



# CCKF-ERCCT Newsletter

## No. 13 · December 2021

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### GREETINGS

Dear colleagues and friends of the ERCCT,

The Covid-19 pandemic proved a challenge for our Center in 2021, much like last year. We couldn't run our programmes as usual, planned visits by visiting fellows and Taiwan scholars had to be postponed. As in 2020, we went online and tried our best to maintain our activities. Although the resonance was more than satisfying, we hope, again, that the coming year will see a major change in the overall situation and that on-site communication can resume. This said, digital co-operation between different Taiwan research institutes may intensify in the future, something which is certainly to be welcomed by the Taiwan Studies community. The first virtual PhD workshop hosted by the Taiwan Studies Programme in Nottingham, SOAS' Center of Taiwan Studies and the ERCCT was a rewarding experience for all participants, and we have agreed to make this a regular event. Finally, the ERCCT deeply thanks all its friends and supporters. May you all have a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

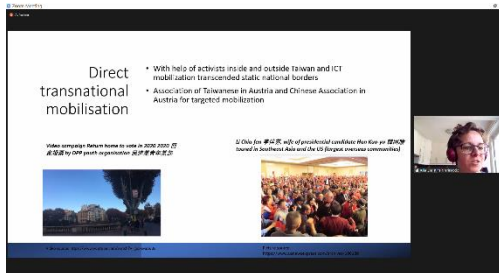
ERCCT Director Prof. Dr. Gunter Schubert



## ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER

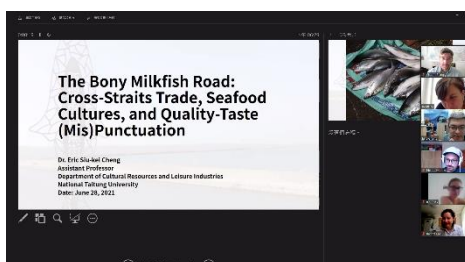
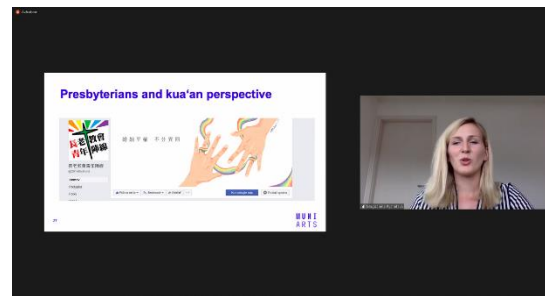
### Taiwan Colloquium in Summer Term 2021 (online)

The Taiwan Colloquium returned in an online series for the summer term 2021, kindly organized by Dr.



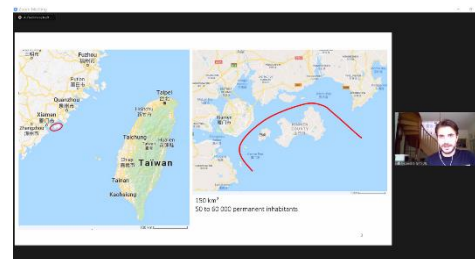
Beatrice Zani. The main topic of the series was “A transnational outlook on cross-strait studies: Case studies and new research approaches”. The first contribution under this headline was made by Dr. Magdaléna Rychetská from the Department of Chinese Studies at Masaryk University, Brno, investigating the possibility of understanding the

Presbyterian Church of Taiwan’s activities from a transnational perspective on interaction between both sides of the Taiwan strait. Her talk in the Taiwan Colloquium was titled: "Transnational perspective: Can research of the Presbyterian church enrich our understanding of cross-strait studies?". Prof. Eric Cheung from the Department of Cultural Resources



and Leisure Industries then introduced his recent research project on cross-strait trade (failures) in his talk “The Bony Milkfish Road: Cross-Strait Trade, Seafood Cultures, and Quality-Taste (Mis-)Punctuation”, and third, Alexandre Gandil, a Ph.D. candidate at the Centre of International Studies (CERI) at Sciences Po with a presentation on “Re-mapping the

