legislative Yuan and the 2017 Political Party Law, on Taiwan's party system. The insights gained from this exploration, examining the reciprocal relationship between the party system and Taiwan's democratic development, are slated for publication in 2024 as a chapter in an Oxford University Press volume edited by Thomas Poguntke.



Prof. Tan presents his research on the party system in Taiwan

Nov 30 - Dr. Di Qing

Next up, Dr. Di Qing, a distinguished scholar from Taipei, shared his insights into the 'Transcultural Exploration of Taiko: A Comparative Aesthetics Study between Europe and Taiwan' during the Taiwan Colloquium on November 30, 2023. Dr. Di captivated the audience with vibrant illustrations, which he used in presenting his ongoing research project, and the samples showcasing Taiko culture, predominantly from Taiwan and Europe. Concluding his presentation, he elevated his findings to a theoretical level by introducing a model depicting an infinite transcultural process loop, derived from his comprehensive exploration of diverse Taiko cultures.

Dec 7 - Prof. Alex Tan

On December 7, 2023, Professor Alexander Tan once again presented – this time his latest research project, titled 'Taiwanese Youth Voting for Taiwan: Studying Identity Formation in Taiwanese Youth and its Impact on Voting Patterns in Taiwan,' – in the Taiwan Colloquium. In his research he uses the Q-sorting method to get insights into the national identity of the younger generation on Taiwan.



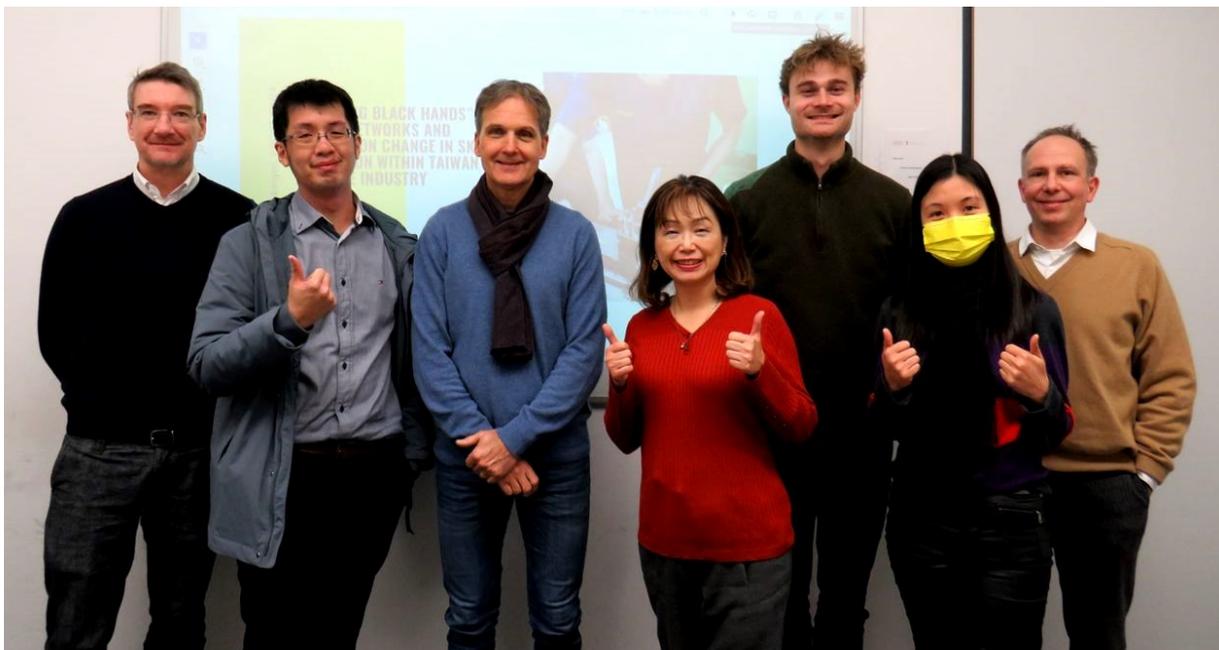
Group photo of the participants in our WS colloquium. This includes lecturers and students from the Department of Chinese Studies here in Tübingen, as well as our distinguished guests at the ERCCT. On the right, you can see Dr. Di Qing, and in the middle (wearing a blue pullover) you will find Prof. Alex Tan. Both were affiliated with the ERCCT around the same time

Jan 11 - Prof. Lin Shu-Hui

Next up, ERCCT Visiting Scholar Prof. Lin Shu-Hui from the Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages, and Literature at National Taiwan Normal University delivered a public lecture titled 'Discourses in Taiwan Travel Literature during the Cold War Era.' The discussion prominently featured authors such as Tseng Hsu-Pai, Chen Ji-Ying, Lin Hai-Yin, and Yin Hai-Kuang, focusing on the literature they created based on their visits to the US during the Cold War. Intriguing was also the discussion on why people travel at all and what changes to personal lives might emerge from this.

