

CCKF-ERCCT NEWSLETTER

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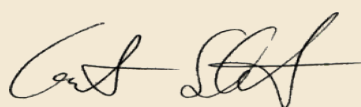
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Greetings

Dear colleagues and friends of the ERCCT,

We are pleased to present the 21st CCKF-ERCCT newsletter, highlighting the vibrant academic exchange, fellowship programmes, and public events that have shaped our center over the past six months. This edition marks an exciting transition for our community as we formally welcome Junior Professor Dr. Elisa Tamburo as our new incoming Co-Director. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our visiting scholars, fellows, and international partners for continuously enriching our intellectual environment. Your ongoing engagement remains vital to the flourishing of Taiwan studies in Europe and beyond. We warmly invite you to explore our upcoming activities, public lecture series, and fellowship opportunities detailed in the pages that follow.



Prof. Gunter Schubert, ERCCT Director



Elisa Tamburo

New ERCCT Co-Director

The ERCCT Team is excited to welcome a new member. Dr. Elisa Tamburo has been appointed Junior Professor of Modern Taiwan Studies at the Department of Chinese Studies within the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies and assumed the position in May 2026. At the ERCCT she serves as Co-Director, bringing a background as an anthropologist, writer, and educator. Her first book, *Exiled in the City: Belonging, Loss, and the Politics of Relocation in a Taipei Military Village*, examines what happens when a political ideal fails. It focuses on the Kuomintang's (KMT) unsuccessful project of reunifying China through the experiences of veterans living in Taiwan's military dependents' villages — temporary settlements established in 1949 for KMT military personnel and their families. As some of the last living witnesses to the KMT's ambition of retaking mainland China, these veterans embody the fading legacy of a collapsed nationalist vision. Their relocation to permanent housing in old age epitomizes the breakdown of the patronage relationship between the state and one of its most loyal constituencies.

Dear colleagues and friends,

I joined the University of Tübingen in spring 2026 as Junior Professor in Modern Taiwan Studies, and I am the incoming co-director of the ERCCT. Before taking up this role, I was a Marie Curie Global Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University and at the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford.

I am a social anthropologist whose research interests intersect with urban, political, and environmental anthropology in East Asia—particularly China and Taiwan—and East Africa, especially Kenya. My work focuses on transnational processes of transformation across cities in rapidly urbanising contexts.



At Tübingen, I will teach courses on identity formation, urbanisation, and Taiwan's role in the Global South. I am committed to making Taiwan theoretically relevant to anthropology and the social sciences in a global context. I look forward to welcoming international scholars to Tübingen and warmly encourage anthropologists, geographers, and urban planners, in particular, to visit us through our residential programmes. I also look forward to continuing and developing stimulating conversations and collaborations with you.

All my best,

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Elisa Tamburo

Taiwan Colloquium Summer Term 2026

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.

Visceral Lives in Taiwan's Probiotic Visions

The first presentation of the Taiwan Colloquium in the summer semester 2026 was delivered by our Short-Term Resident Fellow Nga Shi Yeu from the Department of Social Anthropology at Stockholm University. In his talk on Monday, May 4, he presented his current research project under the headline "Visceral Lives in Taiwan's Probiotic Visions," examining how contemporary discourse around nutritional health practices shapes distribution and consumption of probiotic cultures in Taiwan and thereby understandings of health, the body, and everyday life in relation to wider social and historical transformations.



Reorientating Taiwan

Dr. Chang Ti-han, Vice-Director of the Center of Taiwan Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies at SOAS, presented "Reorientating Taiwan: Ocean, Selfhood, and the Pacific", an interdisciplinary volume that she co-edited with Prof. Niki Alford (Northern Institute of Taiwan Studies, University of Lancashire), in a book launch talk titled "A deep dive into Taiwan's oceanic narrative" on Monday, May 11, 2026. The idea of the book is to challenge several widespread images that continue to shape global perceptions of Taiwan, like its traditional Fujianese-like local culture or its position as a geopolitical flashpoint at the southeastern rim of continental East Asia. Instead, she emphasized that Taiwan's history has been shaped by colonialism, migration, and maritime exchange.

