



CCKF-ERCCT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025



蛇年大吉！

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GREETINGS

Dear colleagues and friends of the ERCCT,

Welcome to the latest edition of the ERCCT Newsletter! As Taiwan remains at the center of critical political, economic, and societal developments, our commitment to fostering in-depth research and academic exchange is stronger than ever.

Over the past months, we have welcomed visiting fellows, organized stimulating discussions, and continued to strengthen our international network of scholars dedicated to Taiwan Studies.

In this issue, we share updates on recent events, ongoing projects, and upcoming opportunities at the ERCCT.

We hope you find these insights valuable and look forward to engaging with you in the months ahead.

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





ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER

Taiwan Documentary Film Festival 2024: A Deep Dive into Migrant Workers' Realities

Continuing our tradition, the ERCCT was happy to present the **18th Taiwan Documentary Film Festival at Kino Atelier** on December 13 and 14, 2024. This year, we had the honour of hosting renowned director and Golden Horse Award winner **Tsai Tsung-Lung (蔡崇隆)**.



Director Tsai (second from the left) poses together with ERCCT Advisory Board Member Dr. Cockel (second from the right) and ERCCT Director Prof. Dr. Schubert and Managing Director Braig

On December 13 and 14, 2024, the ERCCT hosted its 18th Taiwan Documentary Film Festival at the cinema *Kino Atelier* in Tübingen. This year's festival featured the renowned Taiwanese documentary filmmaker Tsai Tsung-Lung, winner of the Golden Horse Award, who presented a series of films exploring the challenges faced by Southeast Asian migrant workers in Taiwan. ERCCT Director Prof. Dr. Gunter Schubert opened the festival by welcoming the audience, guest director Tsai, and First Secretary Ms. Chiang Yi-Ping from the Taipei Representative

Office branch in Munich. Ms. Chiang delivered official greetings on behalf of Director General Dr. Dieu Ian-tsing, whose generous sponsorship made this year's festival possible. The festival's thematic focus on migrant workers' experiences was brought to life through five compelling documentaries, many of which Tsai produced in collaboration with his wife, Nyuen Kim-Hung. The headline documentary, "And Miles to Go Before I Sleep", which earned Tsai the Golden Horse Award in 2022, was screened on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. The session was introduced by ERCCT



Advisory Board member and Taiwan migration scholar Dr. Isabelle Cockel, whose insights set the stage for a deeply moving cinematic experience. The film's poignant and powerful imagery left a lasting impact on the audience, sparking an engaging Q&A session with Director Tsai, where attendees delved into the harsh realities behind the film's narrative.

As a special addition, the feature film "The Abandoned" by director Tseng Ying-Ting was screened on Friday evening.

This thriller, which also revolved around the struggles of Southeast Asian migrant workers in Taiwan, provided a complementary narrative to the documentary program and deepened the audience's engagement with the festival's overarching theme.

With its focus on social justice, migration, and Taiwan's evolving multicultural landscape, the 2024 Taiwan Documentary Film Festival once again proved to be a thought-provoking and impactful event for all attendees.



A highly engaged audience (top left). Ms. Chiang from the Taipei Representative Office branch in Munich officially opens the festival (top right). This year's festival flyer (bottom left). Director Tsai responds to audience questions during the Q&A session after the screening (bottom right)



CCKF Delegation Visit Strengthens ERCCT Ties

On October 18, 2024, the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT) welcomed a high-ranking delegation from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (CCKF).



A group photo taken just after University of Tübingen President Pollmann (seated, left) and CCKF President Chen (seated, right) signed a new Memorandum of Understanding

Led by CCKF President Prof. Chen Chun-I, the visit underscored the foundation's ongoing commitment to supporting Taiwan studies in Europe and fostering academic exchange between Taiwan and Germany. During the visit, President Chen and University of Tübingen President Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Karla Pollmann signed a Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirming the strong partnership between the CCKF and ERCCT. This agreement ensures continued collaboration in research, scholar exchange, and institutional cooperation. The delegation also met with ERCCT faculty and university

representatives to discuss the evolving research funding landscape and opportunities for strengthening international academic cooperation. Beyond the formal discussions, the visit provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the role of Taiwan studies in European academia and how institutions like the ERCCT can further enhance cross-cultural dialogue. This visit reinforced the shared commitment of the CCKF and ERCCT to advancing Taiwan-related scholarship and supporting the next generation of researchers in the field.