Jan 18 - Dr. Lin Kai-Heng

Dr. Lin Kai-Heng, a Visiting Fellow from the Institute of Sociology at Academia Sinica, presented his current research project during the Taiwan Colloquium on Thursday, January 18. His intriguing presentation, titled 'Crafting Black Hands: Institutional Changes and Social Networks in Skill Formation within Taiwan's Machine Industry,' provided valuable insights into the intricate dynamics of skill development within the country's machine industry. Particularly interesting was his suggestion that the decision-making process for selecting a vocational training location in Taiwan might rely more on personal connections rather than economic factors.



Another group photo of the Taiwan colloquium. This time including Prof. Lin Shu-Hui (in red) and Dr. Lin Kai-Heng (grey jacket)

Jan 25 - Prof. Lin Shu-Hui

Professor Lin Shu-Hui presented a second time during the Taiwan Colloquium on Thursday, January 25. This time her current research project on 'Cross-cultural Dynamics and Applications of Taiwan Travel Literature'. Through the exploration of works by contemporary authors such as Dadelavan Ibau, Liu Shao-Hua, and Syaman Rapongan, Prof. Lin Shu-Hui illustrated how literature can serve as a means to heal trauma and reconstruct identity.

Jan 31 - Dr. André Beckershoff

Dr. André Beckershoff, ERCCT Associate Fellow, presented his book 'Social Forces in the Re-Making of Cross-Strait Relations: Hegemony and Social Movements in Taiwan,' published by Routledge in 2024, at the Taiwan Colloquium. Co-hosted by Prof. Bieling from the Institute of Political Science's political economy section, Dr. Beckershoff applied Gramscian analysis to explore protest movements against Taiwan's economic and political alignment with the PRC since the mid-2000s.



Dr. Beckershoff discusses his book at the Taiwan Colloquium

Feb 1 - Kuo Chao-Hsuan

Last but not least, Kuo Chao-Hsuan, a participant in the ERCCT Visiting Fellow Programme from the Department of Law at National Cheng Kung University, shared his doctoral research project 'The Child Rights in Taiwan's Parenting Law' at the Taiwan Colloquium on February 1, 2024. He explored the evolving impact of public law, particularly constitutional law, on the development of children's rights within the realm of parenting law, traditionally governed by civil law.

This concludes our series for this winter term. **We extend a warm welcome to all readers to participate in the colloquium during the upcoming summer term.**

Taiwan as Pioneer (TAP) Workshop 2023

The ERCCT oversees the **Taiwan as a Pioneer (TAP) project**, an interdisciplinary and supra-regional **initiative aimed at fostering the structural enhancement and networking of Taiwan-focused research in modern Sinology**. This project places particular emphasis on delving into Taiwan's role as a trailblazer within the dynamics of global megatrends, seeking to explore and understand its innovative contributions in this context. **In 2023, we were delighted to host an official workshop as part of this project's framework.**

The Taiwan as a Pioneer workshop took place from October 4th to October 6th, 2023, at Tübingen University. Twenty-one scholars from Europe, Taiwan, and North America actively engaged in enriching academic exchanges and networking activities throughout the three-day event.

The primary emphasis of the workshop centered around theoretical and methodological advancements within the realm of Taiwan Studies. Each participant contributed their unique insights on the subject matter. The invaluable intellectual exchanges from the workshop will be integrated into the draft of the 'Handbook of Taiwan Research: New Perspectives and Innovative Methods.'

For more information please follow this [link](#).



Photo of the Taiwan as a Pioneer workshop featuring Dr. Keyser-Verreault (center in the back)

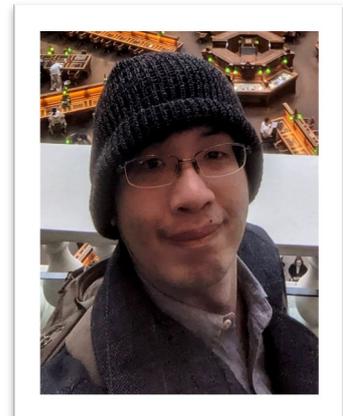


Visiting Fellow Programme

The ERCCT proudly presents **our Visiting Research Fellow Programme**, providing scholars with a focused research experience here with us in beautiful Tübingen. As a Visiting Fellow, you receive a stipend, office space, and full integration into the ERCCT's academic activities, such as conferences and our weekly colloquium.

We are thus thrilled to introduce this semester's exceptional fellows:

Lin Kai-Heng 林凱衡: Lin Kai-Heng, a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, specializes in analysing vocational education and training (VET) within the context of capitalism. His doctoral thesis explored the historical reasons for Taiwan's school-based skill formation institution. **Currently, he is working on a project titled 'Technological Upgrading, Higher Education and the Transformation of Skill Formation Institution in Taiwan's Machinery Industry,'** investigating the collaboration between specifically SMEs in Taichung region's machinery industry and educational institutions that facilitate modern skilled worker training.