Referring to historian and former Minister of Education Tu Cheng-sheng, Dr. Chang introduced the concept of “reorientating Taiwan,” which shifts attention away from continental narratives and towards Taiwan’s oceanic connections and island identity.



Rachael Chan presented doctoral research

In her capacity as an ERCCT Short-Term Resident Fellow, Rachael Chan from the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford, presented her Ph.D. research project on Taiwan's Indigenous Cultural Diplomacy in the Taiwan Colloquium on Monday, May 11, 2026. Her presentation provided an insightful analysis of the relationship between Indigenous culture, diplomacy, and international recognition in contemporary Taiwan. In her project, she combines perspectives from political geography, decolonial studies, and performance politics to examine how culture functions as a diplomatic tool. Particularly compelling was her discussion of diplomacy beyond formal state institutions and the role of Indigenous communities in Taiwan’s efforts to strengthen its international visibility.





On ecofeminist indigenous perspectives

On June 1, 2026, Lin Wan-Jou from the Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages and Literature at National Taiwan Normal University delivered an engaging presentation at the Taiwan Colloquium entitled “A Comparative Study of Ecofeminist Glocal Perspectives: Indigenous Communities in Taiwan and Activist Communities in Germany.” By bringing together perspectives from Taiwan and Germany, the presentation offered valuable insights into the ways environmental justice, gender, and human–nature relationships are shaped by different historical and cultural contexts. In particular, the comparative approach highlighted the importance of examining global environmental debates through local experiences and forms of knowledge.

On women in Taiwan's military

On June 22, 2026, Dr. Sarah Liu (University of Edinburgh) presented her research on gender integration and national defense in Taiwan’s military at the Taiwan Colloquium (“In the same uniform but a forever outsider? Women in the Taiwan national defense”). Her study examines how policymakers incorporate gender integration into defense strategies and how these policies shape military culture. Based on qualitative interviews with legislators and servicewomen from different branches and ranks, Liu argues that militaries do not simply reflect gender inequalities but actively reproduce them. Drawing on the concept of hegemonic masculinity, she challenges the assumption that increasing the number of women in the armed forces necessarily leads to institutional transformation. Instead, women are often incorporated into existing structures in ways that leave underlying gender hierarchies intact.

Her findings reveal several contradictions. While policymakers expressed support for recruiting more women and even discussed female conscription, concrete measures to facilitate greater inclusion often remained limited. Regulations designed to protect women can also have unintended consequences, restricting access to informal networks that are

important for career advancement. Interviewees further described persistent pressures to prove themselves in a male-dominated environment. Liu concluded that gender inequality in Taiwan's military is maintained less through overt discrimination than through subtle institutional and cultural practices that continue to position women as outsiders. Nevertheless, she emphasized that military organizations are not fixed institutions and that meaningful structural change remains possible.

Dr. Liu returned to present a current research project of hers in the Taiwan Colloquium on 26 June 2026. In her presentation, which was titled "Feeling for the nation: Women soldiers' affective citizenship in the Taiwan military," Dr. Liu explained the method of feminist interviewing and showed the results of her interviews with women soldiers in the Taiwanese military. Analytically framed by affect theory, she showed how a plethora of emotions experienced by those women play a crucial role in negotiating their citizenship, gender, hierarchy, recognition and legitimacy within the military.



