

Student Workshop: Krakow Taiwanese Popular Culture in a Regional Context

Adina Zemanek

Following the success of the EATS Conference in Krakow in April 2015, the Institute of Middle and Far Eastern Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow hosted a student workshop entitled: “Taiwanese Popular Culture in a Regional Context” between 16 and 20 November 2015. It was sponsored by the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy as part of a grant aimed at promoting Taiwan Studies in Poland and strengthening Taiwan-related academic cooperation in Central and East Europe.



The workshop was devised as an intensive one-week elective course for students of Jagiellonian University and other universities in Poland and neighbouring countries. It was modelled after similar events organized in 2013 at Masaryk University in Brno (Czech Republic). Unlike the former, designed as an introductory course to Taiwan's history and culture, the Krakow workshop focused on several aspects of popular culture in Taiwan against the background of a constantly evolving local identity and the island's international connections. For this reason, the workshop was a continuation of the events in Brno, and in consequence placed Krakow within a network of universities that organize interrelated Taiwan Studies activities, and may increase student mobility within the region. Indeed, half of the thirty participants came from other universities, either in Poland (the University of Warsaw) or in Central European countries (Masaryk University, the University of Vienna, the University of Zagreb, and the University of Ljubljana). Among the participants were students who had also attended the Brno workshops and the 2015 EATS conference in Krakow, which testifies to a growing interest in Taiwan studies among young people from this area of Europe. Some of the issues touched upon during the Krakow workshop were continued and developed in two talks during the Vienna Lecture Series at the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies, also scheduled for November 2015.

The workshop was divided into five modules, each of which concerned a particular topic and was covered by one guest professor. Ann Heylen from National Taiwan Normal University gave an introduction to the history of Taiwan's relations with European and Asian powers from the 17th century until the end of the Second World War, which served as background for later modules. Chris Berry from King's College in London discussed Taiwanese cinema and its contribution to various national projects that involve local specificity, the island's Chinese ties and its Japanese colonial past. Astrid Lipinsky from the University of

Vienna addressed Taiwan's Confucian legacy, issues related to the family and women within a general Asian framework, with reference to television series from China and Taiwan. Loise Sang-Yeon Sung (University of Vienna) approached Taiwanese popular music, its influence in mainland China, as well as the reception of Korean and Japanese music in Taiwan. The workshop ended with a module led by Teri Silvio of Academia Sinica, which explored traditional performance arts in the context of new media and accounted for the way in which they incorporate elements of other cultures, reflect Taiwanese identity and are used to present Taiwanese culture to the world.



Discussions during the Q&A sessions and student presentations revealed that participants are familiar with specific aspects of Taiwanese popular culture, and that they already understand the complex intercultural connections and influences the workshop examined. Halina Kantecka from Jagiellonian University and Katharina Fischer from the University of Vienna supplemented the lectures on Confucianism and women with many further examples of Taiwanese TV dramas. Jure Čuk from the University of

Ljubljana captured the audience's attention with his love for Korean popular music and his obvious interest in its impact on Taiwan's music scene. Alicja Krzesz (Jagiellonian University) related information from Teri Silvio's lectures to Taiwanese Aboriginal cultures as sources of inspiration for contemporary performance arts. Duanzhi Duojie, a graduate student from Jagiellonian University, elaborated on the issue of identity by drawing upon his own experience as a Tibetan living in the PRC and studying in Poland.

Workshop participants also became acquainted with further sources that might broaden their knowledge of Taiwan and pursue Taiwan-related academic research in an international and regional context. These included short presentations concerning the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies, the *East Asian Journal for Popular Culture*, and the forthcoming EATS conference in Prague.

This event's success inspired ideas for future collaborative projects, such as a series of lectures and cultural activities to be held in November 2017 for students from Poland, Austria and Taiwan, jointly organised by Jagiellonian University, the University of Vienna and National Taiwan Normal University. A Taiwanese Studies Grant recently awarded to the Institute of Middle and Far Eastern Studies by the R.O.C. Ministry of Education will also facilitate the continuation of last year's workshop with similar activities concerning other aspects of Taiwanese culture.