Taiwan Strait: Putting the ‘(Mainland) China / Taiwan’ Framework to the Test through the Lens of Kinmen.” Current topics from Taiwan Studies other than the cross-strait one, however, were integrated too, making for a diverse programme. Dr. Julia Marinaccio from the Department of Foreign Languages (Chinese Studies) at the University of Bergen, Norway, opened the Taiwan Colloquium on 17 May and intrigued the audience with a presentation of



her current research project on the consequences of Taiwan's lack of an absentee voting system ("The Taiwanese emigrant electorate: Studying transnational political mobilization in the context of cross-strait relations"), exploring the cases of Taiwanese in Austria and on the Chinese mainland. On June 7,



Dr. Lev Nachmann, the Hou Family Postdoctoral Fellow at the Harvard Fairbank Center, talked about his research regarding political parties in contested states under the title "Everything in Moderation: The DPP's Role in Taiwan's Post-Sunflower Movement-Party Formation" in the Taiwan Colloquium session of 7 June 2021. The migrations studies field was represented by Linh Le-Phuong from the Institute for Media Studies at KU Leuven with her talk on "Female migration to Taiwan in Vietnamese online media: changing representation, changing society?", and the final session made a detour to the crossroads of academic research and postmodern performing arts with Hung Yi-ling's (Wageningen University, Netherlands) project presentation on food practices as embodiments of the transnational living experiences of Taiwanese in the Netherlands.

Most talks from series were recorded and are available via the ERCCT Youtube channel [here](#).

In the current winter semester, the Taiwan Colloquium continued with three project presentations by Visiting and Short-Time Resident Fellows. Dr. Liao Tsung-Han (Visiting Fellow from the Election Study Center at National Chengchi University) talked about his research on the personality traits of Taiwanese voters and the possible effects

on their voting behavior. Dr. Sirma Altun (Department of Geography at the University of Sydney) gave a presentation on "Global, Creative or Smart: City branding practices in Taipei in the 2000s", and Pan Yi-Ling from the Institute of Trans textual and Transcultural Studies at University of Lyon III Jean Moulin ended the 2021 Taiwan Colloquium with her talk on her doctoral re-



search about the latest era of Taiwanese cinema: "From Taiwan New Cinema to Post-New Cinema: The Transformation of Identity in today's Taiwan Cinema."



## Young Scholars Workshop 2021 (online)



As has often been the case, the annual Young Scholars Workshop was the highlight of this year's summer term at the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT). Due to the ongoing pandemic and travel restrictions, the event was held online in a shortened format between July 9 – 10.

The programme was made up of four young scholars, two from Europe and two from Taiwan, a lecture on publishing for early-career scholars, and a roundtable discussion on the question: "Is Taiwan ready to face a belligerent China?"

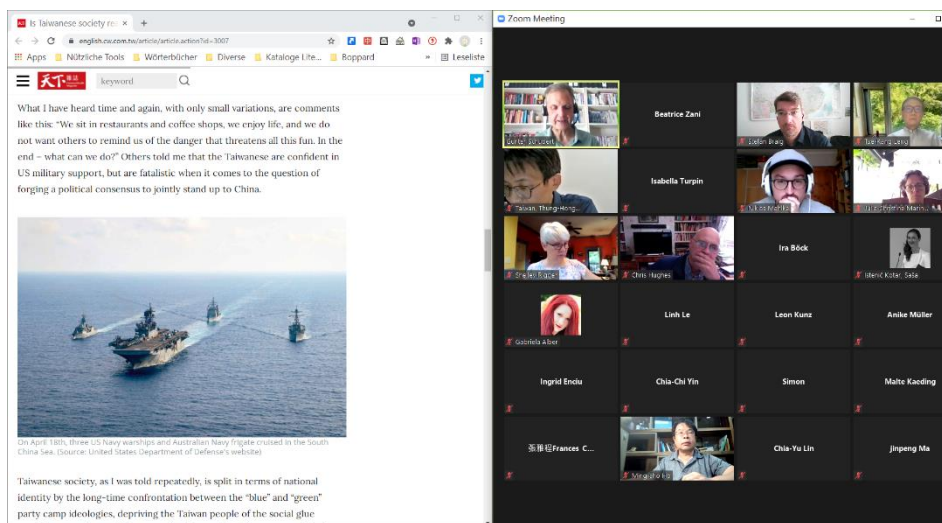
Chou Szu-Nuo 周思諾 from the Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies at the University of Ottawa, introduced her Ph.D. research on the lives and memories of the first generation of mainlander women in Taiwan, followed by Dr Julia Marinaccio from the Department of Foreign Languages (Chinese Studies) at the University of Bergen, Norway, talking about her research project on the lack of an absentee-voting system in Taiwan and Taiwan's overseas voters.