Taiwan Colloquium Winter Term 2024/25

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.

October 28 – Dr. Di Qing

On October 28, 2024, Dr. Di Qing, an independent scholar from Taipei, kicked off this semester's Colloquium and explored the **role of traditional Chinese culture in shaping Taiwan's future**. Drawing on Robert Redfield's concept of "Great" and "Little" Traditions, Dr. Di argued that elements of the Great Tradition—such as Lin Hwai-min's Cloud Gate Theatre—have contributed to Taiwan's soft power.



A focused group discussed Dr. Weng Lu-Chung's research on how to stabilize the Taiwan Strait

December 9 – Dr. Weng Lu-Chung

On December 9, Dr. Weng Lu-Chung, Associate Professor at Sam Houston State University, presented his research on **“Strategic Reassurances and Deteriorating Ambiguity: Stabilizing the Taiwan Strait Détente”**. Based on qualitative interview data, the study—conducted with collaborator Sun Taiyi—analyzes how strategic reassurances interact with the shifting landscape of strategic ambiguity amid rising regional tensions. ERCCT Fellows engaged in a spirited discussion on the topic.



January 27 – Dr. Wang Anne-Chie

On January 27, 2025, Dr. Wang Anne-Chie from National Taiwan University presented her research on **hospice home care in Taiwan’s rapidly aging society**. Her work examines how end-of-life care practices are shaped by Taiwan’s evolving healthcare landscape and societal needs.

January 27 – Dr. Yan Zhi-Jun

That same day, Visiting Fellow Dr. Yan Zhi-Jun from Feng Chia University introduced his postdoctoral project on **urban land readjustment and financing networks in Taichung’s local finance system**, shedding light on the economic dynamics of land development in Taiwan.

February 3 – Prof. Hsia Hsiao-Chuan

On February 3, Prof. Hsia Hsiao-Chuan from National Chengchi University delivered a critical analysis of Taiwan’s immigration policies regarding marriage migrants from Southeast Asia. Her talk, **“From ‘Social Problems’ to ‘Social Assets’”**, examined how public discourse on migration has evolved faster than policy changes, affecting the rights and recognition of children from transnational families.



Prof. Hsia (left picture) presents her research during the Colloquium. In the right picture, ERCCT Managing Stefan Braig (right) introduces the ERCCT facilities to the newly arrived Dr. Wang (centre) and Dr. Yan (left)

February 6 – Wang Fujun

Finally, on February 6, Wang Fujun from Xiamen University presented his research on **“Export Controls and the China-US Technology Dispute: Assessing the Impacts on Taiwan’s Trade.”** His study investigated how geopolitical trade restrictions are reshaping Taiwan’s economic landscape in the face of increasing tensions between China and the U.S.



Our Visiting Scholars Programme

The **ERCCT** also hosts **Taiwanese and European Visiting Scholars** who come to Tübingen during the academic term. They hold lectures or give brief seminars. Most importantly, they take part in the Taiwan Colloquium where they play an active role by **presenting their research in terms of content, theory, and methodology**. They also discuss and evaluate the ERCCT Research Fellows' projects, thereby helping them to prepare their fieldwork or assessing data brought back from the field.

Prof. Hsia Hsiao-Chuan is a pioneering scholar on marriage migration in Taiwan, whose research explores issues of immigration, migrant workers, citizenship, empowerment, and social movements. Beyond academia, she has played a crucial role in advocacy and activism, working toward the empowerment of immigrant women and the advancement of migrant rights in Taiwan. Her engagement later to the establishment of the TransAsia Sisters Association of Taiwan, a key organization advocating for marriage migrants' rights and welfare. She has also contributed to several international and regional organizations, including the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants, the Alliance of Marriage Migrants Organizations for Rights and Empowerment, and the International Migrants Alliance.



