



CCKF-ERCCT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

No 19

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GREETINGS

Dear colleagues and friends of the ERCCT,

We are pleased to present the 19th CCKF-ERCCT newsletter, which highlights the vibrant intellectual exchange that has taken place at our centre over the last six months. In addition to our regular events, such as the Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Workshop and Colloquium series, we organised a public symposium on German-Taiwanese relations. This event was co-hosted by the Taipei Representative Office in Berlin and took place in our capital. This event was particularly timely, as it addressed the need for a coherent Taiwan policy in Europe amid global shifts. We would like to thank our visiting scholars and fellows for enriching our community and would encourage you to join us for our upcoming programmes, including our fellowships and the Taiwan Documentary Film Festival, which are key platforms for academic and cultural dialogue. Your engagement is vital to the ongoing promotion of Taiwan studies in Europe and beyond.

Prof. Gunter Schubert, ERCCT-Director



ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER

ERCCT Hosts 2025 Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Workshop

As a real highlight in a busy semester, the ERCCT team was pleased to **welcome thirteen young scholars from Taiwan and Europe to the fourth ERCCT Taiwan Europe Connectivity Workshop**. The workshop was held from 29 June to 5 July.



Participants of the TECW, ERCCT visiting fellows, staff, and friends gather for a group photo following the final dinner

From June 29 to July 5, 2025, the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT) at the University of Tübingen welcomed thirteen early-career scholars from Taiwan and Europe for the annual Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Workshop. Held at the university's guest house, the workshop provided a vibrant space for interdisciplinary exchange, in-depth discussions, and academic networking. The event opened on June 30 with welcoming remarks from ERCCT Managing Director Stefan Braig and

participant introductions. The first panel on Climate Change, chaired by Stefan Braig, featured Kate Martin (University of Central Lancashire) on climate finance and Taiwan-China dynamics in the Pacific, and Wang Hsiao-Hang (National Taiwan University) on tensions in Taiwan's climate legislation.

The Economics and International Political Economy panel followed, chaired by Dr. André Beckershoff. **Tien Yueh-Cheng** (A&M University) presented on innovation dynamics in Taiwan's semiconductor sector, while **Dominika**

Remžová (University of Central Lancashire) examined Chinese and Taiwanese green tech investments in Central and Eastern Europe. The day concluded with an introduction to the ERCCT by Director Prof. Gunter Schubert and a welcome dinner at Neckarmüller. On July 1, the focus turned to Cross-Strait Relations, with presentations by **Zhou Yan** (NTU) on the Kinmen water diversion project, **Jin Tae-Hun** (NCCU) on shifting paradigms in China Studies in Taiwan, and **Huang Yi-Min** (Penn State) on the impact of Chinese propaganda on Taiwanese perceptions of democracy. Dr. Beckershoff then shared his current research on Filipino factory workers in Taiwan. The day ended with a guided tour through Tübingen and a punting boat ride on the Neckar. Domestic Politics took centre stage on July 2. **Chen Kuan-Wu** (Academia Sinica) discussed the symbolic function of councillor proposals in local politics. **Ma Shuteng** (KU Leuven) analysed recall elections in a comparative perspective,

and **Edwina Chih-Yu Chen** (University of South Carolina) compared same-sex marriage politics in Taiwan and Japan. The evening concluded with a visit to the ERCCT and a barbecue at the guest house.

The final panel on July 3, Best of the Rest, featured **Roberto Alvau** (Complutense University) on socially engaged art and Taiwanese identity in Kinmen, and **Teng Jiunn-Cherng** (NSYSU) on political morality and the 2024 U.S. election. A roundtable on political polarization in Taiwan, chaired by Prof. Schubert, brought the academic program to a thoughtful close.

Participants also enjoyed excursions to Hohenzollern Castle and the Mercedes-Benz Museum, capped off by a festive farewell dinner at Hohenentrigen Castle.

The 2025 workshop once again showcased the ERCCT's unique role in fostering dialogue and collaboration between emerging scholars from Taiwan and Europe.



