



# CCKF-ERCCT Newsletter

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### CONTENTS

<b>Greetings .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Activities at the Center .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Greater China Studies Colloquium (Summer Term 2022) .....	2
Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop 2022 .....	4
Visiting Fellow Programme .....	6
Film Screening Kino Arsenal .....	6
<b>Tübingen Research Notes.....</b>	<b>7</b>
台灣做頭陣：在全球大勢挑戰中 的地方創新 – Joint BMBF Research Project Taiwan as a Pioneer (TAP) ..	7
ERCCT Part of Research Project on International Students Well-Being during Covid-19 .....	8
<b>Upcoming Publications .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Announcements .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Visiting Fellow Programme (January / February 2023).....	9
Short-Term Resident Fellow Programme, January to July 2023) .	9
<b>Contact Us.....</b>	<b>10</b>

Follow us on...



### GREETINGS

Dear colleagues and friends of the ERCCT,

these are troubled times. China's military exercises around Taiwan following a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in early August suggest a new and dangerous chapter in the complicated cross-strait relationship, with internationally worrisome repercussions. Is an eventual war in the Taiwan Strait inevitable? What would be the solution for a sustainable peace? Currently, it seems as though the conflict is spiralling towards outright military confrontation, rather than retreating to what has for decades been considered the "status quo". The ERCCT, much like the entire Taiwan studies community, hopes for the best. It is the task of academic research, more so now than ever, to lay open the dangers of narrow-minded nationalism and the celebration of so-called national interests trumping the quest for peace and prosperity that the people of both sides of the Taiwan Strait cherish.

Prof. Dr. Gunter Schubert, ERCCT Director



## ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER

### Greater China Studies Colloquium (Summer Term 2022)

This term, as part of the Greater China Studies Colloquium, several Taiwan-related research projects were again discussed in Tübingen.

#### Amélie Keyser-Verreault presented her research in the Taiwan Colloquium

Dr. Amélie Keyser-Verreault, who has been a postdoctoral Resident Fellow at the ERCCT since April 2022 (see below!), presented her research on gendered body politics in Taiwan at the Taiwan Colloquium on 28 July 2022. In a presentation entitled "From the quest for beauty to fat-shaming: gender, body and the politics of desirability in contemporary Taiwan", Dr. Keyser-Verreault fascinated her audience by shedding light on the burden placed upon Taiwanese women by society's beauty standards and on fat women in particular, but also offered an alternate perspective: Fat women's strategies of resistance.



#### Dr. Isabelle Cheng gave a public talk on irregular migrant farm workers in Taiwan



'Fieldwork'

On 21 July, Dr. Isabelle Cheng 程念慈 from the School of Area Studies, History, Politics, and Literature at the University of Portsmouth, who stayed at the ERCCT as a Visiting Scholar from 4 July to 3 August, 2022, gave a talk titled "To flee is to be 'free'? Irregular migrant farmworkers in Taiwan before and during the pandemic". Cheng gave a very vivid and personal

account of the plight and hopes, the motives and living circumstances of migrant workers from Southeast Asian countries in Taiwan, who have left employers and work contracts which they were assigned to in Taiwan in order to find more profitable jobs in Taiwan's agricultural sector, and its many implications for Taiwanese society and immigration laws.

### **Judy Lee gave a talk on her project**

Judy Lee, ERCCT Resident Fellow, presented her Ph.D. research project to ERCCT Fellows and master's students from the Department of Chinese Studies on Thursday, July 7. The title of her presentation was "Hong Kong exiles in Taiwan: an ongoing observation." Judy will conduct extensive fieldwork on Hong Kong refugees and emigrants in Taiwan over the next year.

### **Dr. Leon Kunz presented his research to ERCCT Fellows**

As this summer's first Taiwan Colloquium speaker, Dr. Leon Kunz from the Center for Taiwan Studies at the University of Texas at Austin presented his current project "Space, leadership, and organization: comparing the Sunflower and Umbrella movements" on Monday, 27 June 2022. His presentation, based on part of his PhD research, was followed by a lively discussion with ERCCT fellows.



### **Guo Liqiao spoke on his PhD project**

Guo Liqiao 郭立橋, ERCCT short-term resident fellow from the Graduate Institute for Taiwan Studies at Xiamen University, presented his ongoing research on "The Rivalry between Mainland China and Taiwan: how they view each other's application to join the CPTTP" in the Taiwan Colloquium on 2 June 2022.



## Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop 2022

After two years in which the pandemic impeded real on-site workshops in Tübingen, the ERCCT was happy to host the *Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop* held from 11 to 15 July, 2022, in Tübingen.

The event brought together eight young Taiwan scholars based in Europe and Taiwan as well as ERCCT visiting fellows and visiting scholars staying at the ERCCT in July, namely: Isabelle Cheng, Yu Ssu-Han, Huang Yin-shan, and Karoline Buchner. The participants presented and intensively discussed their ongoing PhD and postdoc research at the lovely University Guesthouse on Lessingweg. The workshop was complemented by special presentations by Prof. Cheng and Prof. Schubert.



The ERCCT and workshop participants were honored by the presence on Monday, 11 July, of Mrs.