Afterwards, Prof. Lan Pei-Chia 藍佩嘉 (Dept. of Sociology at National Taiwan University) gave a lecture on academic publishing strategies for young scholars. She focused mainly on how to make a Ph.D. thesis into a published book. In the ensuing discussion, ERCCT Director Prof. Gunter Schubert also considered strategies for publishing journal articles and the value of book chapters.

Dr Chang Chia-Chien 張珈健 from the Graduate Institute of International Politics at National Chung Hsing University opened the second day. He talked about the causation of trade wars and the recent trade war between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China in particular. In his analysis, Dr Chang combines the domestic factor of socio-economic inequality with the international factor of faltering hegemony.

Finally, Leon Kunz from SOAS presented his research on different practices of democratic deliberation in the Sunflower Movement, arguing for a distinction between strategic deliberation as exemplified by the DStreet series of public forums taking place just outside of the Legislative Yuan and prefigurative deliberation like the more radically oppositional Liberation Forum or the Big Intestine Flower deliberations.

The final roundtable discussion gathered together Prof. Chris Hughes, Prof. Leng Tse-Kang 冷則剛 (Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica), Prof. Lin Thung-hong 林宗弘 (Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica), and Prof. Shelley Rigger (Political Science, Davidson College) to discuss a question, which Prof. Schubert raised through relating the impressions he gained in Taiwan earlier this year when Chinese naval manoeuvres and incursions into Taiwan's Aerial Defense Identification Zone became more and more frequent, yet most of Taiwanese society displayed an attitude of indifference toward China's menacing gestures. The question thus was whether Taiwan is ready to face a belligerent China.



Various perspectives were taken by the panellists: Apparent indifference or unwillingness to engage in military action may be just due the fact that an actual attack does not yet seem imminent and there may well be a sudden rise of

fighting spirit if or when war really is on the doorstep. But willingness to fight to defend Taiwan may also prove just wishful thinking, as Taiwan's military capabilities are no match for the PRC's if Taiwan is not supported by foreign powers. Accordingly, the perspective was then also broadened to emphasize that in terms of military readiness, Taiwan cannot wait until war comes, instead it needs to consider whether its democracy is sufficiently robust to forge a consensus on defence. Taiwan must re-think the distribution of the national budget with a view to national security, and it needs to reform its military education system to make it more attractive for capable young people to join. Taiwan also needs to include other countries in a comprehensive sense.

Keeping in mind that it is the military who would have to go to battle in the case of an actual attack, unwavering support for the armed forces from broader society is also an important factor for Taiwan's defence readiness. Also important, yet difficult, is the question of how to measure the will to fight. Analogies maybe useful here, it was said, and the issue of climate change may serve as an example: If too little attention is paid to climate change, then the situation may turn out to be very dangerous in the end, but if one faces it with too much panic, then policy deliberation may be ineffective.

The initial statements were followed by a lively discussion with the audience to wrap up the workshop.