Dr. Dennis Lu-Chung Weng is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Sam Houston State University and a Senior Non-Resident Research Fellow at the New Lines Institute. He is also the Founding Director of the Asia Pacific Peace Research Institute (APPRI). His research focuses on comparative politics, international relations, democracy, and foreign policy, with a particular emphasis on the nexus of domestic political behavior and international security. His regional expertise spans the United States and the Asia-Pacific, and his works offer critical insights into geopolitical conflicts and political strategy. Beyond academia, Dr. Weng is an active political commentator. His perspectives have been featured across print, radio, and television in both American and international media.

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



A Memorable Visit to the University of Tübingen: Research, Dialogue, and Discovery

Prof. Dennis Lu-Chung Weng from Sam Houston State University, one of our Visiting Scholars, reflects on his time in Tübingen. Inspired by his experience here, he is now exploring a new research project comparing Germany and Taiwan's paths in transitional justice, democratization, and East-West relations before and after unification. We are looking forward to read your research again in the future!

In December 2024, I had the privilege of visiting the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT) at the University of Tübingen as a Visiting Scholar. This incredible opportunity allowed me to share my research, engage with scholars and students, and immerse myself in Germany's rich history and culture. My time in Tübingen was intellectually stimulating and personally enriching, offering new perspectives on my work and fostering meaningful academic connections.

During my visit, I delivered two public lectures on my recent research. The first, titled "The Myth of War in the Taiwan Strait: Can Beijing, Taipei, and Washington Solve the Yizhou Dilemma?", took place on December 4, 2024. Drawing from my latest book, co-authored with Professor Sun Taiyi, I explored how the political structure of China during the Three Kingdoms period parallels the contemporary U.S.-China-Taiwan relationship. Additionally, I shared findings from elite interviews conducted in all three regions. The talk

sparked a lively discussion with faculty and students, highlighting the complexities of cross-strait relations and regional security.



Prof. Weng at Tübingen's iconic riverside, enjoying the scenic charm of the Neckar

On December 9, 2024, I presented at the Taiwan Colloquium on "Strategic Reassurances and Deteriorating Ambiguity: Stabilizing the Taiwan Strait co-authored with Professor Sun Taiyi, I explored how the political structure of China during the Three Kingdoms period parallels the contemporary U.S.-China-Taiwan relationship. Additionally, I shared findings from elite interviews conducted in all three regions. The talk



refine my future research.

Beyond my lectures at Tübingen, I took the opportunity to visit the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) in Berlin, one of Europe's leading think tanks on China affairs. Engaging with scholars at MERICS provided me with a deeper understanding of European perspectives on China-Taiwan relations and reinforced the importance of global collaboration in political research.

My time in Germany also deepened my interest in comparative politics. Exploring historical sites in Berlin, including the Reichstag, the Berlin Wall, and the Jewish Holocaust Museum, inspired me to consider a new research project comparing Germany and Taiwan's experiences with transitional justice, democratization, and East-West relations before and after unification. This comparative approach offers fresh insights into the broader themes of reconciliation, governance, and national identity.

My visit coincided with Germany's renowned Christmas season, allowing me to experience the magical Christmas markets in Stuttgart, Munich, Frankfurt, and Berlin. The festive atmosphere, the dazzling lights, and the rich aroma of seasonal treats created an unforgettable experience. I particularly enjoyed indulging in traditional German cuisine, including pork knuckle, pork chops, and

German sausages, which left a lasting impression and a strong desire to return in the future.



Prof. Weng at Tübingen's enchanting Christmas market with a warm mulled wine in his hand

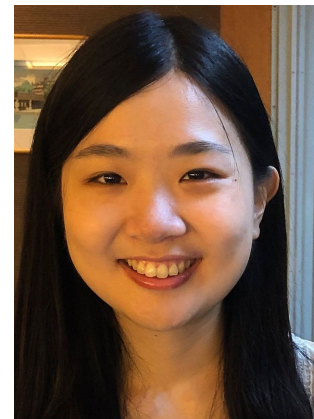
I am incredibly grateful to the ERCCT Center for making my visit both productive and enjoyable. The ERCCT program is an invaluable hub for Taiwan research in Europe. My time at Tübingen reaffirmed the importance of academic exchange, cross-cultural dialogue, and interdisciplinary research. I hope to return and further contribute to the discussions shaping the field of Taiwan studies. Until then, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who made this visit an unforgettable experience.



