

KONFERENZBERICHTE

8th Annual Conference of the European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS)

Ljubljana, 12.-14. Mai 2011 (co-organized by the University of Ljubljana and EATS)

The conference opened with three keynote speeches: the President of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD), Huang Teh-fu, discussed Taiwan's successful transformation to a mature democracy, Liao Ping-hui (University of California, San Diego) analyzed new transnational and hybrid forms of religious movements deriving from Taiwan, and Jana S. Rošker (University of Ljubljana) discussed issues related to intercultural communication. Wu Nai-teh and T. J. Cheng (Academia Sinica & College of William and Mary), Chris Hughes (LSE), Alex Tan Auburn University), and John Fuh-sheng Hsieh (University of South Carolina) were invited by the TDF to take part in a discussion on "Taiwan's and Democratization and Cross-Strait Relations," which suggested that there was reason for optimism with regard to further improvements in cross-Strait relations and developments in mainland China itself.

The Panel, "The Subjectivity of Taiwan," with Stéphane Corcuff (Lyon Institute of East Asia & CEFC-Taipei, Academia Sinica) geopolitical perspective of two petitions sent by Zheng Keshuang to the Manchu emperor, Kangxi, in the summer of 1683. Chao-ying Lee (National Dong Hwa University) examined various European travelogues. Wen-chuan Huang (National Dong Hwa University) explored the expression of power inherent in geographical naming, and Tsung-hua Yang (National Taiwan Normal University) analyzed the ideology embedded in cartography.

The Panel, "Youth Culture and Media," was opened by Yi-cheng Tsai and Min-xu Zhan (National Cheng Kung University), with a discussion of issues concerning the Taiwanese Cyberspace. This was followed by Kai Sheng, with his analysis of Chun-Ming Hou's illustrated Guide to Astrology.

In the Panel, "Documentary Film and Cinema Studies," Wafa Ghermani (University of Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle) sketched two representations of modernization and their differences in perception through the spectrum of Taiwan's 1960s film productions, and Ya-Feng Mon (Goldsmiths College, University of London) provided an interesting take on the world of blogging from the viewpoint of the commercial industry.

Dealing with more topical developments, Paul Jobin (University of Paris 7 & CEFC Taipei) addressed the impact of the nuclear catastrophe at Fukushima on Taiwan. Fu-

Lin Chen (SOAS), examined the ways in which the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol have influenced Taiwan's energy politics, and Suyu Liu (University of Oxford) considered the topic from the perspective of the psychological counseling offered to victims of natural disasters.

The panel, "A Hundred Years of R.O.C. History," was opened by Paul Jen-kuei LI (Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica) who presented a paper entitled "The Centennial History of Linguistics in R.O.C." Stefan Hahn (LMU Munich) analyzed the case of the liberal dissident, Lei Zhen, in the 1960s. Shih-shan H. Tsai (National Chiao Tung University) drew attention to the neglected study of the origins of socialism in colonial Taiwan.

In the panel, "Governance and Civil Society in Taiwan," Yoshihisa Amae (Chang Jung Christian University) examined the evolution of public parks in Taiwan, showing how different ethnic/cultural identities have been negotiated. Astrid Lipinsky (University of Vienna) presented a study of the processes that have led to women's organizations becoming involved in government committees. Hsiao-Hui TAI (London School of Economics and Political Science) discussed the emergence of labor identity from the workplace in Taiwan, outlining the potentially important role of the trade unions.

The Panel, "International Relations," was opened by David Coates (Visiting Professor at Tamkang University), who presented a case study on challenges to the legality of certain British Council operations in Taiwan between 1999-2001. Thomas B. Gold (University of Berkeley, California), then followed with "Taiwan's Presentation of Self in International Life" and Sigrid Winkler (Free University Brussels) discussed Taiwan's sovereignty and Taiwan's participation in international organizations."

A special panel on history was opened by Shu-Li Wang (University College London), who gave an overview of the development of museums in Taiwan and mainland China over a period of hundred years. Jens Dam (Chang Jung Christian University) compared the role and perception of Taiwanese citizens residing on the other side of the Taiwan Strait during two crucial periods in the 20th century. Ann Heylen (National Taiwan Normal University) presented her findings on unpublished manuscripts as part of the documentation and study of Dutch archival materials pertaining to Taiwan (1624-1662).

In the Panel, "Politics of Identity" Kai-Jung Yuan (University of York) Yuan looked at the two main political parties in Taiwan, the Kuomintang (KMT) and the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), focusing on the decisive factors that can either help or hinder women's access to the national legislative body. Yoann Goudin and his co-authors showcased an anthropological construction of digital archiving of *waishengren* studies. Finally, Michael Danielsen (Taiwan Corner, Denmark), asked

whether the people of Taiwan are converging toward a common understanding of what it means to be Taiwanese.

The Panel on ECFA was opened by Stefan Fleischauer (ERCCT, University of Tübingen), who cast doubt on the simplistic argument that economic integration would inevitably lead to political integration across the Taiwan Strait. Günter Schucher (GIGA) compared the development of vocational schools and higher education in mainland China and Taiwan.

In the Panel “Electoral and Party Politics,” Dafydd Fell (SOAS) presented his current research on election campaigning. Jon Sullivan (University of Nottingham) showed that there are certain similarities between the behavior of candidates in Taiwan’s elections and that of candidates in many other democracies. Elena Stepanova (Russian Academy of Sciences), provided an overview of women’s political representation in Taiwan.

The panel, “Rewriting Taiwanese Literature,” started with Táňa Dluhošová (Masaryk University) and her research on “Supplement Taiwan funü”. This was followed by Carsten Storm (Dresden University of Technology), who zoomed in on an analysis of the terms ‘realism’ and ‘reality’ in differing contextualizations of literature practiced in Taiwan. Albert Wei-min Tang (Fu Jen Catholic University) concluded the panel with a compelling presentation: “Hakka as Method for inter-Taiwanese Literature.”

In the Panel on “Sport and Leisure in Taiwan Society,” Jérôme Soldani (University of Provence) showed how, during election campaigns, both political camps in Taiwan have employed images connected with sport. Kwan-Fan Su (University of Sussex) then analyzed baseball and popular culture in the national psyche.

The Panel on “Marriage Migration and Transculturation” was opened by Isabelle Cheng, who gave the results of her research based on interviews conducted with Indonesian migrants in Taiwan. Wan-Ying Yang (National Chengchi University) presented a study of the ongoing discrimination against female new migrants from mainland China, based on an analysis of legal restrictions and interviews.

The conference closed with an MA Panel: Chialin Huang (SOAS) presented the “British Encounter with Formosa in the Nineteenth Century,” and Yedda Ya-Ping Wang (Leiden University) “At the End of Formosa —Indigenous Agency in Lonckjouw-Dutch Encounter (1636-1645).”

The next conference will take place at the University of Southern Denmark in June 2012.

Jens Damm, Ann Heylen