Yu Shu-chi, the director of the administrative division of the Taipei Representative Office in the Federal Republic of Germany, who addressed workshop participants in an opening message stressing the importance of understanding Taiwan as a vital player in the international community of democracies and market economies.

The first external participant to talk then was Dr. Wang Tao from the Department of Politics at the University of Manchester, who presented his project on local politicians' constituency service 'Weddings, Funerals, and Errands: How Guanxi Serves Democracy', followed by Ms. Hou Ying-Chun, Ph.D. candidate at the Bartlett School of Planning at University College London, speaking about 'Community-led planning reforms in developmental-state cities? A study of marketisation of planning systems and changing understandings of communities in Taipei, Taiwan', and ERCCT Visiting Fellow Huang Yin-Shan, Ph.D. student from the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies at National Chengchi University, who presented her paper titled 'China's Submarine Cable Development in the Indo-Pacific: A Geopolitical Perspective'.

On Tuesday, 12 July, Max Dixon, Ph.D. student from the School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature at the University of Portsmouth, started the day by delivering his presentation on 'Cycles of Instability': Japanese perceptions of Chinese assertiveness in Hong Kong and Taiwan, 2019-2020.' Next in line was Ms. Lin Yung from the Department of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University, posing the question 'How Has the Covid-19 Crisis Challenged East Asia Security and Conflict Resolution?', followed by ERCCT Visiting Fellow Yu Ssu-Han, Ph.D. candidate from the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science, who presented her doctoral research project under the title 'Mediating democratic politics: generational understanding of democracy and identification with Taiwan'. Ph.D. student Mayya Solonina from the Department of Sinology at the University of Trier then rounded off day two with the presentation of her research project on 'Government and Media othering in Taiwan during COVID-19'.



The third workshop day was mainly dedicated to the migration studies field, and opened by Mrs. Felicitas Wiji Lestari Dhont, Ph.D. student in the Southeast Asian Studies Program of National Cheng Kung University in Tainan, speaking about ‘Indonesian Migrant Workers in Taiwan during the Pandemic: Government Policy, Access to Information and Language Barriers’. ERCCT Visiting Scholar Dr. Isabelle Cheng from the School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature at the University of Portsmouth followed suit with ‘Disease, Temporality, and Inequality: Sani-

tising Foreign Bodies and Protecting Public Health in Taiwan’, before Dr. Kristina Kironka from Palacky University in Olomouc presented her forthcoming research paper ‘Formosa as a safe haven? Taiwan’s public opinion on potential asylum mechanisms’. Topic-wise a bit of an outlier in the migration panel, but no less enlightening, was the fourth presentation of the day by Joso Fatimaah Menefee, a Ph.D. student from the International Institute of Korean Studies at the University of Central Lancashire, who presented her doctoral research under the title: ‘Gastrodiplomacy in Contemporary International Relations of Asia Everyday Nationalism: Gastronomic Campaigns of Taiwan, North Korea, South Korea, Japan’.

On Thursday, 14 July, then-ERCCT Short-Term Resident Fellow Karoline Buchner from the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Freie Universität Berlin gave a presentation of her Ph.D. research project, entitled: ‘Cultivating partnerships – Chinese medicine as a form of public and everyday diplomacy under Taiwan’s New Southbound Policy’.

Apart from the project presentations, this first ERCCT Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop also featured contributions from the side of the ERCCT itself. ERCCT Director Prof. Gunter Schubert introduced the center’s objectives and programs on the afternoon of the first day. On Tuesday afternoon (12 July) Tübingen-educated historian Dr. Fabian Fechner from the Institute of History at the Fernuniversität Hagen took the participants to a city tour centering on the history and co-evolution of Tübingen University and its city. The following punting boat tour



along the Neckar River made for a very relaxed end to the day. Prof. Schubert also talked about ‘Cross-Strait’ studies as a new research field’ on Wednesday afternoon, ERCCT team members Tseng Yu-chin, Amélie Keyser-Verreault and Sascha Zhivkov briefly presented their individual research projects on Thursday morning. A roundtable on ‘The war in Ukraine and what it means for Taiwan’ reminded everyone of the grim geopolitical realities of our time and generated an interesting, insightful discussion. A visit to Hohenzollern Castle (14 July, afternoon) and to the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart on Friday, 15 July, were undertaken, before the workshop was closed with a peaceful dinner at the Castle of Hohenentrigen. The ERCCT hopes to welcome more PhD and Postdoc students from Taiwan next year when quarantine regulations in Taiwan will probably have terminated.



## Visiting Fellow Programme

Two Visiting Fellows came to Tübingen in the summer semester 2022:



Ms. Yu Ssu-Han 游絲涵 (right) from the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science stayed at the ERCCT from June 23 to July 25 and presented her doctoral research project ‘Mediating democratic politics: generational understanding of democracy and identification with Taiwan’ on Tuesday, July 12, during the Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop.

Ms. Huang Yin-shan 黃引珊 (left) from the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, National Cheng-Chi University, visited from July 4 to August 3 and presented part of her Ph.D. research – ‘China’s submarine cable development in the Indo-Pacific: a geopolitical perspective’ – on the first day of the TECW.