Kuo Chao Hsuan 郭兆軒: Kuo Chao Hsuan is a Ph.D. candidate at the National Cheng Kung University in Tainan. **His research project delves into the constitutionalising of Taiwan's family law, specifically examining how the evolving individual rights conception of the child has influenced the development of Taiwan's family law since the 1980s.**

Informed by his professional background, including experience as a clerk in the family tribunal of district courts and current responsibilities in the Tainan City Government overseeing administrative appeal affairs related to children's welfare, his research reflects an insightful perspective on legal and societal dynamics.

Explore [our website](#) for comprehensive details regarding the application process for the **2024 program**. We eagerly anticipate welcoming you to Tübingen. We extend a heartfelt appreciation to the **Taiwan Foundation for Democracy** for their invaluable financial support, without which this program would not be possible.



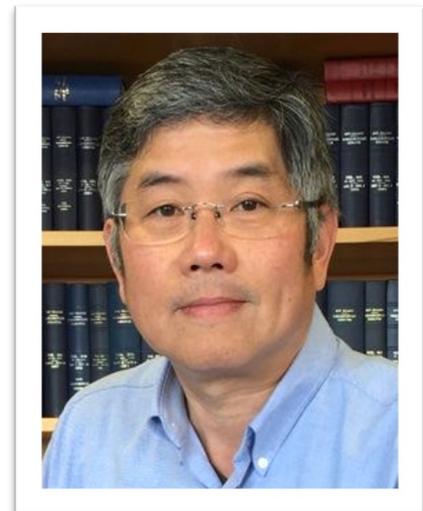
Visiting Scholars Programme

The ERCCT also welcomes Taiwanese and European Visiting Scholars who join us in Tübingen during the academic term. These scholars contribute by delivering lectures or hosting brief seminars. Crucially, they actively participate in the Taiwan Colloquium, where they **present their research, encompassing content, theory, and methodology**. Moreover, they engage in discussions and evaluations of the ERCCT Research Fellows' projects, assisting them in preparing for fieldwork or assessing data collected from the field.

Below, **our visiting scholar, Professor Alex Tan** from the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Canterbury, shares his experience here at the ERCCT and in the charming city of Tübingen.

This is my second visit to ERCCT at the University of Tübingen as a visiting scholar. My first visit was for two weeks in June 2014. That was such a wonderful experience that when my sabbatical leave from my home university – University of Canterbury – came up, I approached Prof. Gunter Schubert about spending part of my sabbatical at the ERCCT. Gunter's positive response has led me to spend a longer period – 2 November to 11 December 2023 – in Tübingen. Having been able to spend six weeks here in ERCCT allowed me to know colleagues, students, and the beautiful city of Tübingen a lot better. For me, reconnecting with old colleagues and friends, and meeting the strong group of postgraduate students of the chair of Greater China studies made my visit so worthwhile, energizing, and productive. One of the highlights of this visit was attending the two-day China Studies

conference that was held at the Neue Aula on 23 - 24 November 2023. With no duties (paper presentation or commenting) assigned to me at the conference, I was able to fully enjoy listening to the paper presentations of scholars and students interested in a social scientific understanding of China. The variety of topics discussed and the expertise of each paper presenter made those two days very educational and informative for me. More importantly, I enjoyed meeting the scholars and students in other institutions throughout Germany that I otherwise would not have the opportuni-





ty to meet. Within ERCCT, I gave two talks on topics on Taiwan politics that I thoroughly enjoyed sharing with colleagues at Tübingen. The interaction with colleagues at these talks and afterwards was very informative to me as it helped me with my own research into Taiwan as well. It is encouraging, indeed, to see that despite Taiwan being such a far-away little island from Germany, interest in Taiwan's politics, economics, and society is very much alive in Tübingen.

During this visit, I was also invited by colleagues at the University of Düsseldorf to deliver a presentation on partisan polarization in Taiwan. While it was a long trip from Tübingen to give an hour talk, the short visit to Düsseldorf gave me an opportunity to reconnect with my German colleague who I have known since I was still a PhD student at Texas A&M University in the early 1990s. The trip also allowed me to meet new colleagues as well as visit a part of Germany that I have never been to.

Apart from work, I had the opportunity to explore the city of Tübingen more thoroughly this time around. I delved into the charming corners of the old town and even ventured to the south



Prof. Tan in front of the ERCCT building

side, an area I didn't even realize existed (haha). Between occasional dinners (and Radler of course) at the Neckarmüller, buying döner kebabs at the many kebab eateries spread throughout the city, and also a chance to attend a Bach concert at the Stiftskirche, it is just living like a 'local' that I enjoyed the most.

Thank you to Gunter, Stefan, and all the colleagues at ERCCT for welcoming me into your group and for your wonderful hospitality during my visit. I hope to be able to visit again.

