



NEWS

Tseng Yu-chin appointed Assistant Professor of Modern Taiwan Studies



Former ERCCT Resident Fellow, Dr. Tseng Yu-chin, was appointed Assistant Professor of Modern Taiwan Studies at Tübingen University's Department of Chinese Studies. She took up the position in April 2018 and also serves as the new ERCCT Co-Director. We warmly welcome her back at the center and look forward to working with her.

Symposium on the Future of Global Taiwan Studies

In celebration of its 10th Anniversary, the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan – A CCK Foundation Overseas Center (CCKF-ERCCT) – hosted a Symposium on the “Future of Taiwan Studies: The Next Steps to Take” on Friday and Saturday, June 22/23, 2018, at the Castle of Hohentübingen. Internationally renowned Taiwan Scholars from both the humanities and social sciences participated in this event.

After warm welcoming remarks from Professor Bernd Engler, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tübingen, Professor Shieh Jyh-Wey, head of the Taipei Representative Office to the Federal Republic of Germany in Berlin, and Professor Su Yeong-chin, representative of the European Regional Committee of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, it was ERCCT director Prof. Gunter Schubert's turn to offer a retrospective overview of the center's achievements in its 10 years of promoting Taiwan Studies in Europe.

A most recent milestone for Taiwan studies in Tübingen was the establishment of the position of Assistant Professor of Modern Taiwan Studies at the Department of Chinese Studies in April 2018. Dr. Tseng Yu-chin, who was appointed to this position and concurrently serves as ERCCT Co-Director, presented her vision of the future of Taiwan Studies in Tübingen with a talk on “The Imaginations of Taiwan: How to Contest the Ambivalence of Taiwan Studies”.



As South Korea has been very successful in promoting Korean Studies worldwide, there is certainly a lot that Taiwan could learn from South Korean programmes of Institutional Enhancement and research funding, a topic discussed by Prof. Dr. Lee You Jae from the Department of Korean Studies at Tübingen University.



More inspiring position papers were presented by our external guests: Professor Jonathan Sullivan, University of Nottingham, spoke on “Mainstreaming Taiwan Studies: Making the Case for a New Field”; Professor Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao from the Institute of Sociology at Academia Sinica reported on “Retrospect and Prospect for Taiwan Studies in Taiwan and in the World”; Professor Shelley Rigger from Davidson College reflected on “Liberating Taiwan from the Social Sciences”; and Professor Thomas B.

Gold from the University of California, Berkeley, raised (and answered) the question “Is the Trump Disruption Providing an Opening for Taiwan Studies in the U.S.?”

After a very merry conference dinner in a charming restaurant in the historical city center on Friday evening, the symposium continued on Saturday with a fifth position paper presented by Prof. Gunter Schubert on “Strategizing the Recruitment of Taiwan Scholars at Western Universities”.

The symposium concluded with a joint discussion of a draft document for a “Manifesto on the Future of Taiwan Studies” to be presented at the 3rd World Congress of Taiwan Studies in early September.

The ERCCT wishes to express its gratitude to the Munich branch office of the Taipei Representative Office to the Federal Republic of Germany, to the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, and to the Universitätsbund Tübingen e.V. for their generous support of this event.

Publication of a New Edited Volume on the Ma Ying-jiu Era

ERCCT Research Fellow Assessing **André Beckershoff** and Prof. Gunter Schubert edited a new book titled “Assessing the Presidency of Ma Ying-jiu in Taiwan - Hopeful Beginning, Hopeless End?” The chapters were first presented at a workshop jointly hosted by the ERCCT and the China Policy Institute, Nottingham University, in December 2015.



The volume focuses on the eight years of the Ma Ying-jiu presidency in Taiwan, which were controversial from the beginning. When Ma came to power in 2008, he was considered the strongest and most popular KMT presidential candidate since Lee Teng-hui. However, his rapprochement towards China met with increasing resistance and by the time he stepped down in 2016, he enjoyed the lowest support rates of any incumbent president. The authors trace the reasons for this astonishing fall from grace in this empirical assessment of the achievements and failures of the Ma Ying-jiu era in the realms of domestic politics, cross-strait political economy and international relations.



ASSESSING THE PRESIDENCY OF MA YING- JIU IN TAIWAN

HOPEFUL BEGINNING, HOPELESS END?

Edited by
André Beckershoff and Gunter Schubert



Young Scholars Workshop 2018

From July 2 to 8, the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT) held its sixth Young Scholars Workshop in Bad Urach and Tübingen. Twelve young scholars from Europe and Asia were selected from a large pool of applications to present their PhD or postdoc projects and discuss them with their peers, ERCCT Fellows and ERCCT Visiting Scholars.

The presentations of the first conference day focused on Taiwan's New Southbound Policy. Papers presented by Dr. Lan Xiaping (China University of Political Science and Law), Lin Hsien-ming (National Sun Yat-sen University), Sung Yu-hsien (National Sun Yat-sen University), Yang Dai-ying (University College London) and Chien Ker-wei (University of Essex) discussed various aspects of the policy's effects on international student exchange between Taiwan and its partner countries.