Impressions from one of the presentations (left) and a joyful jumping group photo (right) in front of Hohenzollern Castle

Taiwan Colloquium Summer Term 2025

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.

April 28 – Dr. James Lee 李語堂

The colloquium series for the summer term 2025 began with a presentation by Dr. James Lee from the Institute of European and American Studies at Academia Sinica. In his talk, **“Deterrence and the One-China Policy”**, Dr. Lee employed Aristotle’s Rhetoric as an analytical framework to examine how the United States’ deterrence discourse towards Beijing is undermined by conflicting interpretations of core concepts, such as “One China”. His analysis spurred a lively discussion among ERCCT researchers about the role of rhetoric and ambiguity in cross-strait relations.



A focused group discussed Dr. James Lee’s (third from the right) research on deterrence in the Taiwan Strait

May 7 – Dr. James Lee 李語堂

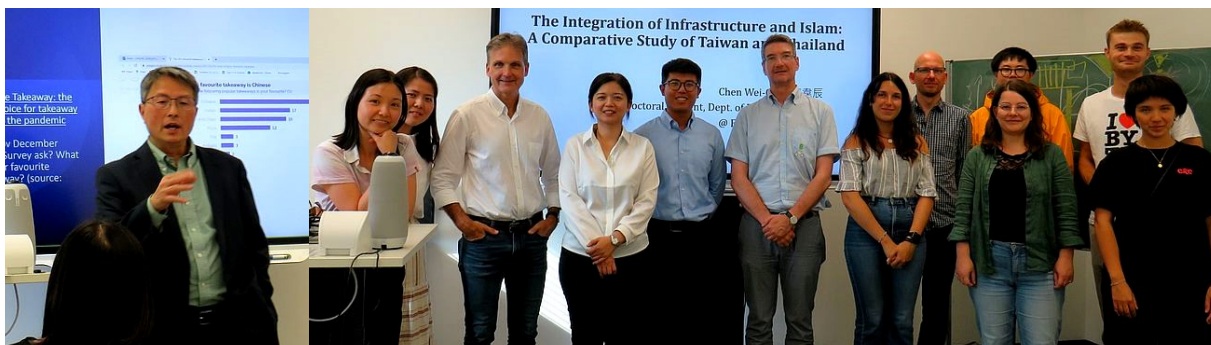
On May 7, Dr. Lee returned to present **“Deterrence and the Status Quo in the Taiwan Strait”**, a lecture in which he drew upon Thomas Schelling’s deterrence theory to illustrate discrepancies in the understanding of terms such as “peaceful,” “unofficial,” and “status quo” between Washington, Taipei, and Beijing. These misalignments, he argued, complicate communication and raise the risk of miscalculation in a tense geopolitical climate.

June 18 – Prof. Gordon Cheung 張志楷

Visiting Scholar Prof. Gordon Cheung from the School of Government and International Affairs at the University of Durham shared his research titled **“Chinese Ethnic Food Enterprises in the UK: Socio-economic Changes vs. Entrepreneurial Resilience after the Pandemic”**. Tracing postwar transformations in the British economy, Prof. Cheung examined the case of Wing Yip, a major Chinese food enterprise in Birmingham. His theoretical approach centered on the concept of social capital and provided valuable insights into the resilience and adaptation of ethnic Chinese entrepreneurship in the UK.

June 23 – Prof. Gordon Cheung 張志楷

In a second appearance, Prof. Cheung presented **“From Cold War Island to Museum of Peace?: Kinmen in Cross-Strait Relations”**. Based on a recent field trip, the presentation explored Kinmen’s shifting cultural-political landscape and its evolving role in cross-strait relations. Prof. Cheung’s framing of Kinmen as a “museum of peace” sparked interest and debate about the island’s symbolic significance and strategic potential.