Lin Wei-Yu presented research on Taiwan's police

On 13 July 2026, Lin Wei-Yu, a Visiting Fellow from the Department of Political Science at National Taiwan University, presented her Ph.D. research in a presentation entitled "Street-Level Resilience and the Costs of Cross-Agency Performance: Evidence from Taiwan's Police" at the Taiwan Colloquium. Using the metaphor of police officers as a "thousand-armed goddess," she illustrated how Taiwan's police are increasingly expected to perform a wide range of administrative tasks beyond their core policing duties. Her research examined how Taiwan's system of Interagency Administrative Assistance (IAA) reshapes the daily work and professional identity of frontline police officers. Drawing on theories of street-level bureaucracy and qualitative interviews with officers, she argued that while



interagency cooperation is legally well founded, it creates unintended consequences by diverting police resources away from crime prevention and investigation. Her findings revealed that administrative assignments receive greater institutional recognition than criminal investigative work, creating distorted incentives and weakening officers' professional identity. More broadly, the research demonstrates how cross-agency cooperation can produce lasting organizational imbalances when institutional capacities are unevenly distributed.

History of Overseas Chinese in Myanmar

Chen Chung-Hsuan, from the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies at National Chengchi University, examined the role of overseas Chinese community leaders (*qiaoling*, 僑領) in mediating relations between Chinese diaspora communities in Myanmar and both China and Taiwan. Focusing on traditional institutions such as dialect associations, ancestral halls, and chambers of commerce, Chen Chung-Hsuan explored why these leadership structures have remained influential in Myanmar despite their declining significance in other South-





east Asian countries. Drawing on a leadership cycle model, he argued that influential community leaders transcend sub-ethnic divisions by uniting the broader Chinese community through business, education, religion, and cultural initiatives. Historical and institutional analysis, combined with case studies, demonstrated how these leaders derive authority primarily from personal networks and long-established trust rather than formal institutional power. Chen concluded that Myanmar's continuing political instability has created new opportunities for Taiwan to engage with these leadership networks, although their significance is closely linked to Myanmar's unique political and social context.

Prof. Ho Ming-Sho presented research in Taiwan Colloquium

On July 17, 2026, Professor Ho Ming-Sho from National Taiwan University's Department of Sociology gave a public lecture in his capacity as ERCCT Visiting Scholar. His talk was titled "From Streets to Ballots: Civic Society Mobilization in Taiwan's Bluebird Action and Recall Campaigns" and traced a line from the 2014 Sunflower Movement through the 2024 Bluebird Action to the 2025 Great Recall Campaign, exploring how Taiwan's tradition of street-level civic mobilization has evolved and shifted into formal political channels like recall elections.

On July 20, 2026, he presented his current book project at the Taiwan Colloquium in a talk entitled "Making Reforms in Taiwan: Social Movements, Political Parties, and the Logic of Coalition Building." His presentation examined why Taiwan has achieved major reforms in some policy areas while lagging behind in others. While Taiwan became the first country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage in 2019 and completed its transition to a nuclear-free homeland in 2025, it continues to retain capital punishment.

To explain this uneven reform record, Prof. Ho compared Taiwan with Japan and South Korea. Unlike the latter two countries, whose social movements have historically been larger and more militant, Taiwan's movements are generally smaller and less institutionalized. Nevertheless, they have often proved remarkably successful.

Rather than emphasizing organizational strength, Prof. Ho argued that reform outcomes depend primarily on strategic choices. He distinguished between a mass defiance strategy, which relies on large-scale confrontation, and coalition building with political parties. While protest can generate political pressure, durable reforms require sustained cooperation between civil society and party actors. Taiwan's uneven reform trajectory, he concluded,

reflects variations in coalition dynamics across different policy fields rather than shortcomings of its democratic system.



ERCCT Hosts 2026 Taiwan–Europe Connectivity Workshop

Continuing the popular series of the Taiwan–Europe Connectivity Workshops, the ERCCT held the fifth such event from July 6 to 10, 2026, mainly at the lovely site of the University of Tübingen's guesthouse. Generously sponsored by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the workshop was dedicated – but not limited to – the topic of "The development of Taiwan-EU relations under China's gaze." Exemplifying the spirit of connectivity, the workshop gathered twelve outstanding young social scientists affiliated with universities either in Taiwan or in Europe and hailing themselves from China, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam – and all doing research on Taiwan. At the same time, connectivity was established also by bringing together participants coming from different disciplines and methodological paradigms to the constructive and fruitful discussion of the presented research projects, in which the visiting scholars Professor Ho Ming-Sho and Dr. Sarah Liu as well as the ERCCT research fellows of various programs also took part.