Our Visiting Fellow Programme

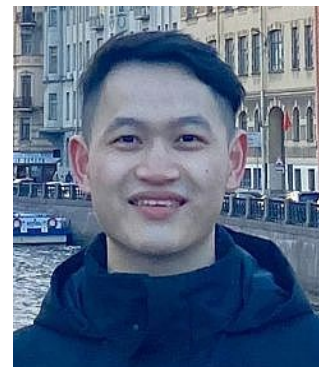
The ERCCT proudly presents **our Visiting Fellow Programme**, providing scholars with a focused research experience here with us in beautiful Tübingen. As a Visiting Fellow, you receive a stipend, office space, and full integration into the ERCCT's academic activities. **We are thus thrilled to introduce this year's exceptional fellows:**

Dr. Wang Anne-Chie: A Postdoctoral Research Associate at Academia Sinica with a Ph.D. in Sociology from National Taiwan University. Her award-winning dissertation examined hospice care networks in Taiwan. Recognized by the Taiwanese Sociological Association and the Association of Science, Technology, and Medicine, her current research explores how “home” shapes hospice care amid growing caregiving privatization. She has published in the Taiwanese Journal of Sociology and Catalyst.



Dr. Yan Zhi-Jun: A postdoctoral fellow at Feng Chia University, specializes in urban sociology and economic geography. His research explores the financialization of urban land through land readjustment projects, challenging conventional views on local politics and urban development. He has published in Journal of Geographical Science and Taiwanese Journal of Sociology. As part of Professor Cheng-Shu Kao's research team, he studies global footwear production networks across Taiwan and Asia.

Wang Fujun: A Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate Institute for Taiwan Studies, Xiamen University, specializes in cross-strait trade relations. He holds dual master's degrees in Regional Studies and International Relations from Kyung Hee University (South Korea) and the Higher School of Economics (Russia). With fluency in English, Russian, and Chinese, and proficiency in German and Korean, he brings a global perspective to his research.



Please visit [our website](#) for further information on the application process for the programme in 2025.



“At ERCCT, I have experienced profound exchanges!”

Dr. Yan Zhi-Jun, a participant in our Visiting Research Fellow Programme, shares his experience in Tübingen, down below. From exploring the town’s beautiful old city and castle to advancing his research in the Taiwan Colloquium, he says, he had a truly enriching time here. **We are glad to have visited us!**

My visit to the ERCCT at the University of Tübingen has brought me far more than I expected. Looking back to last autumn when I was considering applying for the program, I hesitated. I was unfamiliar with Germany and uncertain about what this experience could offer me. However, with the encouragement of my postdoctoral advisor, Professor Kao Cheng-Shu, I decided to take the leap and submit my application. Now, after spending more than a month here, I have come to realize that "Germany" is not a fixed, singular concept—it is plural, diverse, and multifaceted. Without living here, it would be difficult to grasp this idea.

At ERCCT, I have experienced profound exchanges—both in daily life and in academic discussions. In terms of daily life, I often ran into Stefan and André around 11:30 a.m. in the hallway, and we would head to the student cafeteria together. Our conversations frequently revolved around our experiences in Taiwan and Germany, allowing for a deep and open exchange of perspectives. What struck me the most was how natural and effortless these interactions felt—there were no

barriers, and we could talk freely about all kinds of topics. I especially enjoyed our Cafeteria time after lunch; under the warm sunlight, time seemed to pause, creating a moment of stillness and reflection. On the academic side, I was particularly inspired by the Taiwan Colloquium discussions, where



Dr. Yan presents at the Taiwan Colloquium, offering insights into city planning in Taiwan

participants asked questions with genuine curiosity and persistence, eager to clarify the nuances of my



research. Their enthusiasm for Taiwan studies was evident and deeply motivating. The dynamic academic atmosphere at ERCCT has not only broadened my perspectives but also encouraged me to refine and deepen my research.