For more information on our Visiting Scholars Programme, follow this [link](#).



Other Visiting Scholars

In addition to Alex Tan, who wrote this wonderful piece for the newsletter, we also had the **honour of welcoming Professor Lin Shu-hui** from Taiwan. Below, you'll find a brief introduction to her work.

Professor Shu-hui Lin specializes in research on travel writing, Taiwanese literature, and culture. She has held visiting scholar positions at prestigious institutions including Academia Sinica, Harvard University, SOAS, and UCSD. In recognition of her scholarly contributions, she has received numerous awards in Taiwan, including the Taiwanese Literature Research Award and a publishing award from the Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Professor Lin has also actively engaged in international academic exchanges, participating in the U.S. Institutes on U.S. Culture and Society at New York University, the TUSA-Harvard Collaboration Program, and receiving fellowships from the Ministry of Education, the National Science and Technology Council, and the Scholarly Exchange of Fulbright Scholar.



For more information on our Visiting Scholars Programme, follow this [link](#).

You could follow [this link](#) to read about our former Visiting Scholars and their respective research fields.



Taiwan Documentary Film Festival 2023

Continuing our tradition, the ERCCT was happy to present the **17th Taiwan Documentary Film Festival at Kino Arsenal** on Friday and Saturday, December 1st and 2nd, 2023. This year, we had the honour of hosting renowned director and Golden Horse Award winner **Huang Hsin-Yao 黄信堯**.

The 17th Taiwan Documentary Film Festival unfolded at the Kino Arsenal on December 1 and 2, 2023, featuring a varied selection of documentaries by Golden Horse Award winner and guest director, Huang Hsin-Yao 黄信堯. The festival attracted a diverse audience of cinema enthusiasts and scholars alike. Commencing on December 1, the festival showcased four riveting documentaries



Director Huang Hsin-Yao 黄信堯

Hsin-Yao, starting with screenings of "Dog with Man" and "Ali88." These films offered profound insights into contemporary Taiwanese society, exploring multifaceted narratives and societal nuances. On the same evening, audiences were treated to the thought-provoking feature film "The Great Buddha+," a standout highlight of the festival's lineup.

Altogether, the festival featured the following remarkable works by Huang:

- ◇ **Dog with Man**
- ◇ **Ali88**
- ◇ **Bluffing**
- ◇ **Taivalu**
- ◇ **The Great Buddha+**

Renowned director Huang Hsin-Yao graced the 17th Taiwan Documentary

Film Festival as the guest director, bringing his unique expertise to the event. His presence added depth and resonance to the screenings, offering the audience a first hand understanding of the creative process behind his insightful documentaries and feature film. The Great Buddha+, with its mixture of mysteriousness and dark humor, drew particularly many viewers.

During the festival, the ERCCT welcomed Dr. Dieu Ian-Tsing 趙彥清, Director General of the Taipei Representative Branch Office in the Federal Republic of Germany's Munich branch office.

Dr. Dieu not only delivered a warm and inspiring welcome speech, highlighting

the event 's significance in fostering cross-cultural understanding through cinema, but also sponsored the event generously.

The festival garnered substantial interest among an audience eager to explore the rich tapestry Taiwanese culture and society depicted in the documentaries.

Interactive sessions following the screenings provided a platform for engaging discussions, allowing attendees to delve deeper into the thematic layers explored in each film.

Hosted by ERCCT at the University of Tübingen and held at the Kino Arsenal cinema, the 17th Taiwan Documentary Film Festival stood as a celebration of Taiwanese cinema and cultural exchange.



ERCCT Director Gunter Schubert (left) officially inaugurates the Taiwan Documentary Film Festival 2023. Meanwhile, Director Huang Hsin Yao (right) engages in an interview with the local newspaper, Schwäbisches Tagblatt

Thank you for your continued support of our film festival, we look forward to future editions. Unfortunately, the **Kino Arsenal has closed down** at the end of 2023. We would like to **extend our heartfelt gratitude** to the people behind Kino Arsenal for the **years of fruitful cooperation**. Thank you!



Research on Contentious Intimacies in China and Taiwan Funded as Part of Germany's Excellence Strategy

How do intimacy and mobility constitute or contradict each other when encountering the state? A research project, titled 'Intimacy-Mobility-State Nexus in the Context of Democratic and Authoritarian States: A Case Study of China and Taiwan,' has **secured funding exceeding 0.3 million EUR** to delve into the inquiry.

The project is led by Jun.-Prof. Yu-chin Tseng, with Prof. Gunter Schubert serving as a co-investigator. It is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science as part of the Excellence Strategy of the German Federal and State Governments.