Prof. Gordon Cheung (left picture) presents his research on Kinmen during the Taiwan Colloquium. In the right picture, the research group gathered for a picture following Chen Wei-Chen’s (fifth from the left) presentation on infrastructure and religion

July 14 – Chen Wei-Chen 陳韋辰

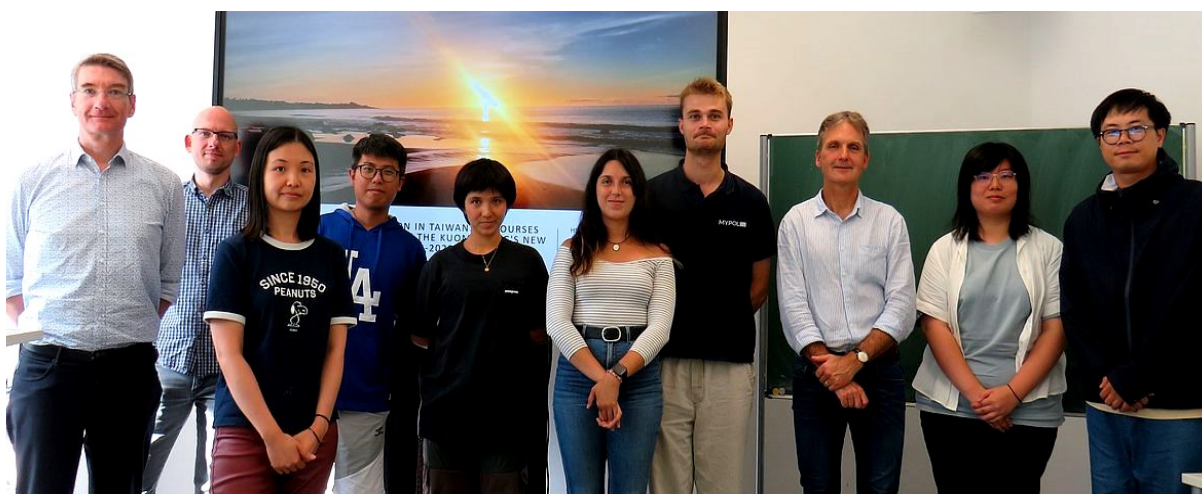
ERCCT Visiting Fellow Chen Wei-Chen from the Institute of Ethnology at National Chengchi University presented his Ph.D. research on **“The Integration of Infrastructure and Islam: A Comparative Study of Taiwan and Thailand”**. His work compares how infrastructure intersects with Muslim communities in both societies, offering a unique lens on state-religion relations. The discussion focused on methodology and the implications of religious diversity in infrastructural development.

July 14 – Lin Chia-Yi 林佳宜

Also on July 14, Ms. Lin Chia-Yi from the Graduate Institute of National Development at National Taiwan University introduced her Ph.D. project ***“Taiwan’s Semiconductor Supply Chain Strategy under Global Economic Security”***. She outlined Taiwan’s position in the global chip industry, recent policy shifts, and U.S. influence, while drawing lessons from South Korea’s experience with political risk in the sector. The group explored potential research questions and analytical frameworks to refine the project’s focus.

July 21 – Hsiao-Man Cavalli 馬曉曼

On July 21, Hsiao-Man Cavalli from the University of Rennes 2 and the Catholic University of Paris delivered a presentation titled ***“Thinking about the Nation in Taiwan: Discourses and Representations among the Kuomintang’s New Generations (2008–2022)”***. Their project investigates how young KMT members articulate concepts of national identity and Taiwan’s status. Based on extensive interviews, their talk revealed internal tensions and evolving identity discourses within the party. The session concluded with a stimulating discussion on generational change in Taiwanese politics.



The final group picture of the semester, taken following Hsiao-Man Cavalli’s presentation

Our Visiting Scholars Programme

The **ERCCT** hosts **Taiwanese and European Visiting Scholars** who come to Tübingen during the academic term. Their diverse disciplinary backgrounds and research interests have greatly enriched our academic community. We are grateful for their engagement and contributions to the Taiwan Colloquium, ERCCT seminars, and the broader scholarly exchange here in Tübingen.