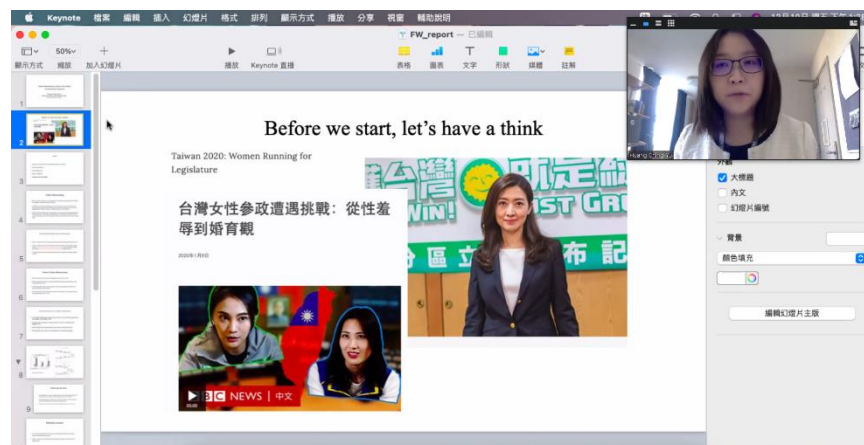


## ERCCT hosted a Joint Ph.D. workshop with Nottingham and SOAS

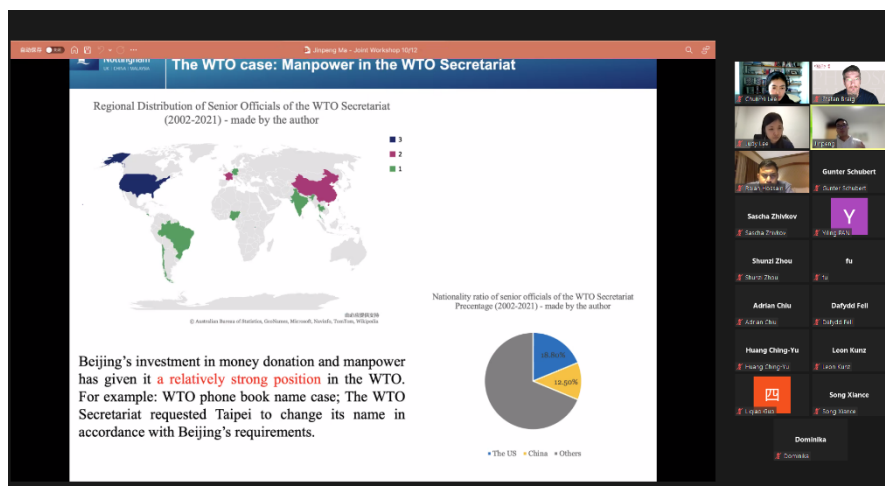
Sharing the pursuit of training the next generation of Taiwan scholars in Europe, the Taiwan Studies Programme at the University of Nottingham, the Centre of Taiwan Studies at School of Oriental and African Studies, and the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan joined forces to hold a joint Ph.D. workshop in Taiwan Studies on Friday, 10 December, 2021.

During the three-hour online event, one Ph.D. from each institution presented their research project and discussed it with the other workshop participants.

Huang Ching-Yu from SOAS marked the start with her project presentation on “Gender Mainstreaming in Taiwan’s Party Politics”. As Ms. Huang is already in a quite advanced stage of her Ph.D. project, she has recently returned from her field studies in Taiwan and reported about a very successful research process.



Ma Jinpeng, a fourth year Ph.D. candidate at the University of Nottingham next presented his doctoral



research project on “The Triangular Relationship Between China, the US and Taiwan: Strategies of Intergovernmental Organisations – Since 1949.” The pandemic had unfortunately kept Mr. Ma from going to the field, so his presentation centred on the concep-

tual framework and its application to the case of the World Trade Organisation, as far as this could be researched via archival materials.



Finally, the ERCCT's Judy Lee, who is in the beginning stage of her research, presented her project plan, titled "Transnationalism, Identity, and Political Participation of Exiled Hong Kong Dissidents in Taiwan." In her presentation, Judy presented the results of her explorations into the matter, e.g. making contact and chatting with Hong Kong exiles in Taipei, and shared her attempts at conceptualizing of her analysis, as well as her intended methodology.



The workshop proved to be very fruitful in bringing much expertise to the discussion of each project both from a disciplinary perspective as well as knowledge and experience from the area of Taiwan Studies. In this way, the workshop helped the three presenters to respectively fine-tune or build their analytical and theoretical framework. And as the online format of the event also helped connect the younger scholarly generation across these three institutions, the cooperation will be continued in a series of SOAS-Nottingham-Tübingen Joint Workshops on Taiwan Studies in the future.