## Film Screening Kino Arsenal

On 7 July, the ERCCT cooperated with local movie theatre Arsenal Kinos to screen the Taiwanese – French – Austrian – Belgian co-produced feature film *Moneyboys* by Austrian Chinese filmmaker C.B. Yi as part of the Arsenal Kinos’ queer movie series. The film, which tells the moving story of a male prostitute in mainland China who works to support his mother economically but is rejected by his wider family and society at large, was quite a hit with Tübingen University students.



## TÜBINGEN RESEARCH NOTES

### 台灣做頭陣：在全球大勢挑戰中的地方創新 – Joint BMBF Research Project Taiwan as a Pioneer (TAP)

Dear all,

it is a pleasure to introduce the new research project **Taiwan as a Pioneer** (TAP) for which I am the lead at the ERCCT. My name is [Amélie Keyser-Verreault](#) and I am an anthropologist of Taiwan researching body politics, subjectivity formation and gender.

The German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has awarded a grant to four post-doc researchers to conduct the joint research program TAP (Taiwan as a Pioneer) for a duration of four years (02.2022 - 01.2026).

TAP is an interdisciplinary and supra-regional postdoctoral joint project for the promotion, structural strengthening and networking of Taiwan research. The research focuses on Taiwan's role as an innovator in the dynamics of global megatrends. The inter-institutional network between the universities of Trier, Tübingen and Ruhr-Universität Bochum, funded by the BMBF, is to create intra- and interdisciplinary structures, by means of which Taiwan research can be sustainably anchored in the German science location.

The project that is being carried out in Tübingen explores and examines Taiwanese parents' intensive investment in their children's human capital in a context of "compressed modernity" where heterogeneous influences coexist and interact. A study of "human capital at home" in Taiwan helps to challenge the dominant understanding of the global trend of neoliberalism and illustrate how contemporary Taiwanese parents, in a society which has one of the lowest birth rates in the world, negotiate and compromise these competing or incompatible discourses in mobilizing various material and immaterial resources.

To know more about the Taiwan as Pioneer project please visit the Tübingen University project's webpage:

<https://uni-tuebingen.de/einrichtungen/zentrale-einrichtungen/european-research-center-on-con-temporary-taiwan/activities/taiwan-as-a-pioneer/>





## ERCCT Part of Research Project on International Students Well-Being during Covid-19

ERCCT's Co-Director Jun. Prof. Tseng Yu-chin in association with Assistant Professor Po-han Lee from the Global Health Program (GHP) in the College of Public Health will undertake a joint research project on "*Health and well-being of international students in the higher education sector: The examples of Taiwan and Germany*", being funded by the NTU 2022 International Collaboration Seed Funding.

Facing the significant impacts of policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic on people's socio-economic lives around the world, this collaboration project is set to investigate the health and well-being of a long-neglected 'population on the move'; namely, international students in the higher education sector. The European Migration Network (EMN) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), commissioned by the European Union, published a report that considers international students as one of the key populations to examine in terms of the challenges for migration management and policy-making under COVID-19.

Despite a plethora of research on the health and well-being of population on the move and the global increase of international students (over 6 million in 2019), the lived experiences of international students, and their utilisation of healthcare and social support services in the destination countries are rarely explored. International students' lives have been greatly affected by COVID-19 due to restrictions on international travel that either restrain them physically in the destination countries or forbid them from entering the countries to study. In addition to the effect on their educational and job opportunities, limitations of the entry into or movement within the country of study have also had a negative impact on their access to healthcare and quality of life, which were under-researched even before the pandemic. The collaborative project thus aims to understand the barriers to health experienced by the students who receive their higher education in another country and their well-being in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic in particular.

## UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Schubert, Gunter / Zhivkov, Sascha (Forthcoming): Steering China's Economic Reform and Cross-Strait Relations under 'Top-Level Design': The Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone. *The China Review*.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Visiting Fellow Programme (January / February 2023)

Ph.D students or postdoctoral fellows from our Taiwanese partner institutions are now welcome to apply for the CCKF-ERCCT Visiting Fellow Programme for the period from 9 January to 11 February, 2023, for which one person will be invited to work at the Center as a Visiting Fellow for one month. We offer a stipend of 500 € for living expenses and a free round trip air ticket (of up to € 1,250.-), we pay for the accommodation (and help to find it) and insurance for the time spent in Tübingen. We provide office space and most importantly opportunities to discuss your research. Applications can be submitted until 15 September, 2022.

For more information about the programme please check this [link](#) or write to the ERCCT Managing Director Stefan Braig ([stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de)).

### Short-Term Resident Fellow Programme, January to July 2023)

Applications to the Short-Term Resident Fellow Programme, January to July 2023, is now opened! The application deadline is on 15 September, 2022. In this programme, we welcome Ph.D. or postdoc researchers to join the CCKF-ERCCT for a period of between three and six months and grant them a monthly stipend of 350 EUR plus a 500 EUR travel grant.

For more information on how to apply please visit [our website](#) or write an e-mail to Stefan Braig ([stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de)).



## CONTACT US

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