Prof. Gordon Cheung 張志楷

*School of Government and International Affairs,
University of Durham | Stay: June 16 – 30, 2025*

Prof. Cheung is a long-standing ERCCT Advisory Board member and a leading scholar in International Relations and political economy of China. He returned to Tübingen in summer 2025 to present two research projects: one on Kinmen's evolving identity in Cross-Strait relations, and one on the transformation of ethnic Chinese food enterprises in the UK. He is the author of several books on China's global rise and intellectual property politics, and is editor of *East Asia: An International Quarterly*.



Prof. James Lee 李語堂

*Institute of European and American Studies,
Academia Sinica | Stay: April 17 – May 17, 2025*

Prof. Lee is Assistant Research Fellow at Academia Sinica and a senior non-resident fellow at the NATO Defense College. His work focuses on U.S. foreign policy and Taiwan security. In Tübingen, he presented research on deterrence and ambiguity in the Taiwan Strait, drawing on both classical rhetoric and strategic theory. His scholarship has appeared in leading journals such as *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, and *Journal of Chinese Political Science*.

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

Prof. Lee: Expanding My Research Focus at the ERCCT

Prof. James Lee from Academia Sinica, one of our Visiting Scholars, reflects on his time in Tübingen. Inspired by his experience here, he is now **expanding his research to study the status of Taiwan** as an issue in transatlantic relations and European integration in the 1970s, in the near future.

In April and May of this year, I had the opportunity to visit the ERCCT and pursue my research on the legal status of Taiwan in U.S. foreign policy. This opportunity came following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ERCCT and my department, the Institute of European and American Studies (IEAS) at Academia Sinica in Taiwan, and I was delighted to be the first to take part in the first research exchange between our respective institutions. I hope that there will be further exchanges in the future, whether consisting of my colleagues at IEAS visiting the ERCCT or ERCCT colleagues visiting IEAS.

During my time at the ERCCT, I presented my research on two occasions. One presentation adopted a more theoretical perspective and analyzed U.S. statements on the legal status of Taiwan using Aristotle's Rhetoric as a conceptual framework. The second presentation adopted a comparative perspective on U.S. statements by analyzing the British position on the status of Taiwan. Being in Germany motivated me to begin



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

research on the German position, which seems to be distinct from both the British and American positions. Based on the feedback I received, I decided to pursue this comparative approach further, and I am now expanding my research to study the status of Taiwan as an issue in transatlantic relations and European integration in the 1970s. The research visit at the ERCCT was a valuable experience in helping me to



decide on the scope of my project, and I am grateful to the ERCCT team for their feedback and support.

In addition to presenting at the ERCCT itself, being in Tübingen enabled me to visit the University of Zürich, where I presented my research at the kind invitation of Simona Grano, the Head of the Research Area China-Taiwan Relations. As such, this research visit enabled me to engage with the Taiwan Studies community in both Germany and Switzerland, expanding on my previous research exchanges in the United Kingdom and Italy. This experience further deepened my interest in examining the range of European positions regarding the legal status of Taiwan, and the extent to which those positions were historically formulated in coordination with the United States or with European states.

Outside of research, I enjoyed the chance to live in Tübingen. I grew up speaking German, and it was great to be immersed in the German language again. German is famous for having long words, and besides “die Geschwindigkeitsbegrenzung” (speed limit), my favorite long German word is “die Waldeinsamkeit,” which is difficult to translate into English but approximately means “the rapture of solitude in the forest.” In a modest way,

I experienced a bit of Waldeinsamkeit sitting on the benches on the Neckarinsel, which seemed like a small forest in the middle of the river. I was surprised by how easy it was to escape into a forest in the middle of the city, which I liked to do on the weekends. I also had a memorable experience where it seemed like the forest came to me: I woke up one morning at the Gästehaus to see a herd of deer grazing outside my window. It’s not something that happens often in Taipei.