## Book Launch Event: Dafydd Fell Presented "Taiwan's Green Parties: Alternative Politics in Taiwan" (online)

On 10 May, 2021, we welcomed Dr. Dafydd Fell for a book launch event on Taiwan's Green Parties: Alternative Politics in Taiwan", published by Routledge. In his very lively presentation, Dafydd not only described the research methodology and content of his book but also shared his personal motivation and connections to the research topic field, and he talked about his related plans for the future.





## ERCCT Screened Zhang Hong-jie's Documentary "When the Dawn Comes"

Contributing to Tübingen's Week of Queer Culture, the ERCCT presented the documentary "When the Dawn Comes" by director Zhang Hong-jie 張弘傑 on 26 October 2021 at local cinema Kino Arsenal.

The film tells the story of Chi Chia-wei 祁家威, the father of Taiwan's gay rights activism, ranging from the beginning of his fight in the 1980s until Taiwan's historical breakthrough with the legalisation of same-sex marriage in 2019. The screening was part of other movies from all around the world in Tübingen's Queer Week between 22–31 October 2021.



## TUEBINGEN RESEARCH NOTES

### Three ERCCT Fellows Completed their PhD Studies

Three of our CCKF-ERCCT Resident Fellows recently graduated. Elisa Tamburo received her PhD from SOAS, London, after defending her dissertation on "Moving House: Place, Time and the Politics of Urban Relocation in a Taipei Military Village" in December 2019. Chen Li-Yi was granted a PhD from the Department of Political Science at the University of Tübingen after defending his dissertation on "The Political Participation of Taiwan's Labour. Public Perception and Legitimation" in March 2021. We warmly congratulate both and wish them all the best for their future. And André Beckershoff defended his doctoral dissertation "Social Forces in the Re-Making of Cross-Strait Relations. Emergence, Contradictions and Crisis of a Contested Hegemonic Project" in August 2021.

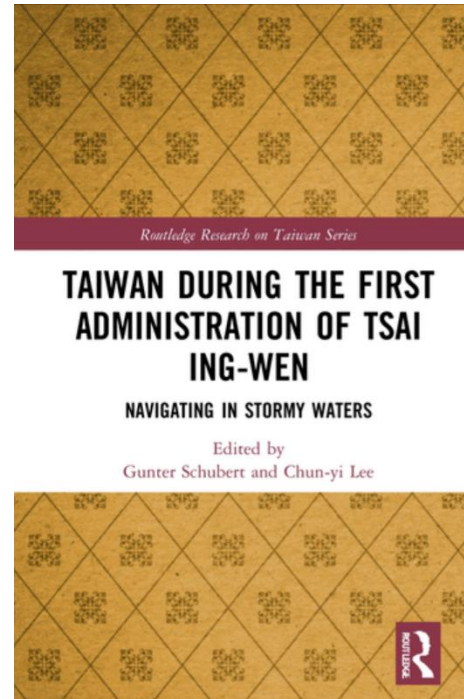




## UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

### Schubert, Gunter / Lee Chun-yi (Forthcoming 2022): *Taiwan During the First Administration of Tsai Ing-Wen. Navigating in Stormy Waters*

Featuring contributions from twenty six internationally renowned Taiwan scholars, [\*Taiwan During the First Administration of Tsai Ing-wen\*](#) is an essential resource for students and scholars of Taiwanese politics and society, cross-strait relations and international relations. It offers a substantive assessment of the first Tsai Ing-wen administration, investigating different policy fields and issues from 2016 to 2020, prior to Tsai's election for a second term. Chapters range comprehensively from topics of the implementation of same-sex marriage, curriculum reform, 'transitional justice', industrial policy and pension reform, which have been celebrated by domestic Tsai Ing-wen supporters, but have also met with considerable opposition from within Taiwanese society. Externally, cross-strait relations, the New Southbound Policy and the triangular relationship with China and the USA, which embodied major challenges for Tsai's first administration, are also analysed as key reference points throughout. The book was prepared with a joint workshop in late 2019 organized jointly by the ERCCT and the University of Nottingham.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Visiting Fellow Programme, Summer Term 2022

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 coming summer term 2022. Each year, the ERCCT invites up to 4 fellows to work at the Center as Visiting Fellows 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 January, 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, Summer Term 2022

Applications to the Short-Term Resident Fellow Programme, beginning with the start of the summer semester 2022 on April 19, is now opened! The application deadline is on 15 January, 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. We expect to be able to offer this programme even under the ongoing pandemic.