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In 22-24 October 2015, researchers from seven Taiwanese and four European universities came together in Vienna for a three day conference on “Gender and Intersectionality” organised by the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies. The meeting reflects Austrian-Taiwanese cooperation and was funded by the Austrian Science Fund FWF and the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).



Back in September 2009, the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies organised the first Austrian-Taiwanese conference on the topic “Democratic Transition, Political Culture and Social Change”. It was part of a project calling for two conferences, one in each of the countries involved. Thus in September 2010, the Taiwanese counterpart at National Chengchi University hosted “Justice and Injustices in Transitional Societies: Taiwan and China”.

The Taiwanese counterpart for “Gender and Intersectionality in Taiwan and Austria” is Chang Jung Christian University and specifically its Taiwan Graduate Centre. Colleagues at this Centre will organise a conference on “Intersectionality in Globalizing Societies and Comparative Aspects” that will take place in Taiwan later this year.

The broader concept of intersectionality, popular since the late 1980s, encourages the involvement of gender, language and cultural studies. In their opening remarks to the 2015 Vienna conference, both Matthias Meyer, Dean of the Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna, and former Vice-Rector Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik emphasised the importance of taking a broad view of the Chinese speaking world beyond Mainland China, and highlighted the need for active international exchange with scholars from the region. The need for such exchange was further stressed by Taiwanese co-organiser Jens Damm (Chang Jung Christian University) with his call for future long-term joint research projects as a possible outcome of the conference.

During the conference, six panels addressed various aspects of intersectionality. Austrian speakers from the non-Asian field (Legal Gender Studies, Johannes Kepler University Linz; German Studies, University of Vienna) guaranteed a comparative and global perspective beyond Taiwan. Panels dealt with history, ethnicities, transnationality and migration, and film, among other topics.

While Weigelin-Schwiedrzik analysed the Chinese gender concept of *nannü* (men and women) in the 1920s, Jens Damm gave an overview of the more recent Taiwanese LGBTQ-discourse in Taiwan which has become globalised, for instance with a Pride parade attracting participants from around the world.

International
Conference Report:

“Gender & Intersectionality in Taiwan and Austria”

Astrid Lipinsky

Three presenters (Fu Yu-Wen, National University of Kaohsiung; Agnes Schick-Chen; and Astrid Lipinsky, both University of Vienna) used Taiwanese films to analyse patterns of transnational relationships. Their analysis of films was supplemented by a focus on literature (Anna Babka, University of Vienna, and Chuang Hui-tun, Chang Jung Christian University). Other presentations reflected the multi-ethnicity of intersectionality by extending the China/Taiwan view to Korea (Yoshihisa Amae, Chang Jung Christian University; Sabine Burghart and Sang-Yeon Loise Sung, both University of Vienna).

Hu Yu-Ying (Kaohsiung Medical University) reported on her research on the rise of the *zhongxing* (neutral) gender style among Taiwanese youth, presenting their distinctive selves beyond the male/female bipolarity but with implicit and explicit lesbian traits. Julia Ritirc (University of Vienna) dealt with the controversial Taiwanese discourse on same-sex marriage, while Tsai Fen-Fang (National Central University) and Rosa Enn (University of Vienna) analysed populations of non-urban women, also concentrating on ethnic identities.



Ho Pei-Ying (National Taiwan University of Science and Technology) traced the development of gender studies in Taiwan's graduate schools. She described the underrepresentation of female/feminist philosophers in Taiwan's academia, which limits students' access to gender related courses and research. Elisabeth Greif (Johannes Kepler Universität Linz) then took participants to the European Court of Human Rights, highlighting a number of exemplary cases of multidimensional discrimination. This is a form of jurisdictional discrimination that can only be fully understood through intersectional approaches. Linda Arrigo (Taipei Medical University, retired) then closed the final panel with her very personal oral history approach to homosexuality and AIDS, describing important contradictions in traditional Taiwanese society.