One of the deer outside the Gästehaus

Again, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Gunter, Stefan, and the rest of the team at the ERCCT for hosting me during my visit. I look forward to seeing you again in Tübingen, Taipei, or a Taiwan Studies conference in the near future.

Our Visiting Fellow Programme

The ERCCT proudly presents **our Short-Term Resident and Visiting Fellow Programmes**, providing young 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:

Hsiao-Man Cavalli 馬曉曼

Hsiao-Man Cavalli is a doctoral candidate in Political Science and Taiwan Studies. Their Ph.D. project explores how young generations of KMT members in Taiwan perceive and define the nation, the state, and themselves as citizens. By reflecting on narratives of belonging, political representation, and inclusivity, the project critically engages with discourses on identity within and beyond Taiwan. They previously focused on the PRC's governance, Cross-Strait geopolitics, and intersubjectivity in politics.



Chen Wei-Chen 陳韋辰

Chen Wei-Chen is a Ph.D. student at NCCU and investigates how infrastructure shapes religious practices and identity among Muslim communities in Taiwan and Thailand. Building on his M.A. thesis on I-Kuan-Tao during and after Taiwan's martial law period, his current project uses an infrastructure approach to examine localities such as Donggang, as well as urban Muslim districts in Bangkok.

Lin Chia-Yi 林佳宜

Lin Chia-Yi is a policy analyst at the Institute for National Defense and Security Research, specializing in industry and supply chain security. With prior experience as a financial analyst in London and Taipei, and a background in law and intellectual property, she now focuses on Taiwan's strategic positioning in the global semiconductor industry. Her research critically examines U.S. policy shifts, supply chain realignments, and lessons from other regional economies.



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

Hsiao-Man: Caring Hosts Made This Stay Very Special to Me

June 30th, 2025. Monday. "This is my first day in Tübingen. I am so happy to see so many trees on campus. As I walk towards the CCKF-ERCCT quarters, I enjoy the peace of this beautiful, small city, where students seem to be everywhere. Of course, I am late for the 2025 Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Workshop — I thought it would be downtown. Now I must climb uphill towards the actual event location; but to my surprise, it's even greener and quieter. The early morning air is fresh, and I enjoy the view overlooking Tübingen. I will like it here, I think." - Hsiao-Man

I was nervous about returning to a frenetic concrete city after getting used to the natural east coast of Taiwan, but I was quickly relieved. Tübingen feels like a bubble: full of history, old stone paths and monuments, and surrounded by a countryside made of forests and fields. There is youth, and therefore, there is life — hanging out on the riverside, chilling around the mensa (university cafeteria) and the library at any time, or gathering in one of the many multicultural cafés, bars, and restaurants.



Spot Hsiao-Man (first top left) at the TECW

Victoria is skeptical about the mensa; Lukas says its portions are too small; and Wei-Chen can testify I was struggling to finish any one of their tasty meals. The point is: I love the food here. Food *really* matters when you're staying in a new place for a month. I will miss the mensa's salad buffet, the amazing variety of sandwiches I thought could never compete with French bakeries — and of course German cakes.

How come I'm only now learning how incredibly tasty German cakes are?

So yes, I've spent some valuable time field-working on the local food culture, and also quite a lot on the drinking culture, happily supported by Judy and Victoria who were first in line for endless beers, bucolic wine-tasting, liquor sessions... and *more* cakes. As much as I love food and the outdoors, I was deeply surprised and touched by the hospitality of the ERCCT. Not that I doubted it, but I found myself surrounded by a really sweet, inclusive,

and fun team. I want to express my warm thanks to Stefan, who made me feel welcome even before I landed in Europe, and throughout my whole stay. Judy was always there for us, in and outside the office, anytime and for anything, with her wonderful talent for creating super convivial moments. Lukas was multi-tasking: from official team driver to impressive drinking competitor. And André made me a genius list of alternative places to discover in Tübingen, which I will definitely have to complete next time. I really enjoyed discovering everyone's work across spaces (China, Hong Kong, Taiwan) and disciplines — despite Lukas' obsession for political steering, which gave me long-lasting headaches... Presenting and discussing one's project

critically in a supportive environment is, to me, one of the most precious cornerstones of academia. And perhaps, that's what I enjoyed the most, research-wise, during this stay.