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)).

### Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop, 10 to 16 July 2021

The ERCCT will hold a workshop for emerging young scholars, i.e. Ph.D. students (3rd year and above) and postdocs, from 10 to 16 July, 2022. The main topic for this year's workshop is "**Taiwan's Pandemic Management and Domestic Politics**":

Since the beginning of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, Taiwan has been sealed off the world, pursuing a Zero-Covid-strategy like Hong Kong and Mainland China. Although there is much domestic bickering concerning the different components of this strategy, most notably the



government's vaccination policy, Zero-Covid seems to enjoy overall legitimacy among Taiwan's populace. Although Taiwan's successful management of the pandemic in the early phase of the crisis has gained much international recognition, however, its Zero-Covid approach is increasingly debated among epidemiologists and policy-makers, as its impact on and costs for Taiwan's economy and society become arguably stronger. It is the objective of this workshop to assess Taiwan's pandemic management over the last two years in terms of domestic party politics and repercussions on regime legitimacy. We also invite papers putting Taiwan in a comparative East Asian and/or global perspective, situating its pandemic management in a global crisis regime that must mitigate competing demands of "keeping the virus out" and "learning to live with the virus".

However, submissions on other topics in the field of social science research on contemporary Taiwan or Cross-strait relations are also welcome.

This established format provides participants from Taiwan and Europe with the opportunity to

- present their research to an international audience of peers
- engage in scholarly exchange on theory and methodology
- discuss publication strategies
- get to know Tübingen, the CCKF-ERCCT and Tübingen university

Travel expenses 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 February 2022 to:

Stefan Braig, M.A.  
ERCCT Managing Director  
Mail: [stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de)



## Join the Ongoing Taiwan Colloquium online

ERCCT Taiwan Colloquium – Winter Semester 2021 / 2022			
Date	Time		Speaker and Topic
	Tü.	Taiwan	
<b>Nov. 08</b> Monday	12.15 - 1.45 pm	7.15 - 8.45 pm	<b>Liao Tsung-Han</b> <i>The Personality Traits and Political Behaviors of Taiwan Voters</i>
<b>Dec. 06</b> Monday	12.15 - 1.45 pm	7.15 - 8.45 pm	<b>Sirma Altun</b> <i>Global, creative or smart? City branding practices in Taipei in the 2000s</i>
<b>Dec. 13</b> Monday	12.15 - 1.45 pm	7.15 - 8.45 pm	<b>Pan Yiling</b> <i>From Taiwan New Cinema to Post-New Cinema: The Transformation of Identity in today's Taiwan Cinema</i>
<b>Jan. 17</b> Monday	12.15 - 1.45 pm	7.15 - 8.45 pm	<b>Huang Wei-Hao</b> <i>Expanding China's Partnerships Networks: How China Factors Affect Taiwan's Bilateral Relations with Other Countries?</i>
<b>Jan. 31</b> Monday	12.15 - 1.45 pm	7.15 - 8.45 pm	<b>Shen Yi-Chin</b> <i>A Study of Australia's Strategic Choices under US-China Competition and Cooperation</i>
<b>Feb. 7</b> Monday	12.15 - 1.45 pm	7.15 - 8.45 pm	<b>Valentina Gamberi</b> <i>Magical power as Heritage: a Taiwanese Retelling of Sacred Waste</i>

If you are interested to join us online for the remaining sessions of this semester's Taiwan Colloquium, please do not hesitate to contact Stefan Braig ([stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de)).



## CONTACT US

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A CCK Foundation Overseas Center (CCKF-ERCCT)**

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And follow us on...



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