The research team, based in Germany, France, Taiwan, and the UK, aims to address the complexities of the intimacy-mobility-state nexus that has not received sufficient academic and public attention, particularly in East Asia. Seeing intimate relations as a crucial area of state involvement, the project delves into the different ways intimacy influences mobility. This includes aspects like love, companionship, sex, care, reproduction, and family dynamics, all within the context of state regulation. It does this by examining various stages of intimate relationships — dating, desired or undesired reproduction, and

child-rearing/education practices — in two distinct socio-political settings: authoritarian neoliberalism in China and the developmental state model in Taiwan.

At the outset, the project investigates how digital intimacy and sexuality can be used to challenge and overcome strict mobility rules and socio-cultural norms. It analyses examples like dating apps used by urban-rural migrants in China and cross-cultural romance (CCR) facilitated through digital platforms in Taiwan.

The project's second focus is on the reproduction of both noncitizens and citizens in Taiwan. It examines how their limited social, physical, and geographical mobility impacts their networked intimacy, sexual activities, and births, which are often seen as problematic by authorities. Reproductive rights are constrained not only for migrant workers but also for Taiwanese citizens. While the births of migrant workers are





unwelcome, Taiwanese citizens, highlights options like private institutes regardless of sexual orientation, turn to or homeschooling, favoured by foreign reproductive services abroad because migrant elites in China and Taiwan. These marriage is a requirement for accessing choices typically reflect family assisted reproduction in Taiwan. preferences for child-rearing, desires for a private lifestyle, and career aspirations, Lastly, the project looks into how a private lifestyle, and career aspirations, international families defy state authority contrasting with the rigid structure of through alternative education. It state schooling.



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT,
FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

For further details about the project here at ERCCT, we encourage you to [explore our website](#).

As an integral part of the project, we are delighted to announce a **two-year postdoctoral researcher position** beginning in June 2024. For comprehensive information regarding the **application process**, refer to our [official announcement](#).

If you wish to delve into the **Excellence Strategy of the German Federal State and state governments**, kindly click [on this link](#) instead.



TÜBINGEN RESEARCH NOTES

Dr. Keyser-Verreault's Fieldwork in Japan

Dr. Amelile Keyser-Verreault conducted fieldwork in Japan from April to October 2023. She collaborated with Taiwanese migrants employed as high-skilled and global talents by Japanese and international IT firms. The first outcome of this project is a collaboration with Isabelle Cockel of the University of Portsmouth on migrant narratives as part of the [Amplifying Their Voices](#) project. The biographies of Taiwanese migrants in Japan are presented in the first-person voice, allowing these

National University) and Dr. Helena Hof (Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich).



Dr. Keyser-Verreault and Prof. Sasano at the Department of Sociology of National Taiwan University



Dr. Keyser-Verreault and Dr. Liu Ling-Chun in Taipei, Taiwan

individuals to share their experiences and challenging the power structure between the researcher and the people with whom she works. The project also resulted in collaborations for research articles with Prof. Tseng Yen-Fen (Department of Sociology, Taiwan

In Japan, Dr. Keyser-Verreault met with Prof. Misae Sasano (Department of Contemporary Society, Ibaraki University) to discuss the East Asian demographic crisis in the context of compressed modernity and potential collaborations for comparative work between Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea. In October, Prof. Sasano visited the National Taiwan University to work with Dr. Keyser-Verreault on their collaboration.

During her fieldwork in Japan with Taiwanese high-skilled migrants employed by Japanese and international companies, Dr. Keyser-Verreault



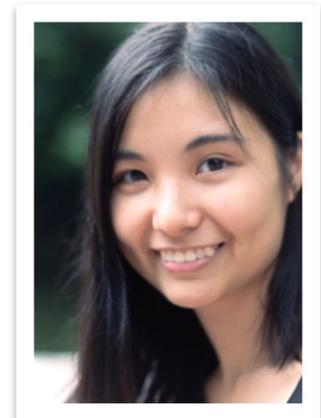
encountered several migrants who are also part of the LGBTQ+ community. These individuals provide an interesting case study for economic migration scholarship in the context of compressed modernity. Although they may enhance their career prospects through migration to Japan, they find themselves in a delicate situation when it comes to

intimacy. They migrate from Taiwan, the most LGBTQ+-friendly state in Asia, to a state where they encounter many difficulties in expressing their intimacy and identity. Dr. Keyser-Verreault has decided to pursue a research project on intimacy in the context of migration with Taiwanese LGBTQ+ migrants.