During my time in Germany, I also travelled alone to Berlin, Leipzig, and Heidelberg. Traveling alone became a way for me to pause and reflect—not only on my academic journey but also on what kind of life rhythm suits me best. In Heidelberg, I felt as if I were responding to a silent call from Professor Kao and Sociologists, the renowned sociologist. Walking through the historic castle and old streets with Yu-Yao, I immersed myself in the city's deep historical atmosphere while also

observing its local culture and political landscape. This journey reinforced my belief that academic pursuits are not just about acquiring knowledge but also about how we integrate intellectual exploration into our lived experiences.

At this moment, I am on a flight from Germany to Japan, yet Tübingen remains close to my heart. It is a place filled with familiar sights—the restaurants I frequented, the thirty-minute path I walked each day, and the meaningful connections I built with my ERCCT colleagues. These memories will be a significant part of my academic career. Only by stepping beyond the world I am familiar with have I come to realize how vast knowledge can be—and how deep solidarities can grow.



Dr. Yan enjoys a visit to Heidelberg, admiring the riverside views and savoring European cuisine



TÜBINGEN RESEARCH NOTES

Strategizing Economic Security in Times of De-risking

From 10 to 14 December, the European ERCCT hosted the workshop "Strategizing Economic Security in Times of De-risking: Mapping the Behaviour of Taiwan's High-Tech Industries and the Interaction between the Corporate Sector and the State" at the University of Tübingen. The event brought together leading scholars and experts to explore Taiwan's economic security challenges, focusing on semiconductor and AI-related industries in the context of shifting global supply chains and rising geopolitical tensions. Papers were presented by Prof. Gunter Schubert (ERCCT), Prof. Wang Shinn Shyr (National Chengchi University), Dr. Jeremy C.C. Cheng (DSET), Dr. Christina Lai (IPSAS, Academia Sinica), Dr. Kristy Hsu (Chung Hua Institution of Economic Research), Dr. Lin Thunghong (IOS,

Academia Sinica), Dr. Lee Zong-Rong (IOS, Academia Sinica) and Prof. Douglas Fuller (Copenhagen Business School). Other distinguished participants included Prof. Tobias ten Brink (Constructor University Bremen), Prof. Maximilian Mayer (University of Bonn) and Dr Suang-Jing Pong, Executive Director of Taiwan's National Science and Technology Council in Germany. The workshop underscored the ERCCT's commitment to fostering critical dialogue on Taiwan's evolving role in the global economic and technological landscape and was a precursor to the establishment of a broader research network focused on the development of Taiwan's semiconductor and AI-related industries in times of geopolitical change and global supply chain restructuring.



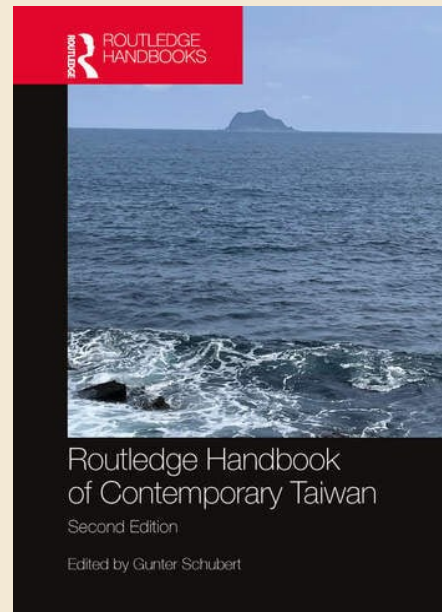
Prof. Schubert and the workshop participants gather for a group photo after a successful session



PUBLICATIONS

ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF CONTEMPORARY TAIWAN SECOND EDITION

The second edition of the Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Taiwan was published in January. Edited by Prof. Gunter Schubert, the Handbook contains 35 chapters on a variety of topics - history, domestic politics, political economy, society, culture, cross-strait and international relations - that shed light on contemporary Taiwan, written by renowned scholars from Europe, the US and Taiwan. Aimed at students and Taiwan scholars alike, it offers the general reader a solid and accessible approach to Taiwanese politics and society. The first edition quickly became a standard reference work in the field of



Taiwan studies, and the new edition will certainly live up to this, as new chapters have been added and the remaining chapters have been thoroughly revised. This is likely to be the most comprehensive volume on contemporary Taiwan on the market for some time to come.

Schubert, G. (2025). *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Taiwan*. Routledge.

