



NATIONAL TAIWAN NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Featured Research Newsletter

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International Taiwan Studies Center, NTNU

國際臺灣學研究中心

The International Taiwan
Studies Center at NTNU



A Global Hub for
Taiwan-Focused Research

Photographed by Rong Lee.

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FEATURE NEWS

ITSC Introduction

The International Taiwan Studies Center at NTNU: A Global Hub for Taiwan-Focused Research

The International Taiwan Studies Center (ITSC) at National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) has served as a cornerstone for promoting Taiwan-focused research in the humanities and social sciences since its establishment in 2009. Originally founded by Professor Ann Heylen from the Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages, and Literature, ITSC underwent significant growth under the leadership of Professors Nikki Lin and Hui-Ju Hsu, who served as Center Directors from 2020 to 2023. In 2023, Professor Heylen reassumed the directorship, joined by Associate Professor Yin C. Chuang as Deputy Director, strengthening ITSC's renewed mission to elevate the global presence of Taiwan Studies.

ITSC bolsters NTNU's standing as a premier global hub by fostering collaborations

with leading Taiwan Studies centers worldwide. One of its most notable achievements is the 2017 NTNU-UCLA Taiwan Studies Initiative, spearheaded by UCLA Chair Professor Shu-Mei Shih, which created a dynamic platform for academic exchange, joint conferences, and influential publications. This initiative continues to shape Taiwan Studies on an international scale.

The Ministry of Education's Higher Education Sprout Project has further energized ITSC's mission. In 2023, the Center supported a robust 29-member team of scholars dedicated to expanding academic networks and building enduring connections in Taiwan Studies globally.

► For more information about the ITSC team and their groundbreaking work, visit their [official team page](#).



Internationalization

- Organizing International Conferences and Workshops
- Hosting Short-Term Research Stays for Visiting Researchers
- Supporting Students Conducting Research Abroad



Research

- Conducting Research Programs on an Interdisciplinary Basis
- Arranging National Conferences and Lectures
- Publishing International Journals Related to Taiwan and East Asia Studies



Service

- Integrating Resources in the Field of Taiwan Studies throughout NTNU
- Holding Lectures or Forums within NTNU
- Fostering international learning through the NTNU Mandarin Training Centre

ITSC's Goals and Strategies

Integration of Theoretical Development and Thematic Sub-fields

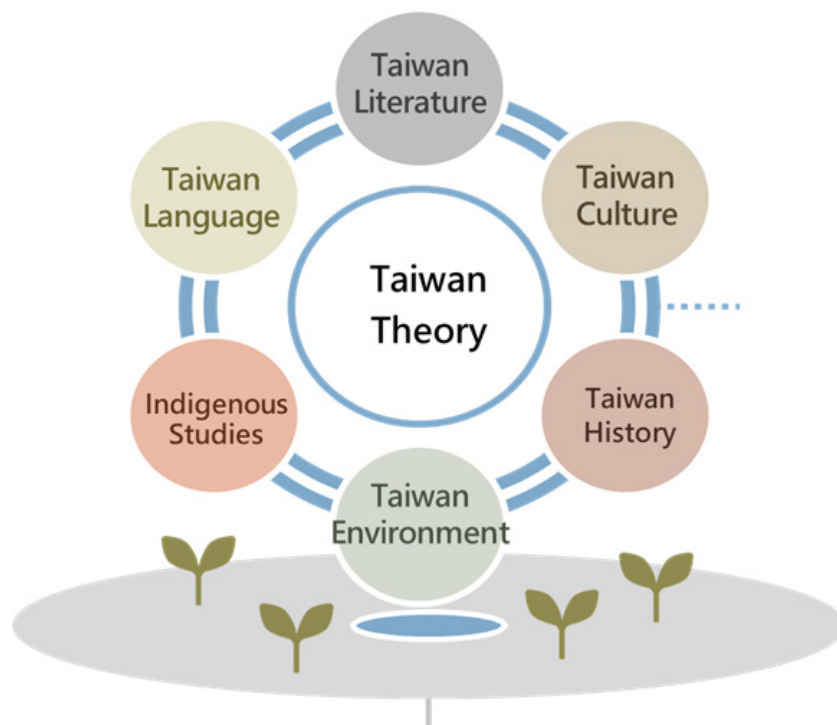
ITSC focuses on theoretical development and six thematic areas: Taiwan Literature, Culture, Languages, History and Society, Indigenous Studies, and Environmental Studies. These fields derive from Taiwan's core identity, rooted in land, people, and culture, offering a complementary and holistic understanding of Taiwan.