The workshop commenced on Monday, July 6, with welcoming remarks by ERCCT Director Prof. Dr. Gunter Schubert. He stressed that this event is meant to have truly open exchanges in an atmosphere marked by mutual trust and respect.

The workshop then opened with a panel on Security in the Taiwan Strait, chaired by ERCCT Managing Director Stefan Braig. Marvin Bernardo from the International Doctoral Program in Asia-Pacific Studies at National Chengchi University inaugurated the academic program with his presentation, "Understanding Third-State Perception: Conflicts in Asia under Europe's Gaze," examining how European actors perceive and interpret security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific.

He was followed by Huang Kai-Yang from the Department of Geography at National Taiwan University, whose paper, "Border Consciousness under Geopolitical Suspicion: Memory, Affect, and Everyday Sovereignty in the Matsu Islands," explored the interplay of collective memory, identity, and everyday practices of sovereignty in one of Taiwan's most strategically sensitive frontier regions. The morning concluded with Kwon Mina from the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies at National Chengchi University, who traced the evolution of Beijing's reactions to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan in her presentation, "From Diplomatic Protest to Coercive Power: China's Responses to U.S. Arms Sales to Taiwan."

The afternoon shifted attention from substantive research to questions of research practice in a panel on Methodological Reflections, again chaired by Stefan Braig. Ai Ke from the Doctoral School of Humanities at the University of Warsaw reflected on the challenges of conducting research across the Taiwan Strait in the presentation "Too Close,

Yet Never the Same: Positionality, Friction, and Knowledge Production in Cross-Strait Research." Drawing on personal fieldwork experiences, the paper highlighted the ways in which researchers' positionality, access, and political sensitivities in relation to those of their interviewees shape the production of knowledge in contested environments. The academic program of the first day concluded with an introduction to the ERCCT by Stefan Braig, who presented the centre's research agenda, international cooperation, and opportunities for early-career scholars. Afterwards, the group set off for a leisurely walk into Tübingen's historic city centre. A guided tour led by an experienced city guide familiarised participants with the city's rich history and architectural heritage. Participants then gathered for the traditional welcome dinner at Restaurant Neckarmüller, where discussions continued in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.



Tuesday, July 7, was devoted to Domestic Politics and Societal Issues, with ERCCT Research Fellow Dr. André Beckershoff chairing the panel. Wu Po-chun from the Department of Political Science at National Chengchi University opened the session with "Ambition, Campaigns, Inaction? When Legislators Seek Executive Office," examining how electoral ambitions shape the behaviour of Taiwanese legislators. Wang Pei-Ying from the School of Law at the University of Reading followed with "Youth Confinement in Taiwan: Historical Legacies, Human Rights Reform, and Relational Governance," offering a critical assessment of the evolution of juvenile justice and the challenges of balancing institutional reform with human rights protection. The morning concluded with Liu Ting-Sian from the Department of Gender Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, whose presentation, "Rootless Han Settlers Seeking the Roots: Settler Self-Indigenisation, Indigenous Fetishisation Becoming Taiwanese 'Natives'," examined the complex intersections of queer settler identity, indigeneity, and nation-building in contemporary Taiwan. In the afternoon, ERCCT Research Fellow Yi-Nga Judy Lee gave participants an outstanding example of the centre's current research activities by presenting her Ph.D. project. A break of two hours then gave everyone an opportunity to explore the city by themselves, before the traditional punting boat excursion on the Neckar River offered a relaxed conclusion to the day's program.