I loved that we argued on theoretical frameworks and research design and laugh about it afterwards. I attended a huge variety of activities every week: Judy's Hong Kong media class, André's seminar on Taiwan social movements, the Taiwan Colloquium thoughtfully orchestrated by Stefan, and the Greater China Colloquium under Prof. Schubert's attentive eye. Listening to diverse presentations within a few weeks, and exchanging ideas with a lot of different researchers, helped me see my own project much more clearly. We learn together and through others'



Hsiao-Man (left) unwinding with ERCCT friends over a round of beer after a productive day working on their thesis at the office



thoughts, and I've been impressed by ERCCT's ability to create such a stimulating environment and to connect so many people in one shared space. The weeks flew by fast.

It is now the end of my stay, and I must find a closure to this newsletter report. I remember telling Judy that I usually connect to a place through the access I have to the land, to nature, and/or through the bounds I'm able to forge

with other people. In the case of Tübingen — and with no hard feelings towards its beautiful nature, I would say, without any doubt, that the presence of such kind, interesting, and caring hosts made this stay very special to me.

So: deepest gratitude, dear ERCCT team — and cheers to our next debates, collabs, and hopefully more KTV sessions to come~!



Lush Tübingen, seen from the castle hill
Artwork by Hsiao-Man

Hsiao-Man Cavalli, a participant in our Short Term Resident Fellow Programme, shared their experience in Tübingen, up above. From exploring the town's beautiful old town to advancing their research in the Taiwan Colloquium, **they say, they had a truly enriching time here.** We are glad you have visited us!



TÜBINGEN RESEARCH NOTES

Final Reflections on and Yields from Amélie Keyser-Verreault's Time as Part of TAP and as an ERCCT Fellow



Dr. Amélie Keyser-Verreault *Family in the Aftermath of Compressed Modernity.*

At the ERCCT, I met colleagues who were both rigorous and warm, and I discovered a work culture very different from that of my home country, Canada. This experience was highly enriching, and I will carry it with me as I begin my new position as a Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnology at Academia Sinica.

During my three years of affiliation with the University of Tübingen, I examined the growing phenomenon of “undoing” and “redoing” the family in the context of precariousness. I investigated young people’s alternative life choices, including young adults who self-identify

I joined the ERCCT in 2022 to conduct my DLR-BMBF-funded research project entitled “*The Young Generation’s Undoing and Redoing of the*

as part of the “lying flat” anti-work movement, and women’s resistance to mainstream body work and the gendered expectations that accompany it. I also conducted a project on the development of postpartum nursing centres in Taiwan and on how the tradition of *yuezi* (月子) has been institutionalised through these facilities. This is the first anthropological study of the professionalisation and medicalisation of this longstanding postpartum ritual in Taiwan and beyond.

This ongoing research on motherhood led me to examine the ultra-low fertility crisis in Taiwan and East Asia. While studying the institutionalisation of postpartum nursing centres, I spoke with many parents who had used these services. In our conversations, several expressed the intense pressure they felt in raising a child in contemporary Taiwan. With a struggling economy and high societal expectations for success, many experienced deep anxiety and concern for their children’s futures. For many, the decision to have a child was not taken lightly and involved careful deliberation. These conversations



inspired me to expand my research into the field of social demography, approached through the lens of sociocultural anthropology.

In addition, I met with more than 200 childless individuals (cases of non-medical childlessness) in Taiwan. The results of this research will be published in my forthcoming book *Childlessness in Taiwan: Gender and Family in the Aftermath of Developmentalism* (Amsterdam University Press). The book tells the stories of voluntarily childless people in Taiwan, revealing their reasoning, hesitations, and the complex decision-making processes surrounding family and parenthood. My analysis uncovers the aspirations and concerns of reproductive-age Taiwanese regarding life choices and family building. Moving beyond individualistic and ahistorical perspectives, I analyse childlessness through a transindividual lens, situating it within Taiwan's ongoing transition from the developmentalist period to the post-developmental era.