The final discussion called for intensified comparative studies that might function as a bridge between Austria and Taiwan. In addition, participants agreed on the importance of including men/male perspectives into the gender and intersectionality field of study. A globalised awareness was clearly identified in numerous presentations and discussions throughout the conference. Selected papers will be published in the peer-reviewed academic journal “Vienna Taiwan Studies Series” in 2016. The volume is currently open to contributions from other authors, and the call for papers is available at http://www.tsc-conference.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/p_tsc_conference/documents/cfp_tscconf.pdf.

Finally, a follow-up conference is scheduled to take place in Taiwan in the second half of 2016. In the meantime, organisers and participants agreed to disseminate their research more broadly.

Besides the vivid academic discussions during the panels, the conference's evening events allowed for personal exchanges of experience in this highly complex and multifaceted research field. The Vienna Taipei Economic and Cultural Office sponsored a conference dinner and the meeting's programme was completed by the showing of two related films: Max Ophüls's *Letter from an Unknown Woman* (1948) and Xu Jinglei's *Yi ge mosheng nuren de lai xin* (2004), both based on Stefan Zweig's novella of the same name. An opening lecture on “Post-Chinese Visions in Taiwan Film” was given by Hsien-Hao Sebastian Liao (National Taiwan University) as part of the Vienna Taiwan Lecture Series. The films and lecture connected with the conference through their focus on questions of identity and how these are resolved by different media in different periods.

For more information on the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies, including the complete conference programme, see <http://tsc.univie.ac.at>. Selected conference photos are available at <http://www.tsc-conference.univie.ac.at/photos/>.

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Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies Lecture Series

Since October 2015, the Vienna Center for Taiwan Studies successfully hosted three speakers for its Vienna Taiwan Lecture series under the year's theme: "Perceiving Taiwan: Literature, Media and Film". Sebastian Liao (National Taiwan University), Ann Heylen (National Taiwan Normal University) and Chris Berry (King's College London, UK) delivered talks on cultural development in Taiwan from the perspectives of Japanese portrayed in Taiwanese cinema. These talks were accompanied by film screenings, including *Kano* (dir. Ma Chi-hsiang, 2014), *Formosa Betrayed* (dir. Adam Kane, 2009), *Sayon's Bell* (dir. Hiroshi Shimizu, 1943), *City of Sadness* (dir. Hou Hsiao-Hsien, 1989) and *A Borrowed Life* (dir. Wu Nien-chen, 1995). A book addressing this fascinating cultural history, based on contributions to the 2015 Vienna Taiwan Lecture series, is currently in preparation. Information and call for papers can be accessed: <http://tsc.univie.ac.at/cfp/>

In the coming term (March–June 2016), the "Perceiving Taiwan" topic will focus on Taiwanese literature. All presentations are open to the public and will be videotaped for wider distribution:

- 13 April 2016, Bruce Jacobs (University of Melbourne), "Taiwan is not China: Aborigines, colonial rulers and democratisation in the history of the beautiful island"
- 11 May 2016, Carsten Storm (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg), "Mapping imaginary spaces in Li Yongping's *Jiling Chronicles*"
- 8 June 2016, Denisa Hilbertova (Masaryk University), "Taiwan in Czechoslovak communist propaganda caricatures, 1948-1989"
- 15 June 2016, Li Shu-chun (Kaohsiung Medical University), "Taiwan literature and Taiwan New Cinema"
- 18 June 2016, Li Shu-chun (Kaohsiung Medical University), "Autobiographies by Dang-wai movement women"

For additional information or to register, please contact astrid.lipinsky@univie.ac.at.

Vienna Taiwan Studies Series Volume 3: "Gender & Intersectionality in Taiwan and Austria" CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Editors: Jens Damm and Astrid Lipinsky

Contributions will be part of an edited volume based on the conference of the same title at the University of Vienna, 22–24 October 2015. Please refer to the presentation topics in the conference programme draft at <http://www.tsc-conference.univie.ac.at> before you submit to prevent duplication.