Wednesday, July 8, began with welcoming remarks by Dr. Joseph Dieu, Director General of the Taipei Representative Office in Munich. The subsequent panel on Geo-economics and Talent Mobility, chaired by Yi-Nga Judy Lee, opened with Vo Thanh Hien from the International Doctoral Program in Asia-Pacific Studies at National Chengchi University, whose presentation, "Mapping the Architecture of Talent Governance: A Dictionary-Guided Co-occurrence Network Analysis of South Korea and Taiwan," compared the institutional architecture of talent governance in two leading East Asian economies.

Tran Thi Mong Tuyen, also from National Chengchi University, then explored Taiwan's use of semiconductor diplomacy in Southeast Asia and Europe under conditions of growing strategic competition with China in the paper "Taiwan's Semiconductor Diplomacy Across Southeast Asia and Europe under China's Influence." The panel concluded with Ko Chiao-Yuan from the Department of Geography at University College London, who presented "The Geopolitics of Mobility: Overseas Chinese Incorporation and Hong Kong Students' Mobility to Taiwan during the Late Cold War," shedding new light on the relationship between migration, geopolitics, and identity formation during the Cold War period. The afternoon included an opportunity to visit the ERCCT before participants gathered for a barbecue party at the university guest house. The informal setting once again encouraged lively conversations and further strengthened the collegial atmosphere that has become a hallmark of the Taiwan–Europe Connectivity Workshop.



The final academic day, Thursday, July 9, centered on Taiwan and the European Union, with Stefan Braig serving as chair. Chen Jing-Han from Edinburgh Law School opened the panel with "Citizenship Recognition under Geopolitical Pressure: Taiwan, Europe, and the Governance of Contested Citizenship," analysing the legal and political complexities surrounding citizenship recognition in contexts of contested sovereignty. Hsieh Hao-Hsiang from the Department of Diplomacy at National Chengchi University followed with "EU Normative Power in Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing of

Third Countries: With a Case of Taiwan," discussing the European Union's role in promoting international fisheries governance and the implications of its regulatory framework for Taiwan.

The workshop concluded academically with a roundtable discussion on Taiwan's Current Geopolitical Condition, chaired by Prof. Gunter Schubert. The discussion addressed the rapidly changing strategic environment surrounding Taiwan and the conundrum in which the island finds itself.

Beyond its academic programme, the workshop once again offered participants the opportunity to explore the cultural heritage of the region. An excursion to Hohenzollern Castle on Thursday afternoon was followed by a visit to the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart on Friday. The workshop concluded with a conference dinner at Hohenentrigen Castle, providing a festive setting to celebrate a week of intensive scholarly exchange and newly established academic friendships.

Once again, the Taiwan–Europe Connectivity Workshop proved to be an outstanding platform for fostering academic dialogue and strengthening research networks between Taiwan and Europe. By bringing together promising early-career researchers from a wide range of disciplines and providing an environment conducive to critical discussion, interdisciplinary exchange, and international collaboration, the workshop continued to advance the ERCCT's mission of promoting excellence in Taiwan studies and nurturing the next generation of Taiwan scholars.



Our Visiting Scholars

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. Ho Ming-Sho

Ming-Sho Ho is Professor in the Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University. His research areas include political sociology, social movement, labor and environmental issues. He published *Be Water: Collective Improvisation in Hong Kong's Anti-Extradition Protests* (2025), *Challenging Beijing's Mandate of Heaven: Taiwan's Sunflower Movement and Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement* (2019), and *Working Class Formation in Taiwan: Fractured Solidarity in State-Owned Enterprises* (2014). Currently, he is engaged in a book-writing project on how Taiwan's social movements and political parties jointly shaped the policy reforms.



