

University) and Andreas Mehler (GIGA), unanimously agreed to award this distinction to an article by Paul Chaisty, Nic Cheeseman and Timothy Power (from Oxford University) entitled "Rethinking the 'Presidentialism Debate': Conceptualizing Coalitional Politics in Cross-regional Perspective," which was published online in *Democratization* in 2012. Paul Chaisty accepted the award on behalf of the authors and expressed his conviction that the annual award process will become an important reference point in the CAS field.

The conference ended with a panel discussion including Claudia Pragua from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Dirk Berg-Schlosser (University of Marburg), Ariel Ahram, Laurence Whitehead and Andreas Mehler (moderator), who discussed, among other things, the implications of the CAS approach for researchers, using the topic of adapting institutions as an example. The diverse perspectives and issues dealt with during the conference will continue to be present within and shape the field of CAS. The conference organisers hope the event has increased awareness not only about the potential added value and methodological challenges of CAS but also about the appropriate level of generalisation for distinct forms of comparative research.

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Andreas Mehler

11th Annual Conference of the European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS)

University of Portsmouth, 30. April – 1. May 2014

Themed on "Taiwan: Self vs. Other" the 11th annual conferences examined Taiwan's self-perception and the image on its domestic and international audiences. The conference offered two keynote speeches: one by Prof. Mau-kuei Chang (Academia Sinica, Taipei) who focused on the perception and impacts of mainland China's growing influence. He especially analyzed the impact of the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement, which led to the recent fierce student protests in Taiwan. In the second keynote speech Prof. Fu-san Huang (Academia Sinica, Taipei) dealt with the various interpretations of Taiwanese history, in particular highlighting the diverging views on the colonial Japanese period as well as on the early years of Guomindang rule. A panel on "Democratic Governance: Challenges and Responses" was financed and organized in cooperation with the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD, Taipei) and offered, amongst other, analyses by Shelley Rigger (Davidson College) on challenges of democracy comparing Taiwan and South Korea. Brenda S.A. Yeoh (National University of Singapore) presented a comparative analysis focused on Singapore, a multiethnic nation which, again, is being re-defined by migration.

The panel on "Taiwan in International Disputes and Cross-Strait Relations" where Wen-cheng Lin (Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung) offered a comprehensive analysis of the problems that the DPP, as the main opposition party, encounters in Taiwan. Saša Istenic (University of Ljubljana) provided an analysis of the media reports, which also showed that the discourse is dominated by the big players, Japan and China. Finally, Misato Matsuoka (University of Warwick) asked whether Japanese-Taiwanese relations play a role in the Diaoyutai/Senkaku dispute. In a panel on cross-Strait Relations Shiao-chi Shen (National Tsing-hua University, Hsin-chu) examined the puzzling fact that in Taiwan the growing power of China in economic and political terms has been accompanied by the rapid decline of any "Chinese national

identity.” Jasper Green (University of Sussex) used a post-Gramscian approach to examine how two groups came into existence: “a state-bound Chinese Communist Party bureaucratic class” and Taiwan’s large enterprise-owning capitalist class, which successfully define the policy parameters of cross-Strait integration.

The panel “Law, Human Rights and Cultural Landscape” showed how diverse legal constructs developed in the early Republican era as well as in the ROC on Taiwan in the era of “divided China.” Here, Bi-yu Chang (SOAS London) in her paper described the Guomindang’s development of a model village, Chunghsing New Village in the middle of Taiwan. Barbora Platzerova (Univerzita Karlova v Praze) considered the difficult situation and the legal problems that arose after 1945, when (mainly) men from mainland China moved to Taiwan, and married again in Taiwan. The panel “Media and Identity” was opened by Bogdan Zemanek (Jagiellonian University at Cracow), who analyzed Taipei Times editorials during presidential campaigns 2000–2012. Vladimir Stolojan (Université Paris Diderot) offered a qualitative analysis of the ways in which various media dealt with the legacy and cultural memory of Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek/CKS) in Taiwan today. Finally, Jens Sejrup (University of Lund) showed how various Taiwanese politicians as well as the “green” media (independence-leaning) could engage as well as the Japanese media in propagating the pathos of positive Japanese continuity. Feng-yi Chu (Oxford University) conducted interviews to find out how people in Taiwan are able to claim a dual Taiwanese and Chinese identity.