Judy Lee: The Largest-ever Hong Kong-themed Gathering Outside Hong Kong, and an Amazing Week in Taipei

Arriving at the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, on the 8th of December for the inaugural "When Hong Kong Studies Go Global" conference, I was aware that this was no ordinary event. Surprisingly, it had transformed into a "Hong Kong week" in Taipei. Not only were prominent figures from Hong Kong — professors, commentators, and activists — flying in from afar, but also friends and colleagues were reuniting and forming new connections through a diverse array of activities. I began my week having breakfast (omelets, flatbreads, dumplings and soy milk!) with friends coming in from London, Vancouver and Tokyo. Afterwards we dispersed to join other groups of people who also came to host or attend various events. We met with booklovers, students, journalists, lobbyists, exiles, exhibition curators, NGOers, publishers,

you name it. Some came to Taipei simply to meet as many old friends as possible because, quite literally, it was everyone from everywhere all at once. We were soooooo busy, but very, very happy. The week culminated, of course, in the magnetic grand conference for Hong Kong Studies. The organizers generously accepted more than seventy abstracts and arranged for everyone to present their work and views. No ordinary conference, as I said, as presentations went beyond the realm of academic research: journalists, old-generation democrats, philosophers, educators, poets and other intellectuals





offered their take on the theme of “Hong Kong” for very constructive and fruitful discussions. I presented my ongoing research project on post-2019 Hong Kong Communication, talked about his survey of 2019 protesters and their adaptive strategies to accumulate social capital and resilience in a long struggle for work towards a “re-branding” of Hong Kong democracy. Johns Hopkins University’s sociologist and political economist Professor Hung Ho-fung (孔誥烽) took us on a journey of Hong Kong’s capitalist development and demystified the city’s political economic history. In separate panels, exiled veteran commentator and polymath Professor Lian Yi-zheng Joseph (練乙錚) advocated for a structured development of the “Hong Kongese language”, and prominent Hong Kong political scientist and CUHK professor Ma Ngok (馬嶽) explored possibilities and opportunities for Hong Kong Studies within Hong Kong, given the city’s new political environment. Former University of Hong

Kongers in Taiwan by contributing to numerous social causes, professional exchanges, business activities and outreach programmes and truly embedding themselves in local Taiwanese communities. My fellow panelists talked about the politics of fear, Hong Kongers in the UK, global culture and the “voice” of the diaspora in Canto-pop music. It goes without saying that diaspora studies was the hottest theme, its four panels spanning the entire day and attracting dozens of participants. But they are nothing compared to the keynote speeches and presentations given by the big shots in front of an audience of 300 people. Professor Lee





Kong (HKU) professor (I regret not taking his class on liberalism back then), now Academic Sinica Distinguished Research Fellow, Chan Cho-wai Joseph (陳祖為) contemplated, philosophically, the psychological and cognitive aspects of the life of the Hong Kong diaspora.

My absolute star of this trip has to be UCLA's sociology professor Lee Ching-kwan (李靜君), another one of the brightest brains Hong Kong failed to retain after 2019. I listened to her in three different activities, each on a different topic, and I always left the venue feeling incredibly inspired, uplifted and hopeful. The day before the conference, she gave a talk on why we should look at contentious politics in Hong Kong not as conventional a civil society movement but a struggle for decolonisation.

Then, at the concluding discussion of the conference, titled "Promoting Hong Kong Studies Overseas", she proposed intellectual approaches to developing Hong Kong Studies as a globally relevant and significant field of knowledge and insisted that as long as we are willing to try, there is space for promoting Hong Kong Studies in the world. Because, as she famously said (and for which she was persecuted), "Hong Kong belongs to the world." That same weekend, she joined Joseph Chan, her tutor at HKU, and Francis Lee, her tutee at CUHK — you see

how everything (everyone) is connected — and Taiwanese historian Professor Chen Jo-shui (陳弱水) at Hong Kong-themed bookstore "Nowhere" to discuss academic freedom in Hong Kong. She