The book will be published as Volume 3 in the Vienna Taiwan Studies Series. The Series is an annual journal as well as a book series. The manuscripts are peer-reviewed. Intersectionality, introduced by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989, is a framework that should be applied to all social justice work. It is a frame recognizing the multiple aspects of identity that enrich our lives and experiences and that compound and complicate oppressions and marginalizations. The intersectional perspective underlines the fact that most oppression is multiple. Intersectional gender analysis needs to include issues of race, class, ethnicity, or age, among others. The volume applies intersectionality to gender issues in Austria (Europe) and Taiwan (Asia, Confucian culture, post-colonial society). A cross-cultural comparative approach is encouraged. Potential topics can include (not inclusive):

Format:

1. Please submit all files in word.doc or .docx format and have them proofread by a native speaker. We do not provide language correction.
2. Please apply the format guidelines presented in a separate file.

Deadlines:

as soon as possible: announcement of your contribution (title + short abstract) to astrid.lipinsky@univie.ac.at

30 April 2016: electronic submission of full paper (7000–10000 words) to astrid.lipinsky@univie.ac.at

- intersectionality in literature and film
- ethnicities in an intersectional perspective
- applying intersectionality to historical gender issues
- gender violence
- intersectionality in law
- gender, labor and nationality issues
- migration and marriage migration(s)

Vienna Taiwan Studies Series
Volume 4:
“The Japanese in Taiwanese and Chinese Cinema”
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Editors: Astrid Lipinsky (University of Vienna) & Yu-Wen Fu (National Kaohsiung University)

The volume will include contributions by Sebastian Liao, National Taiwan University and Ann Heylen, National Taiwan Normal University. Consultant: Chris Berry, King’s College London, UK

The portrayal of Japanese people in Chinese and Taiwanese films differs widely. Whereas in Chinese films, Japanese are shown as military aggressors, they play a much more positive role in Taiwanese films. While the Japanese are part of China’s World War II history, they are fondly remembered as colonial masters in Taiwan, and are also part of Taiwanese daily life today. The characters of Japanese in Taiwanese films are related to issues of national identity as well as to cross-strait debates. Films can be used to address questions of ethnicity, rural-urban divides, or differences between generations. The use of language – Japanese, Chinese, but also Taiwanese and diverse aboriginal languages – is also a prominent characteristic of Taiwanese film.

The editors welcome more general papers as well as ones focused on one director or even a single film. „Film“ is broadly understood and includes TV dramas. Methodologies of cultural studies should be applied.

Length of paper: 9,000 – 15,000 words

Language: English

Papers must be reviewed by a native speaker **BEFORE** submission

Format: Please adhere to the guidelines found at http://tsc.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/p_TaiwanStudyCenter/downloads/formalia.pdf

Deadlines and Timetable:

- 30 April 2016: submission of 300 words abstract with title and author’s affiliation to astrid.lipinsky@univie.ac.at
- 15 May 2016: notification of acceptance
- 30 October 2016: submission of full text as word-document (.doc) to astrid.lipinsky@univie.ac.at
- 30 December 2016: peer review results
- 2017: publication

The 22nd North America Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA)
10-11 June 2016
University of Toronto in Toronto, Canada

The 22nd NATSA Conference will take place in June 2016 in Canada. The theme of the conference is “Taiwan Studies in Trans* Perspectives: Transdisciplinary, Transnational, and Transcultural”. NATSA welcomes scholars interested in studying Taiwan from all disciplines and explores how Taiwan—as a case, a theory, or even a method—can further transform current knowledge constructs toward an inclusive global vision.

The conference theme opens up new approaches to encourage scholars of Taiwan Studies to boldly transgress disciplinary boundaries and cull perspectives from various intellectual communities. Of all the relevant trans* themes in this conference, participants are encouraged, but not limited, to set transdisciplinarity, transnationality, and transculturalism as a point of reference. **Transdisciplinarity** is not only a series of cross-