Outlook on My New Job – What Lies Ahead

As I begin my new position as a Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnology at Academia Sinica, I will continue my work on postnatal care centres and low fertility.

I plan to interview more professionals working in these centres, as well as women who have stayed there, in order to gather in-depth, first-hand accounts. I also intend to work with marginalised groups and to apply an intersectional lens to the analysis of postnatal experiences. Furthermore, I will conduct comparative research on postpartum nursing centres in Taiwan and similar facilities in Japan, South Korea, and other countries where such centres exist.

Regarding the low fertility crisis, I will continue to collect first-hand testimonies and life stories from individuals who have chosen not to become parents. While there is abundant quantitative data and regular surveys, qualitative research remains insufficient. My previous 200 interviews are not enough to capture the full diversity of younger generations' views on childbearing, so I intend to expand this research significantly.

Many scholars agree that governmental pronatalist policies in East Asia have not substantially alleviated the demographic crisis. In the medium to long term, I hope that Taiwan's academic community will follow the example of population research centres abroad and establish a dedicated centre where experts from various fields can

provide guidance on low fertility and policy design. There is still much work to be done, and I am excited to take on this new professional challenge.

For more information on Dr. Amélie Keyser-Verreault, follow this [link](#).

Symposium on German–Taiwanese Relations after the Federal Elections in Germany

On 26 June 2025, the ERCCT co-hosted a high-level symposium at the Taipei Representative Office in Berlin on German–Taiwanese Relations after the Federal Elections. Leading scholars, policymakers, and journalists discussed how shifting global politics — from US–China tensions to the war in Ukraine — are reshaping Europe’s Taiwan policy. Keynotes covered security, diplomacy, technology, and legal frameworks, with a call for a coherent, values-based European approach.



The symposium ***German–Taiwanese Relations after the Federal Elections: Bilateral, European and International Perspectives*** (Die deutsch-taiwanischen Beziehungen nach den Bundestagswahlen: Bilaterale, europäische und internationale Perspektive) was jointly organized with the ERCCT and the

Forum for German–Taiwanese Dialogue.

The symposium took place in a context of rapidly shifting global politics: Donald Trump’s second term in the United States, Russia’s ongoing war against Ukraine, and Europe’s strained ties with Washington and Beijing all pose new



challenges for German and European Taiwan policy. Taiwan, directly affected by these dynamics, faces growing geopolitical pressure. The aim of the event was to assess the current state of relations and explore how they might evolve in light of these developments.

Opening Remarks

Taiwan's Representative to Germany, **Prof. Shieh Jyh-Wey**, opened the symposium by underlining the importance of shared democratic values, mutual understanding, and stable partnerships in uncertain times, and reiterated Taiwan's interest in deepening cooperation with Germany and Europe.

Keynotes and Commentaries

Reinhard Bütikofer (Deutsch-Taiwanische Dialogplattform; former Member of the European Parliament) gave the opening keynote, noting that the security situation in the Taiwan Strait has worsened since The Economist dubbed it "the most dangerous place on Earth." He argued that China is preparing for a potential military move against Taiwan more systematically than Russia did before invading Ukraine, and urged the EU to deter such aggression by responding firmly to gray-zone provocations, joining freedom of navigation operations, negotiating an economic

partnership agreement, supporting Taiwan's participation in international organizations, raising public awareness, and expanding official and parliamentary exchanges. **Felix Lee** (Süddeutsche Zeitung) commented on the gap between political rhetoric and concrete action in Europe's Taiwan policy, noting the constraints of economic interdependence with China.

The second keynote, by **Dr. Gudrun Wacker** (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP), examined Taiwan's growing role in Germany's foreign policy debates and called for embedding Taiwan policy in a comprehensive Indo-Pacific strategy. She recommended enabling high-level visits, normalizing freedom of navigation operations, and strengthening cooperation at the subnational level. **MP Roderich Kiesewetter** endorsed a strategic, values-based approach and greater parliamentary engagement.

