

*The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan
– A CCK Foundation Overseas Center*

(CCKF-ERCCT)

at Tübingen University

Idea – Concept – Programmes



I Point of departure

Besides the University of Tübingen, only a few universities in Europe do currently engage in systematic teaching and research on Taiwan, most notably:

SOAS London

- Centre of Taiwan Studies (since 1999)

Taiwan Studies Programme (MA degree in Taiwan Studies)

London School of Economics

- Taiwan Cultural Research Programme

University of Nottingham

- Taiwan Studies Programme

University of Oxford

- Taiwan Studies Programme

University of Central Lancashire

- Northern Institute of Taiwan Studies (NoriTS)

University of Vienna

- Vienna Centre for Taiwan Studies

University of Ljubljana

- Taiwan Research Center

Paris - EHESS (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)

- Identity and memory in contemporary Taiwanese society

Leiden University, University of Ghent and University of Groningen

- Taiwan Studies Chair (project-based)

Further Milestones of the promotion of Taiwan Studies in Europe and beyond:

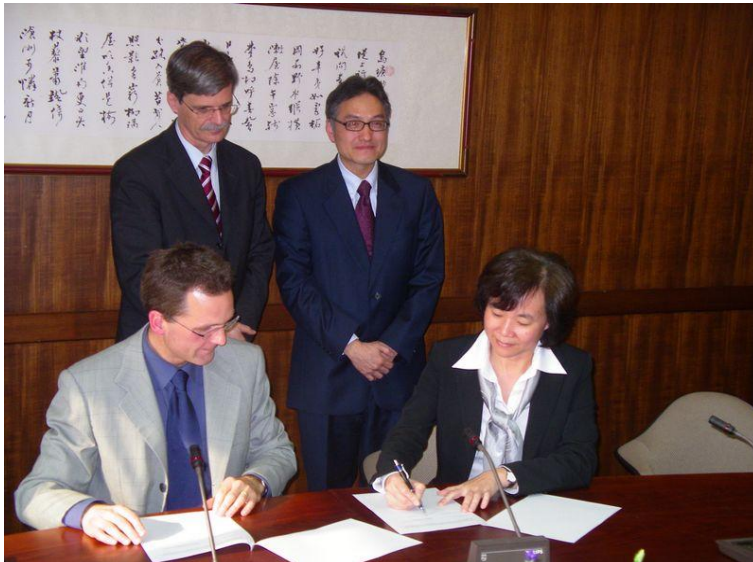
European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS)

- founded in 2004
- annual conference
- officially registered as a non-profit organization in Tübingen

International Journal of Taiwan Studies (IJTS)

- since 2018

2008: ERCCT Inauguration Ceremony at CCK Foundation Headquarters, Taipei



II The Idea

- In order to establish ***contemporary Taiwan studies in Europe***, special attention has to be paid to the promotion of empirical research on Taiwan, especially at Ph.D. and postdoc level.
- Postgraduate Taiwan studies should enable students to get as much research-related feedback as possible.
- Students should work together and interact with established Taiwan scholars on a permanent basis in order to:

- identify interesting research fields
- develop feasible research strategies
- apply suitable theories
- clarify and finetune methodology
- critically assess research results
- prepare for publications in internationally renowned publishing houses.

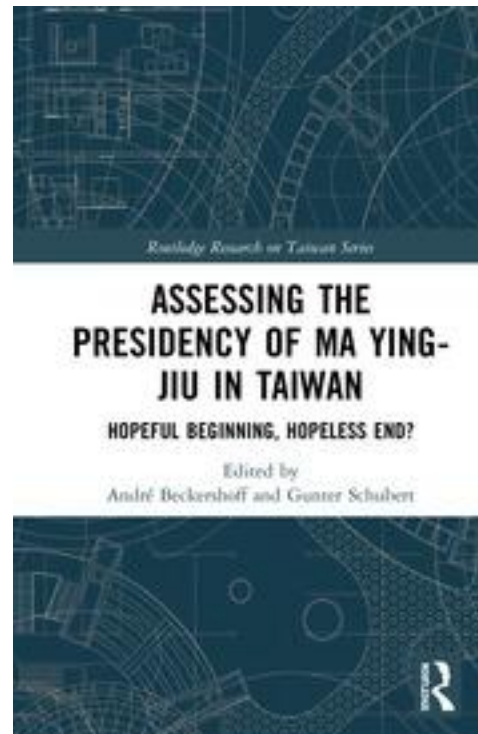
The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT) ...

- **serves as a platform for highly qualified European and Taiwanese students** who conduct empirical social science research on contemporary Taiwan, especially in the realm of law and politics, society, economics and cross-strait relations.
- **supports empirical research** in Taiwan by establishing close relations with first-class academic institutions - listed in the *Partners* section of our website - and jointly operating a tutorial system for those students who travel to Taiwan to conduct fieldwork.

- invites **visiting scholars from Taiwan and Europe** to give talks or lecture courses at the center, but most importantly to take part in the center's "**Taiwan colloquium**" (see below) to share their theoretical and methodological expertise with students.
- invites Taiwanese Ph.D. students and postdocs to visit the ERCCT for **short-term research stays** or to apply for participation in the yearly held **Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop** (see below) to present their projects and join ERCCT activities.
- hosts a **website** documenting all ERCCT-related activities



- **helps to channel research articles or book manuscripts** based on the research done by ERCCT Fellows to established international journals or publishing houses (see e.g. the **Routledge Research on Taiwan Series**).