Dr. Sarah Liu

Sarah Liu is a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) of Gender and Politics in the School of Social and Political Science at the University of Edinburgh. Her research examines cross-national patterns in gender and politics, focusing on how contexts — women's political representation, women's movements, and immigration in the media — shape gender gaps in political attitudes and participation. Sarah's recent work also explores the gendered and racialized consequences of COVID-19 and offers critical analyses of neoliberal transformations in higher education. She serves on the editorial boards of *Political Behavior* and the *Journal of Taiwan Studies* and has previously held editorial roles with *Representation: A Journal of Representative Democracy and Politics*, *Groups*, and *Identities*. Her scholarship has been recognized by the Apolitical Foundation as one of the 50 influential scholars, and the University of Michigan's National Center for Institutional Diversity has named her an emerging diversity scholar. Sarah's research appears in leading journals and has been featured in *The Conversation UK* and *The Washington Post*. She has appeared on BBC World, France 24, and so on. Sarah holds a dual Ph.D. in Political Science and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Penn State.

Our Visiting Fellows



Lin Wei-Yu is a first-year doctoral student in the Department of Political Science at National Taiwan University. She holds a master's degree in Public Management from the Graduate Institute of Public Affairs at National Taiwan University. Her research is grounded in public administration, with particular interests in citizen-state interaction and street-level bureaucracy. She is interested in how institutions shape public service, especially through the gaps between institutional arrangements and frontline implementation. Her current project explores how institutionalized interagency collaboration reshapes police work in Taiwan, focusing on the hidden burdens, coping strategies, and performance distortions that emerge when frontline officers are required to absorb cross-agency policy tasks.

"My time at the ERCCT was both intellectually enriching and personally meaningful. I especially appreciated everyone's genuine curiosity about Taiwan and the thoughtful discussions that emerged from it. Their openness and engagement created an intellectually stimulating yet supportive environment where I felt comfortable sharing and developing my ideas. The exchanges with scholars in Tübingen offered me new perspectives on my research into street-level bureaucracy and cross-agency police work, while the warmth and generosity of everyone at the Center made me feel truly welcomed. Beyond the academic inspiration, I also treasured the conversations, shared meals, and everyday moments through which meaningful connections grew. My stay at the ERCCT renewed my motivation for research and academic life, and I returned to Taiwan with new ideas, fond memories, and deep gratitude."

Chen Chung-Hsuan Jonathan is a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, National Chengchi University, Taiwan. His research focuses on the relationship between religion and politics in Southeast Asia, especially in Malaysia and Myanmar. During his master's studies, he became interested in regional studies, looking at the connections between Hakka communities and Southeast Asia. He chose Myanmar as his main case and took a micro-level approach by working with his own family history to better understand broader historical and social contexts. His master's thesis was awarded the "Outstanding Thesis Award from the Overseas Community Affairs Council, Taiwan" in 2020. As a doctoral researcher, Jonathan continues to work on Southeast Asia, with a focus on Myanmar's elections and religious-political relations in Malaysia. To better understand the situation in Myanmar, he conducted fieldwork there and observed the military's influence on the electoral process in December 2025. He has also carried out several rounds of fieldwork in Malaysia. As he often says, "If you haven't seen it, you cannot truly understand it." His research is therefore closely tied to field observation and first-hand experience. In his current research, he examines how overseas Chinese leaders navigate between China and Taiwan.



"I would like to say that my time at the ERCCT was one of the best periods of my research journey so far. It was truly wonderful to meet you all, and I sincerely hope I will have the chance to see you again in the future. Danke schön!"

Lin Wan-Jou is currently pursuing her PhD at the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) in Taipei, Taiwan, where she focuses on topics in Indigenous communities through the lens of ecofeminism, post-colonialism, and the dialectics between indigenization and globalization. Before beginning her Ph.D. studies, she served for several years as an Ecumenical Relations Specialist in the Ecumenical Relations Office of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. She has long been involved in the Ecumenical Movement, working to enhance dialogue on climate justice and women's empowerment through academic and faith-based initiatives. This research project is an interdisciplinary study that applies a feminist/ecofeminist approach to reveal the gender dynamics and environmental issues at play. While global climate justice discourse is often criticized for overlooking Indigenous wisdom on the environment and ecology, this project seeks to provide global insights into "Taiwanese Ecofeminism" and the "Global Climate Justice Movement."