The next day's session on Civil Liberties and Protest Movements featured papers on Taiwan's press freedom by Dr. Huang Jaw-nian (Tamkang University), on Human Rights Diplomacy by Su Fang-ying (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg), on body politics in the Sunflower and Umbrella movements by Dr. Chen Li-ning (National Taiwan Normal University), on local foreign direct investment in Taiwan's major cities by Mark Henderson (National Chengchi University) and on war commemoration in Taiwan by Dr. Wu Che-liang (National Tsing Hua University).

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On the final day, Tang Qin (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) presented her paper on institutional changes of cross-Strait relations, followed by Anson Sung-lim Park (National Chengchi University) criticizing theoretical approaches to the history of the international order in East Asia. Current ERCCT Visiting Fellow Liu Kuo-Yi completed the workshop with her presentation on refugees and Global Governance.

On the eve of the first day, Professor Emerson Niou from Duke University joined Professor Gunter Schubert and Assistant Professor Tseng Yu-chin from Tübingen for a roundtable to discuss Taiwan's New Southbound Policy. Their inputs were followed by a lively discussion of all workshop participants on the challenges and opportunities of this initiative.



As always, a variety of social and cultural activities complemented the workshop. These included a hike to the waterfall near Bad Urach, city tours in Bad Urach and Tübingen as well as visits to the Castle Hohenzollern and the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart.

GUESTS

Our Visiting Scholars (January-July 2018)

In the past term, we have had the pleasure of welcoming a number of distinguished visiting scholars who engaged with our fellows and presented their ongoing research ([link](#) to the program).

Prof. Chen Don-yun 陳敦源, from the Department of Public Administration, National Chengchi University, stayed at the ERCCT from 17 to 31 January 2018. During his stay, he gave one talk on "The Institutional Reconciliation of Public Administration and Democracy in Taiwan: In Pursuit of Neutrality, Cost Containment, and Professional Symmetry" (25 January) and a second one pursuing the question "Who Wants and Who Can Become Public Servants in Taiwan?" (26 January).





Prof. Emerson Niou 牛銘實, based at Duke University in the U.S., was with us from 18 June to 15 July 2018. On 28 June, he spoke on "The China Factor in Taiwanese Politics", while his talk on 29 June was titled "How is Taiwan different from other small states in international politics?" He also participated in the 2018 Europe-Taiwan Young Scholars Workshop, taking part in a roundtable on Taiwan's New Southbound Policy.



Prof. Lin Kuo-ming 林國明, from National Taiwan University's Department of Sociology, visited the ERCCT from 16 to 28 July 2018. In his two talks, Prof. Lin lectured on "A Tale of Two Villages: Practice of Participatory Budgeting in Taiwan" (23 July 2018) and on "Institutionalizing Participatory Budgeting in Taipei City" (27 July 2018).



Our Visiting Fellows (Summer Term 2018)

Dr. George Nee 倪世傑

Institute of Political Science, National Sun Yat-Sen University

January 11 to February 10, 2018

Project: "Taiwanese Discourses of Economic Inequality" (presented on 9 February 2018)

Mr. Chen Wei-Ren 陳偉仁

College of Law, National Taiwan University

June 19 to July 19, 2018

Project: "The Effects of Laws Declared as Unconstitutional Due to Insufficient Coverage: A Study on the Grand Justice Declaration of the Civil Code as Unconstitutional for Failing to Protect Same-Sex Marriage" (presented on 16 July 2018)

Mr. Deng Xiaodong 鄧小冬

Graduate Institute for Taiwan Studies, Xiamen University

April 17 to July 13, 2018

Project: "A Study on the formation mechanism of Taiwan identity" (presented on 14 May 2018)

Ms. Liu Kuo-Yi 劉國儀

Graduate Institute of National Development and Mainland China Studies, Chinese Culture University

June 26 to July 25, 2018

Project: "The Issue of Refugees in Global Governance" (presented on 5 July 2018)



See [Visiting Fellow Programme](#) for future application details on the program.

Short Term Resident Fellows

Winter Term 2017/2019

Mr. Guo Sheng-ping

21 November 2017 to 10 February 2018

Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, Canada

Project: „The Bread of Life Christian Church (Ling Liang Tang) in the Global Landscape of Christianity: Issues in Identity Negotiation, Spiritual Practice, and Cultural Accommodation, 1942-2017“ (presented on 12 January 2018)

Summer Term 2018

Ms. Beatrice Zani

Lyon II University

April 12 to August 10, 2018

Project: “Trans-local, Trans-versal, Trans-gressive: Women's Circulations between China and Taiwan” (presented on 17 May 2018)

Dr. Sascha Klotzbücher

University of Vienna

June 30 to July 31, 2018

Project: “Social and virtual innovations of new "homes" for aged and super-aged societies in Taiwan and China: Own field studies and theoretical considerations” (presented on 26 July 2018)

See [Short Term Resident Fellow Programme](#) for application details on the program.

TÜBINGEN RESEARCH NOTES

Sascha Klotzbücher is a post-doc Assistant Professor from the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna in Austria. He stayed as a Short Term Resident Fellow at the ERCCT in July 2018.