III The Concept

- The ERCCT's main objective is to support **postgraduate research** on contemporary Taiwan.
- **ERCCT *Resident* Research Fellows** are registered Ph.D. candidates at one of the faculties of Tübingen University or postdocs who are affiliated to the center on a permanent basis.
- **ERCCT *Visiting* Research Fellows** from Europe and Taiwan are not affiliated to the University of Tübingen and stay for briefer periods, for instance one term or one academic year, depending on their own premises. They may also stay at the center on a longer-term basis.

- Each **ERCCT Visiting Scholar** is provided with office space and internet access, and is integrated in the ERCCT's activities. However, he/she is responsible for his/her funding, except he is taking part in the Visiting Fellow programme.
- **ERCCT *Associate* Research Fellows** reside and work at universities or academic institutions outside Tübingen and join the center's activities occasionally.

IV ERCCT programmes

ERCCT Visiting Scholars Programme

At least 1-2 **Taiwanese or European Visiting Scholars** are invited in each academic term (April 15th – July 15th; October 15th – February 15th) for one month. This programme is extended to more visiting scholars if co-funding is available.

All invited visiting scholars are provided with accommodation, a round air ticket (Economy Class), and office space

They give lectures and participate in the "Taiwan colloquium", where they present their research in terms of content, theory and methodology.

ERCCT Short-term Resident Fellow Programme

- Two Ph.D. or postdoc researchers from Europe or Taiwan are invited each year to join the center in Tübingen for a period between three months and one year, depending on available funding.
- **Invited fellows will be granted a monthly allowance of EUR 400, basic health insurance, and a one time travel grant of EUR 600.** They will be provided with office space and enjoy the opportunity to discuss projects and exchange ideas with ERCCT Fellows and Visiting Scholars working at the ERCCT.

ERCCT Visiting Fellow Programme

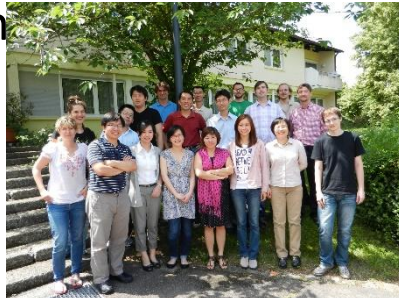
- The ERCCT invites, in each academic term (approx. 15 April – 15 July; 15 October-15 February), two Taiwanese doctoral students or postdocs from ERCCT partner institutions to stay at the center for one month. **All expenses, including a living stipend, are covered by the ERCCT.**
- Short-term visiting fellows participate in the center's activities and are required to present their research in a Taiwan colloquium.

ERCCT Taiwan Colloquium

During the summer and winter terms, students meet in the **Taiwan-Colloquium** to discuss their projects (fieldwork, theory, methodology) in detail with their peers.

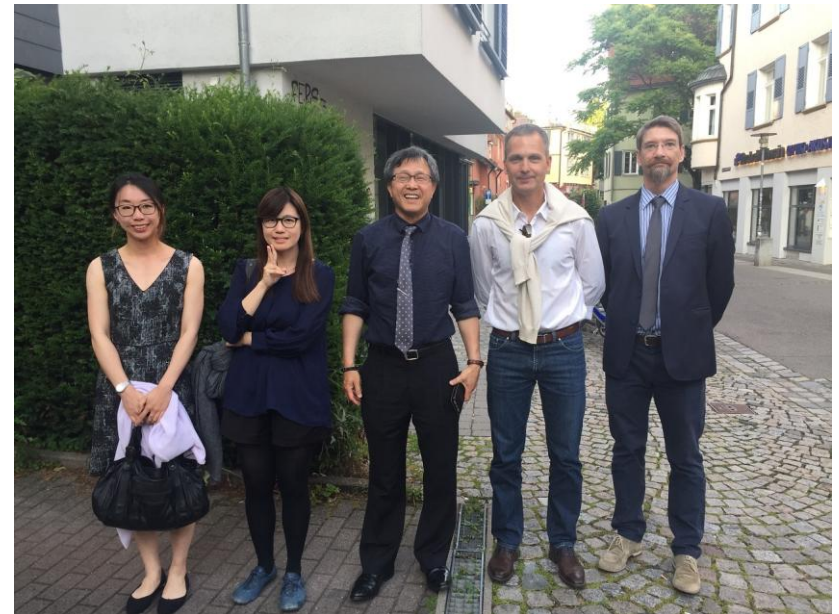
ERCCT (Young Scholars) Connectivity Workshop

- Beginning in 2012, the ERCCT holds each year during the summer term a Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop. Young Taiwan scholars (doctoral students and postdocs) from Europe and Taiwan are invited to join this workshop in Tübingen, where they present their current research. They do also participate in a cultural programme and are made familiar with the University of Tübingen and the different activities at the ERCCT.
- All expenses are covered by the ERCCT.



Other activities:

- Annual Taiwan Documentary Film Festival
- Occasional film screenings



ERCCT Tutorial System

Both ERCCT Resident and Visiting Fellows are entitled to take part in the **tutorial system** administered by the ERCCT partner institutions during their fieldwork in Taiwan.

The visiting ERCCT fellow is provided with office space and access to research facilities at the partner institution.

ERCCT Management and Staff

The ERCCT is operated by:

- Prof. Gunter Schubert, Director
- Stefan Braig, Managing Director
- A small support team of currently two assistants

The working languages at the center are English and Mandarin Chinese.

A scenic photograph of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, there are green, grassy slopes. In the middle ground, a dark, forested mountain peak rises. In the background, a valley is filled with a thick layer of white clouds or fog, with more distant mountain ranges visible under a clear blue sky.

For detailed information please refer to
www.ercct.uni-tuebingen.de