"My experience at ERCCT has not only strengthened my research through academic exchange and interdisciplinary engagement, but has also encouraged me to reconsider my research questions from new perspectives and to situate my work within broader international and comparative discussions."

Our Short-Term Resident Fellows

Rachael Chan is currently pursuing her D.Phil in Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford. Prior to her tertiary studies, she served as an administrator and outreach officer at an arts organisation in Singapore, which included collaborations with Taiwanese counterparts. Her interests are at the intersection of political and cultural geography, including decolonial studies, the geographies of cultural diplomacy, and the politics of performance.

"Tübingen University is a historically important institution with a rich history, and it was a privilege as a visiting researcher to be part of this warm and welcoming community at ERCCT. I learnt a lot from the Taiwan Studies Colloquiums and enjoyed meeting other PhD students at the Connectivity Workshop. The University also boasts many clubs and societies that one can take part in, and the Welcome Centre was also extremely helpful in helping one integrate into university life."



Nga Shi Yeu is a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology (under the Global Asia project) at Stockholm University and a Wadsworth Fellow granted by the Wenner-Gren Anthropological Foundation in New York. He also currently serves as an editor for Taiwan Insight, an affiliated platform of the Taiwan Research Hub at the University of Nottingham, UK. In 2025, he conducted long-term ethnographic fieldwork in Taiwan, supported by the Institute of Ethnology at Academia Sinica and the Centre for Chinese Studies at the National Central Library. His multisited and multimodal approaches incorporate digital participation, meeting ethnography, visual analysis, and sensory methods to explore how social devotion to friendly bacteria is associated with self-care and the flourishing microbiotechnological market in Taiwan, turning these gut nurturance practices inside-out to navigate everyday uncertainties and more-than-human labour and anticipate hopes for existential futures. Trained in Botany in Penang and later Anthropology in Taipei, his master's thesis on Bornean indigenous post-environmental resistance to deforestation in East Malaysia received outstanding thesis prizes from the Taiwan Society of Anthropology and Ethnology (2019) and the Cultural Studies Association (2020).

"Ripples from Short-Term Resident Fellow Programme at ERCCT, University of Tübingen, 2026

Arriving in Tübingen in the height of summer, I was greeted by an intense heat wave that left a lasting impression, one I still recall vividly now that I am back in Sweden. Back in May, the air outside my window was thick with drifting dandelion seeds. Caught between the stifling heat and the floating fluff, I chose air circulation, leaving the windows wide open to invite bugs inside. My body struggled to adapt, which caused me to fall ill twice in a row, develop a rash, and spend weeks confined to bed. By the end, the pharmacists at the local Apotheke downstairs could even recognise me.



Despite the rough start physically, the intellectual and social environment at the ERCCT provided a grounding space for my work. Though our individual research topics varied widely, the warmth and mutual encouragement among the fellows created a supportive atmosphere. Participating in the Wednesday writing group twice helped me establish a productive rhythm. Over those three months in Tübingen, I drafted two chapters of my dissertation. Living in Tübingen also offered a meaningful contrast to Stockholm. In a large city like Stockholm, where everyone blends into the metropolitenism, it is easy to occasionally feel isolated, like a small cog in a massive machine. By contrast, Tübingen serves as a focused academic sanctuary for me, where I can encounter students around town corners and share pursuits of learning and research.

Specific corners of this university town became anchors for my daily life at that time. I miss walking past the Epple Haus Youth Centre on my way back to my apartment and spending quiet moments on the Plataneninsel along the Neckar River. That island under the plane trees absorbed many of my anxious moments whenever the writing stalled, or my emotions ebbed and flowed. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Stefan Braig for his generous support throughout my visit; his total commitment and devotion to the ERCCT are truly inspiring to witness. My sincere thanks also go to every genuine person I crossed paths with during this stay, especially my fellow visiting colleagues, Rachael and Wan-Jou, and Judy, who was endlessly supportive and reliable throughout. Here's a toast to our shared ideas, summer passions in Tübingen, and our lasting friendship."