Click [this link](#) to enjoy an exclusive 20% discount on your purchase!





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visiting Fellow Programme 2025

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 January 8th to February 9th, 2025.

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 € 1,300)**, accommodation assistance, and insurance coverage during your time in Tübingen.

To apply for the programme, **please submit your application by February 28, 2025**. For more detailed information about the programme and the application process, kindly **visit the following [website](#)**.

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.

Short-Term Resident Fellow Programme 2026

We are also delighted to announce that applications are now open for the **Short-Term Resident Fellow Programme**. This programme offers an opportunity for Ph.D. or postdoctoral researchers to join the **CCKF-ERCCT** for a **flexible period of three to six months between May and July 2026**.

As a Resident Fellow, you will be granted a monthly **stipend of 400 EUR to support your living expenses, along with a travel grant of 600 EUR**. This ensures that you can fully immerse yourself in your research and make the most of your time at the CCKF-ERCCT. To apply for the programme, please ensure that your application is submitted by the deadline of September 15, 2025. For detailed information on how to apply, we invite you to **visit [our website](#)**.

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



Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop 2025

The ERCCT will hold its fourth Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop, a workshop for emerging young scholars, i.e. Ph.D. students (3rd year and above) and postdocs, **from 29 June to 5 July, 2025**. The main topic for this year's workshop is **"The state of affairs in cross-strait relations: taking stock and looking ahead"**. Other paper submissions pertaining to the fields of Taiwan politics, society, economics and cross-strait relations and related topics are highly welcome.



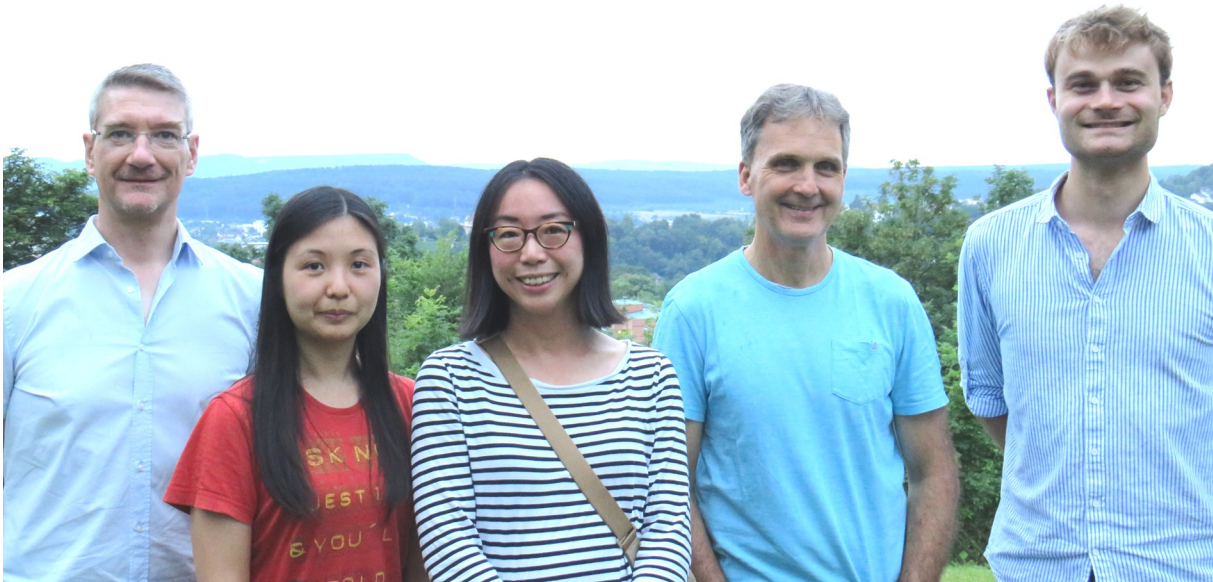
From your accommodation and workshop location, you'll enjoy a direct view of Tübingen Castle, the historic old town, and the Alb mountains in the background

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 more detailed information about the programme and the application process, kindly visit the following [website](#). To apply, please send your CV and an outline of your research project (5-6 pages) by 15 March, 2025.

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.



CONTACT US



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

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