His inquiries about medical services, policies and conflicts in Mainland China began with his PhD research in the early 2000s. In the last two years, he conducted field studies on social innovations for ageing people in Wuhan and Taipei. In Taiwan, the predominant form of





family care means unpaid work of female household members and a 'care drain' of female workers from South-East Asian countries into precarious work relations.

The recent "Plan for Long-Term Care 2.0" (長期照顧十年計畫 2.0) of the Tsai Administration states that, together with South Korea and Singapore (Mainland China is not mentioned at all), Taiwan has experienced one of the fastest transitions from an ageing to a super-aged society. The ageing index will be higher than many Western countries after the year 2030 at latest. Taiwan is an interesting place to explore new directions of community-building and community care for super-aged societies. How will an accelerated ageing process and technological innovations like "smart home", e-medicine and robotics reshape the way that a society with a strong acceptance of high technology gets old, how will care be organized and how will elderly people perceive themselves during the process?

There is a lot of R&D in the medical sector trying to improve "ageing in-place" or at home, with ambient assisted living systems, robotics or ICT (information and communications technologies) as new and expensive home care regimes. These medical technologies help the elderly to stay at home, but create new problems. However, as profit-oriented medical technologies they overlook the social isolation of the "patient-in-site" and his/her caregiver inside the household.

Medical humanities could consider tools and techniques to re-vitalize social space for the elderly. By creating alternative spaces to empower elderly people in new roles, the assisted devices and other forms of human-machine interaction can intensify emotional human interactions that have been lost in the diminution of elderly people as the cared 'sick' or the medicalized caregiver. In the age of higher social mobility, smaller households, extending virtuality and permanent internet connectivity, "home" itself is not static, but is a culturally bound and evolving concept. Consequently, as social scientists, we have to challenge this structurally conservative conception of "home" or "in-place". Social innovations and technological tools can open up a new social space that help elderly people to transmute "from patienthood to personhood" (從病人到人). As a starting point for an interdisciplinary project, Sascha currently analyzes how elderly people create and modify actively their local spaces and concepts of "home" in social initiatives in the cities of Taipei and in Taoyuan. You may get in touch with Sascha via: Sascha.klotzbuecher@univie.ac.at

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Publications

Beckershoff, André and Gunter Schubert (eds.) 2018: Assessing the Presidency of Ma Ying-jiu in Taiwan. Hopeful Beginning, Hopeless End? London: Routledge.



Beckershoff, André (2018): "The political economy of the cross-Strait rapprochement: anatomy of a hegemonic project". In: *Assessing the Presidency of Ma Ying-jiu in Taiwan. Hopeful Beginning, Hopeless End?* Ed. by André Beckershoff and Gunter Schubert. London: Routledge. pp. 224-246.

Schubert, Gunter (2018): "The DPP's China policy before and during the Ma Ying-jiu era". In: *Assessing the Presidency of Ma Ying-jiu in Taiwan. Hopeful Beginning, Hopeless End?* Ed. by André Beckershoff and Gunter Schubert. London: Routledge. pp. 37-58.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Concert: Magic Flutes of East and West

On Feb. 11, 2018 the ERCCT co-hosted a concert by Trio Piazzolla and Chung-Shen CHEN. Under the headline "Magic Flutes of East and West" the troupe performed arrangements of western classical pieces besides several Chinese traditional folksongs. The concert itself was preceded by a vivid introduction of classical Chinese flutes. At the end, three encores had to be given to the enthused audience.

COMING UP...

Visiting Fellow Programme Winter Semester 2018-2019

For the winter semester 2018 – 2019 we will invite two Taiwanese Ph.D. or Postdoc students to visit and work at the ERCCT for one month. Deadline for applications is **15 September 2018**.

The successful applicant will be granted a living stipend of 500 EUR, free accommodation, insurance provided by the CCKF-ERCCT, and a round trip air ticket (economy class, up to € 1250). During their stay in Tübingen, Visiting Fellows will take part in the centre's activities, most notably the Taiwan Colloquium, and present their on-going Ph.D. or Postdoc research to the other fellows. For more information about the programme please see this [link](#).



Short-Term Resident Fellow Programme 2018-2019

The ERCCT regularly invites Ph.D. students or postdoc researchers from Europe and Taiwan under the Short-Term Resident Fellows Programme for a period between three months and one year. Invited fellows will be granted a monthly allowance of EUR 350, basic health insurance, and a one time travel grant of EUR 500. Anyone interested in joining us under this programme from the winter semester 2018-2019 onwards, please submit your application no later than **31 August 2018**.

For more information about the programme please see this [link](#).

Tango – Taiwan: concert in cooperation with Hohaiyan Cultural Association

On 30 November 2018, the ERCCT will host a musical concert with a Tango-centred programme. In organising this event we cooperate with the *Hohaiyan Association for the Promotion of Music and Performing Arts from Taiwan*.

CONTACT US

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

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**Keplerstraße 2
72074 Tübingen / Germany
Web: www.ercct.uni-tuebingen.de
E-Mail: ercct@uni-tuebingen.de**