Delegation from National Chung Cheng University visited the ERCCT

On Tuesday, June 30, 2026, a delegation from National Chung Cheng University (CCU) in Chiayi, Taiwan, visited the ERCCT to learn about the center's programs and mode of operation, after taking part in the morning in a workshop on Addiction and Drugs, hosted by the Tübingen University's Institute of Criminology at the China Centrum Tübingen. Accompanied by Prof. Jörg Kinzig, director of the Institute of Criminology and his colleague, Prof. Rüdiger Wulf, the delegation consisted of Prof. Ma Yueh-Chung from the Department and Graduate Institute of Criminology at CCU, who is an alumnus of Tübingen University and led the delegation, his colleague Prof. Lai Yung-Lien, as well as Prof. Cheng Chin-Chin and Prof. Hung Leng Chia from the Department of Law at CCU.



CCKF-ERCCT Short-Term Resident Fellow Program 2027



The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan – A CCK Foundation Overseas Center (CCKF-ERCCT) at the University of Tübingen, Germany, pursues the objective of promoting and facilitating postgraduate **social science research on contemporary Taiwan** and scholarly cooperation between Europe and Taiwan.

To this end, we run a **Short-Term Resident Fellow Programme** and invite two Ph.D. students or postdoc researchers from Europe and Taiwan each year to join the center in Tübingen for a period of up to three months.

Invited fellows will be granted a monthly allowance of EUR 400, basic health insurance, and a one-time travel grant of EUR 600. We provide office space and the opportunity to discuss projects and exchange ideas with ERCCT Fellows and Visiting Scholars working at the ERCCT. We encourage Short-Term Resident Fellows to present their ongoing research in a Taiwan Colloquium and invite them to take part in the center's manifold academic activities. Working languages at the ERCCT are English and Mandarin, German language skills are hence not required.

Interested applicants should **submit an academic CV, an exposé of their Ph.D. or postdoc research project of no longer than 10 pages**, and a letter of recommendation by a professor of the institution where they are enrolled/affiliated. Please also state the intended duration of your stay. All application materials should be sent in electronic form to Stefan Braig at stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de

The **deadline for applications** for the period from April to July 2027 is **October 31, 2026**.

For more information on the CCKF-ERCCT please refer to our website at www.ercct.uni-tuebingen.de or feel free to write to stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de

Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Workshop at the CCKF-ERCCT, University of Tübingen, Germany 4 – 10 July 2027

The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan - A CCK Foundation Overseas Center at Eberhard Karls University Tübingen, Germany, will hold a workshop for emerging young scholars, i.e. Ph.D. students and postdocs, from **4 to 10 July 2027**. The main topic for the workshop is **"Taiwan's security: challenges and strategies"**.

Other paper submissions pertaining to the fields of Taiwan politics, society, economics, and cross-strait relations are also highly welcomed.

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 (of up to 1,250 EUR) and accommodation will be 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) **by 15 March 2027** to:

Stefan Braig
ERCCT Managing Director
Mail: stefan.braig@uni-tuebingen.de



Taiwan Documentary Film Festival 2026

The ERCCT is pleased to announce its 20th Taiwan Documentary Film Festival, which will take place on December 4–5, 2026. This year's programme will focus on Taiwan's period of martial law, featuring films by Robert Chung and James Huang. Both directors will be present at the festival, accompanied by Dr. Isabelle Cheng (University of Portsmouth), who will serve as moderator and translator.

The festival will take place at Kino Atelier, Vor dem Haagtor 1, 72070 Tübingen.

For more information about the festival, please contact: ercct@uni-tuebingen.de



Contact Us

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

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