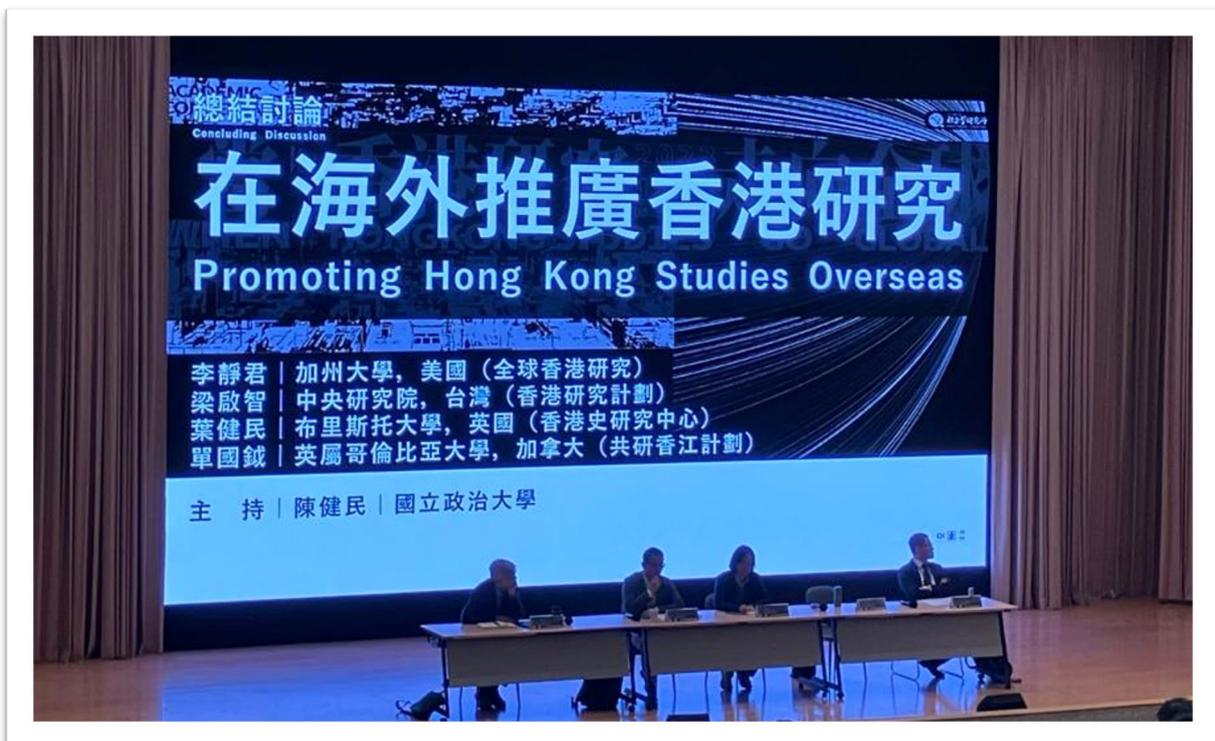


pointed out that scholars around the world all face challenges to academic freedom, albeit in different settings, against different backdrops and confronting different adversaries.

If academics in other parts of the world can strive hard to preserve their freedoms, she said, then there is no reason why their Hong Kong counterparts should give up. "Iran is one of the places with the least freedom, but they do the best movies." We should all work hard to convert harsh external cir-



cumtances into resources and find made sure they got the most out of the alternative academic pathways to trip — the conference, the exhibitions, achieve our goals — but of course, the discussions, the book-signings, the before that, be pragmatic, conform to old and new friendships, the food, the the norms, secure your position and shopping, the simple joy of hanging out prepare yourself for when you can be with Hong Kongers and Hong Kong truly academically free. lovers. Hats off to the organisers of the ... And so here I am, back in Germany to conference, especially Dr. Leung Kai-chi fulfil my research and teaching (梁啟智), the main manager of this responsibilities. I did not stay behind as historical event. **This was undoubtedly** some of my friends did. They even stayed **my best experience in 2023. I am looking** until after the elections in Taiwan and **for forward to future iterations.**

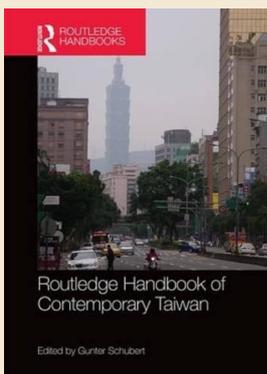


Official stage of the „When Hong Kong Studies Go Global” conference



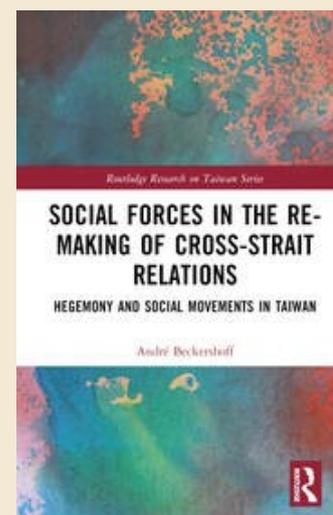
UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

A '*Little History of Taiwan*,' written by ERCCT Director Prof. Gunter Schubert, will be published (in German) by the renowned German publishing house C.H. BECK in March: ['Kleine Geschichte Taiwans'](#). It is designed for a wider audience and serves as a concise introduction to the complex history of the island. The book is intended for both undergraduate and graduate students studying contemporary Taiwan and China-Taiwan relations. It explores the island's status, claimed by the PRC as its territory, yet maintaining its own quest of sovereignty.



The second edition of the ['Routledge Handbook on Contemporary Taiwan'](#), published in 2016, is currently being prepared under the editorship of ERCCT Director Prof. Gunter Schubert. This bestseller in the field of Taiwan studies will feature new chapters and comprehensive updates to those retained from the first edition. The publication is scheduled for the second half of 2024. The cover shown to the left is the design of the first edition from 2016.

Andre Beckershoff, ERCCT Associate Fellow published his book ['Social Forces in the Re-Making of Cross-Strait Relations. Hegemony and Social Movements in Taiwan'](#) at the Routledge publishing house. Adopting a critical political economy perspective, the book unveils the social and political struggles shaping Taiwan-China relations and cross-Strait rapprochement from 2008 to 2014. Through meticulous analysis of primary sources and interviews, it reconstructs the historical, political, and socio-economic factors leading to the 2014 Sunflower Movement, interpreting it as a struggle over Taiwan's global economic role. Challenging conventional views, the study asserts that the rapprochement was driven by capitalist conglomerates, not political elites.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visiting Fellow Programme 2024

We are pleased to announce that applications are now open for the **CCKF-ERCCT Visiting Fellow Programme**, inviting Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows from our esteemed partner institutions in Taiwan. The programme offers a unique opportunity to work as a **Visiting Fellow at our centre in Tübingen** for a **one-month period, from April 15 to July 27, 2024**.