In the panel “Historical and Contemporary Interconnectivity” Denisa Hilbertova (Charles University, Prague) analyzed the various caricatures of Jiang Jieshi that appeared in the Czechoslovak media in the late 1940s and 1950s. Ann Heylen (NTNU) explored the chances and challenges for career advances among Dutch VOC employees in Formosa. Lisa Bauer (Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen) investigated how and why Richard Lin’s (Lin Shouyu) work is being placed between the poles of modernity and tradition. Finally, Henning Klöter (Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen) put the spotlight on Guo Mingkun (1905–1943) — penname Guo Yizhou — to present a biographical contextualization of this “forgotten” 1930s language activist’s work. The “Election” Panel was opened by Naiteh Wu (Academia Sinica) who discussed the increasing influence of China on Taiwan’s elections. Dafydd Fell (SOAS) (and Yen-weng Peng) building on the results of empirical research and in-depth interviews sought to explain how one of the minor “prophetic” parties in Taiwan, the Green Party, despite many problems has been able to be still of importance. Malte Kaeding (University of Surrey) discussed the differences and similarities between Taiwan and Hong Kong in terms of social movements, party mobilization and the increasing influence of mainland China.

The Panel “Contact Zone in Literature and Popular Culture” was opened by Carsten Storm (University Erlangen) where he questioned the representation of “Japan” through the double mirror of an exoticized Taiwanese self in a Japanese garment. Federica Passi (Ca’ Foscari University Venice) looked at Taiwanese literature through the redefinition of a literary hierarchy; and Julia Schulz (Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen) analyzed linguistic and sociolinguistic aspects of English insertions in Taiwanese Mandarin.

The Panel “Public Diplomacy” was opened by Kristina Karvelyte who showed how the Taipei City Government is determined to rely on the cultural and creative sectors and turn Taipei into a “creative capital.” Colin Alexander (University of Nottingham-Trent) argued that there are many similarities between the public diplomacy of Taiwan and Scotland, Taiwan being a marginalized state and Scotland a “sub-state.” Shu-shiun Ku (University of Leeds) then examined the emergence of cultural and creative Industries in Taiwan from 2002 to 2008. Finally, Pei-yin Lin (University of Hong Kong) asked why and how Deng Lijun (Teresa Teng), one of the most famous singers in East Asia, including Japan and China, was used in

the ROC public diplomacy during the Cold War era. In the panel “Governance for What?”, among others, Ek-hong Ljavakaw Sia (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen) reported on the different governance strategies employed by NGOs after the destruction caused by Typhoon Marokat.

To summarize, the conference offered refreshing perspectives on the development in Taiwan studies bringing together scholars from Europe and Taiwan.

In 2015, the conference will take place at the Jagiellonian University at Cracow, and in 2016 at the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague.

Ann Heylen and Jens Damm

Regional Dynamics and Afghanistan in 2014

German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, 26.–27. May 2014

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

The workshop, which focused on regional dynamics concerning Afghanistan against the backdrop of the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops, was held at the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies on May 26 – 27, 2014. The workshop was organized under the framework of a project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) with the aim of promoting the bilateral cooperation between GIGA and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), India’s most important security think tank. Speakers from GIGA, IDSA and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH), Humboldt University, and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) participated in the workshop. This workshop was followed by a talk on India’s foreign and security policies at GIGA’s Berlin office on May 29, 2014.

The workshop put particular emphasis on the role of the countries in Afghanistan’s regional neighbourhood, which would be most affected by a further destabilization of Afghanistan and are seriously concerned about developments there. The international community has tried to promote “regional solutions” for Afghanistan and would like regional states to assume greater responsibilities. However, regional countries have not been able to develop meaningful forms of regional cooperation. At the same time, a flurry of “minilateral” diplomatic activities among these states shows that there is, at least, substantial interest in an exchange of information. The workshop specifically addressed the question of how domestic changes within Afghanistan and the withdrawal of international troops have impacted the perceptions and policies of regional actors and what this could imply for future regional cooperation.

The first panel was devoted to domestic and international developments in Afghanistan. Michael Brzoska (IFSH) discussed current developments in Afghanistan from a German perspective, while Rumel Dahiya (IDSA) provided an assessment of the situation from an Indian point of view. Further insights into domestic developments in Afghanistan were provided by Vishal Chandra (IDSA). Overall, the situation in Afghanistan is observed with a mix of concern and cautious optimism. Both European and South Asian observers agreed on the fragility of the security situation, but were of the view that the execution of presidential elections allows for some hope. Florian P. Kühn (Humboldt University) in his presentation discussed the way knowledge about Afghanistan is generated and reproduced by resorting to the concept of “myths.” Several myths drove the international peacebuilding efforts in Afghanistan, leading to attempts to create a centralized state as the only solution to monopolize violence.