

2018 Spotlight Taiwan in Estonia: Roundtable for Taiwan Scholars in the Baltic Region

Organized by the School of Humanities of Tallinn University and the Taipei Mission in the
Republic of Latvia

12-13 October 2018

The purpose of this academic roundtable is to provide a platform for Taiwan Scholars in Baltic countries and Finland to meet, network and share information about their research both in formal and informal settings. Research about Taiwan is currently done in many fields, ranging from foreign policy to religion and sociology. Too often scholars working on distinct fields have not established sufficient links between one another. The purpose of this roundtable is to create a platform to bring together various initiatives and to create awareness that these independent initiatives can make mutual contributions when they are seen through the lens of Taiwan Studies. Across different universities, countries, and academic fields, the Taiwan Studies framework can provide novel opportunities for cooperation, for generating new resources, and for pursuing new openings together. Thus, this occasion also provides opportunities to discuss future activities to consolidate Taiwan Studies as a specific field of research in the region.

Roundtable for Taiwan Scholars in the Baltic Region

Saturday October 13

10:00-13:00 Roundtable for Taiwan Scholars in the Baltic Region, open session,

Mare Building M-134

13:00-14:00 Lunch at Mare 3rd floor atrium

14:00-18:00 Closed sessions at Mare Building M-328

Opening words:

Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia and from the director of the Institute of Humanities of Tallinn University Tõnu Viik.

Keynote speech: Taru Salmenkari on the topic: Civil society in Taiwan.

The chair for the Open session of the Taiwan Roundtable:

Alexander Horstmann, Associate Professor of Southeast Asian Studies at School of Humanities, Tallinn University.

Main research interest focuses on refugee studies, humanitarianism and state-society relations in Southeast Asia and Southwest China. He is the co-editor of the Routledge Handbook of Asian Borderland Studies (2018) and Building Noah's Ark for Migrants, Refugees and Religious Communities (Palgrave, 2015). Some of his works are translated into Chinese.

Participants:

Frank Kraushaar, Professor, University of Latvia

Various cooperation formats with Taiwanese partners since 2007. A few examples of many achievements include:

- 2008 Conference at UL: Western Perspectives on East Asian Culture from the 17th to the 21st century (Chiang Ching-kuo Found., Taipei Mission)
- 2010 - 2013 Institutional Enhancement Grant ``Baltic Research Library for East Asian Studies at the National Library of Latvia (AsiaRes)``
- 2015 - 2018 Regular ``Library acquisition grants`` from CCKF to support the development of AsiaRes Baltic Research Library for East Asian Studies

Agita Baltgalve, Associate Professor of Sinology, University of Latvia, Department of Asian Studies

Tight contacts with many Taiwanese institutions. Some of the examples of activities and projects are as follows:

- 2000 Publication of the book „Way of Ancestors” 原道 (a Latvian translation of classical Chinese essays)
- 2013 Eight months field research in Academia Sinica about the Chinese short prose of Six Dynasties
- 2014 - 2018 publications of the „Modern Chinese Textbook” (现代汉语教程); „Classical Chinese Textbook” (文言文入門) and „Modern Chinese Short Stories” (当代华文作品精选).

Justina Razumaite (Luo Siting), lecturer of Vilnius University, Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies

Master studies at National Chengchi University (2005-2009). Presented a paper on Taiwanese identity development in international conference in Kaunas and gave a lecture in Turku University (Finland) about China-Taiwan relations. Additional practical experience from having been a desk officer for China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Eiki Berg, Professor of International Relations, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu

General focus on critical geopolitics and the studies of borders and border regions. His research on East and Southeast Asia focuses on cross-strait relations between mainland China and Taiwan. He has published widely in leading peer-reviewed journals. He is currently writing a research paper: “Will the Improved Cross-strait Relations Lead to the Legitimation of ‘One China Policy’?” (<http://auke.ee/en/specialist/eiki-berg/>)

Märt Läänemets, Associate Professor of Oriental Studies, Institute of Cultural Research, University of Tartu

Research interests in Taiwan studies cover History of Taiwan in general and “Taiwanization” topics in particular, i.e. those chapters of the history of Taiwan related to forming and establishing Taiwanese people and their strong feeling of identity. Also modern trends in Taiwanese inner and foreign policy and Buddhism in Taiwan. Since 2003 many essays and reports have been published on these topics in Estonian magazines and newspapers. Not to mention many lectures and lecture courses in recent years.

Peeter Mürsepp, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Tallinn University of Technology

Close contacts with Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology in Tainan City. Participated at the STUST Business School annual conference „Knowledge-Based Economy & Global Management“ for five times and taught a master level course there on Globalisation and Europeanisation.

Taru Salmenkari, researcher, University of Helsinki

Has done research on Taiwanese civil society in 2010 and 2012-2013 on Taiwan Foundation for Democracy and on MOFA Taiwan Fellowship when she was hosted by Chang Jung University in Tainan. Has published the book “Civil society in China and Taiwan: Agency, class, and boundaries” which was published by Routledge in 2018.

Grace I-An Gao, PhD student, University of Helsinki

Research about Indigenous Peoples and how indigeneity is tackled in the policy framing in the context of long-term care. In 2017 she taught an online course pertaining to Indigenous ways of knowing at MacEwan University, Canada and in the spring of 2018 two courses concerning Taiwan Indigenous Peoples in Austronesia in Palacký University, Czech Republic. In Autumn of 2018 she will be co-organizing a couple of courses/mentoring in the Ethnic Relations, Cultural

Diversity and Integration (ERI) program and Master's Programme in Contemporary Societies (COS).

Presentations in the open session

Frank Kraushaar

- Reading without end: the humanities and their importance in creating open spaces in and between Baltic societies and the sinophone world.

Märt Läänemets

- 1895 in Taiwan: Birth and Collapse of the Republic of Formosa (臺灣民主國) or 'Creation of Pure Land on the Earth': Buddhism in Modern Taiwan.

Grace I-An Gao

- Taking care as an initial inquiry as self-determination: a case from Indigenous peoples in Taiwan

Taru Salmenkari

- Journey from history to memory with Taiwanese social movements

Closed session

Closed session among invited participants to discuss possibilities to develop some Baltic projects, for example a lecture series on Taiwan in our universities, conference panels, research cooperation etc.