As a Visiting Fellow, you will have access to a stimulating academic environment, including office space and invaluable opportunities to engage in research discussions. To support your stay, we are providing **a stipend of € 500 for living expenses, a free round trip air ticket (up to € 1,250)**, accommodation assistance, and insurance coverage during your time in Tübingen.

To apply for the programme, **please submit your application by February 29, 2024**. For more detailed information about the programme and the application process, kindly visit the following [announcement](#).

If you have any further inquiries, please do not hesitate to reach out to the ERCCT Managing Director, Stefan Braig, at stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de.

Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop 2024

The ERCCT will hold its second **Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop**, a **workshop for emerging young scholars**, i.e. Ph.D. students and postdocs, from **7 to 13 July, 2024**. The main topic for this year's workshop is "**China's 'post-crisis' politics in Asia and Taiwan's responses**." Other paper submissions pertaining to the fields of Taiwan politics, society, economics and cross-strait relations are welcome.

Travel expenses (up to 1,250 EUR) and accommodation will be fully covered by the CCKF-ERCCT. Successful applicants are requested to submit a research paper after the workshop for online publication in the CCKF-ERCCT Online Paper Series.

For application, please **send your CV and an outline of your research project (5-6 pages) until 15 March, 2024**. For detailed information on how to apply, we invite you to visit [our official announcement](#).

Alternatively, feel free to reach out to Stefan Braig at stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de with any specific inquiries you may have.



Postdoctoral Researcher in Intimacy, Mobility, and the State: Fixed term (24 months) from 1 June 2024

The ERCCT is delighted to announce a **two-year postdoctoral researcher position starting in June 2024**.

This position, funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, is **part of the Excellence Strategy of the German Federal and State Governments**. The Department of Chinese Studies at AOI, Eberhard Karls University Tübingen, Germany, invites applications for the **postdoctoral researcher role to contribute to the research project titled: "Intimacy-Mobility-State Nexus in the Context of Democratic and Authoritarian States: A Case Study of China and Taiwan."**

The contract period for this position is **scheduled to begin on June 1, 2024**, for 24 months, with the possibility of extension for another 6 months. The salary will be in accordance with the **German TV-L 13 scale, at 100%**.

The **closing date for applications is 29 February 2024**. Those who are shortlisted will be contacted within two weeks for an interview scheduled in the last week of March.

For more detailed information about the programme and the application process, kindly **visit the following [announcement](#)**.

Applications should be composed in English and addressed to Prof. Yu-chin Tseng. Please **submit them to the following email address: yu-chin.tseng@uni-tuebingen.de**.



ERCCT Partners

The **European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT)** is dedicated to **advancing postgraduate social science research with a specific focus on contemporary Taiwan**. The ERCCT prioritizes research in the fields of politics and law, economics, society, and cross-strait relations. By providing a crucial **platform for doctoral and postdoctoral students**, the ERCCT fosters academic dialogue covering theory, methodology, and content related to ongoing research projects.

A **primary goal of the ERCCT is to prepare students from Europe and Taiwan for fieldwork, assess empirical findings gathered during their research, and offer support for publishing their work** through globally recognized publishing houses. Through the [Visiting Fellow Programme](#), Ph.D. and Postdoc students from our Taiwanese partner institutions are encouraged to spend approximately one month at the ERCCT. Concurrently, **ERCCT Resident Fellows have the opportunity to participate in the Tutorial System** organized by the center's partner institutions during their periods of fieldwork in Taiwan.

Below you can **find a list of our noteworthy partners in Taiwan**, with whom Memorandums of Understanding have been formally established and are renewed every five years. These **partnerships can also be the foundation for further cooperation with other interested bodies at the University of Tübingen**.



Academia Sinica

- Institute of Political Science
- Institute of Sociology
- Institutum Iurisprudentiae

National Taiwan University

- College of Social Sciences
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Sociology
- College of Law
- Global Asia Research Center
- Graduate Institute of National Development



- Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies
- Graduate Institute of Development Studies

National Chung-Hsing University

- Graduate Institute of International Politics



National Cheng-Kung University

- College of Social Sciences
- Department of Law
- Department of Political Science



National Chengchi University

- College of Social Sciences
- Department Political Science
- Taiwan Studies Center

National Sun Yat-Sen University

- College of Social Sciences
- Institute of Political Sciences
- Department of Sociology





CONTACT US

**European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan -
A CCK Foundation Overseas Center (CCKF-ERCCT)**

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