Antonia Hmaid (Mercator Institute for China Studies, MERICS) focused on the economic and technological dimensions, explaining the strategic and commercial rationale for TSMC's investment in Dresden. She advocated for deeper cooperation in high-tech and dual-use sectors as a counter to Chinese pressure on Europe's Taiwan engagement. **Dr. Hsieh Liang-Han**



(Industrial Technology Research Institute) welcomed these proposals, stressing opportunities in secure supply chains and critical technologies. In the final keynote, **Dr. Angela Stanzel** (SWP) clarified misconceptions about UN Resolution 2758, emphasizing that it does not determine Taiwan's legal status. She distinguished between China's "One China principle" and the individual "One China policies" of other states, and warned of Beijing's growing use of legal and linguistic pressure to limit Europe's diplomatic room for maneuver. **Claudia Wessling** (MERICS) praised Stanzel's analysis and stressed the need to defend Europe's legal and linguistic sovereignty, ever important in these times of uncertainty.

Closing Discussion

Moderated by **Prof. Dr. Gunter Schubert**, the concluding discussion highlighted the urgent need for a coordinated, consistent, and long-term European approach to Taiwan — one that is values-based, strategically grounded, and goes beyond symbolic gestures.

The symposium served as a timely platform linking scholarship, policy, and diplomacy, and reflected a growing recognition of Taiwan's importance as both a democratic partner and a strategic actor in the Indo-Pacific. The proposals presented offer a substantive basis for shaping a more principled and forward-looking German and European Taiwan policy.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

The ERCCT continues to **offer outstanding research opportunities** through its **three core fellowship programmes**. Below, you'll find details about upcoming application rounds. We warmly encourage interested researchers to apply and look forward to welcoming new fellows and scholars to Tübingen.

Visiting Fellow Programme 2026—January/February

We are pleased to announce that applications are now open for the **CCKF-ERCCT Visiting Fellow Programme** of the period from January 7 to February 7, inviting Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows from our esteemed partner institutions.

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 September 15, 2025**. For more detailed information about the programme and the application process, kindly **visit the following [website](#)**.

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 April 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 October 31, 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.

Visiting Scholar Programme 2026

We are pleased to announce that applications are now open for the **CCKF-ERCCT Visiting Scholars Programme**, inviting established scholars in the field of Taiwan Studies to join the Center for a one-month stay during the academic summer term. To support your stay, the programme provides a **round-trip air ticket to/from** Frankfurt or Stuttgart, **one month of accommodation** in Tübingen, and full integration **into the Center's scholarly activities**.



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

Visiting Scholars are expected to deliver a public lecture and present their current research in the Taiwan Colloquium. To apply for [the programme](#), please submit your application by **November 15, 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.

Taiwan Documentary Film Festival 2025

December 5 & 6, 2025 – Kino Atelier, Tübingen

The Taiwan Documentary Film Festival (TDFF) returns for its 19th edition on **December 5 and 6, 2025**, once again offering thought-provoking cinematic perspectives on Taiwanese society. The festival has become a staple in Tübingen's cultural calendar since its founding in 2006. Each year, the festival highlights either a socially urgent theme—**often focusing on marginalized or underrepresented communities**—or the creative vision of a distinguished guest director from Taiwan. The 2025 edition will continue this tradition of critical engagement and cultural insight, presenting **a curated selection of documentaries that shed light on contemporary issues in Taiwan**.

As always, the screenings will be followed by Q&A sessions and discussions with directors, scholars, and the audience, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and reflection. The event is open to the public and aims to bring together students, researchers, and residents of Tübingen in a shared cinematic space.

Further details, including the program theme and guest director, will be announced in autumn. Stay tuned!



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

Jointly sponsored by the University of Tübingen (Germany) and the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (Taiwan).

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