From Specificity to Universal Theories

The specificities of Taiwan serve as a basis for developing universal theories, which provide analytical frameworks and tools for Taiwan Studies. This dynamic interplay between theory and thematic fields enhances the study of Taiwan.

Global Contribution through Taiwan's Theories

ITSC aims to integrate Taiwan's theories into global academic discourse, moving beyond Western-centric perspectives and allowing Taiwan to make significant scholarly contributions internationally.



ITSC Introduction

Advancing Taiwan's Cultural Legacy ITSC's Contributions to Sustainability and Innovation

The ITSC is at the forefront of preserving and advancing Taiwan's cultural heritage through impactful projects that promote sustainability and innovation. The Center's initiatives highlight its commitment to sharing Taiwan's unique cultural narratives with the world.

Promoting Taiwan's Cultural Knowledge

ITSC is dedicated to making Taiwan's humanities research accessible to a wider public. The Center facilitates collaborations across publishing, media, film, cultural industries, and community initiatives to deepen public understanding of Taiwan's heritage. Through these partnerships, ITSC is helping to ensure that Taiwan's rich history and vibrant stories reach global audiences.

Industry-Academia Partnerships

In 2024, ITSC completed three landmark projects aimed at fostering a sense of national identity. These projects included translating Taiwanese literature for publication in the United States, reviving Indigenous voices from the 1960s, and preserving traditional Yami (Tao) music. Through these initiatives, ITSC underscores the importance of cultural preservation and the dynamic role of Taiwan's diverse voices.

Digital Outreach and Multimedia Development

ITSC has expanded its digital footprint to engage audiences both locally and internationally. The Center has produced educational video series, created a talent pool for creative writers, and hosted public workshops. Additionally, ITSC has developed multilingual textbooks, popular science books on Taiwan studies, and interactive materials—including digital platforms, games, and online resources—to make Taiwan's cultural content accessible to diverse audiences and foster a deeper appreciation for Taiwan's heritage.

Interview

Shaping the Future of Taiwan Studies: Professor Shu-Mei Shih and the UCLA-NTNU Taiwan Studies Initiative



Professor Shu-Mei Shih, an accomplished NTNU alumna, Chair Professor in the Department of Taiwanese Culture, Languages and Literature at NTNU, and Ministry of Education Yushan Fellow, has played a transformative role in fostering Taiwan studies on the global stage. Her efforts have not only established the UCLA Taiwan Studies Program as a leading center for Taiwan-related research and academic exchange but have also strengthened cross-institutional ties between UCLA and NTNU.

Prof. Shih's journey began in 2012 when she and her colleague, Professor Frank Chang, were inspired

by the Taiwan Studies Center at UC Santa Barbara. They proposed creating a similar program at UCLA. While initial funding challenges delayed progress, their determination laid the groundwork for a resilient initiative.

Returning to UCLA in 2016, Prof. Shih joined forces with Professor Min Zhou to reinvigorate the project. Their collaborative efforts culminated in the 2017 UCLA-NTNU Taiwan Studies Initiative, a landmark partnership that continues to thrive. The initiative facilitates student and faculty exchanges, hosts joint academic conferences—including the annual Taiwan Studies Conference at UCLA—

and supports collaborative research and publications, such as the "Sinophone and Taiwan Studies" book series.

Backed by substantial support from Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a \$2 million endowment from the J Young Foundation, the initiative has expanded its scope and impact. It enables students to engage in cross-cultural fieldwork and fosters an academic dialogue that bridges continents. Prof. Shih's visionary leadership continues to shape the future of Taiwan studies, ensuring that Taiwan's diverse culture, history, and narratives receive the global recognition they deserve.



Figure 1: Participants of the UCLA-NTNU Taiwan Studies 2019 International Conference.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATION

ITSC's Book Series: Sinophone and Taiwan Studies

Exploring Global Sinophone and Taiwan Studies: Bridging Cultures, Identities, and Histories

This groundbreaking book series, created in collaboration between the ITSC team and the renowned academic publisher Springer Nature, is dedicated to presenting leading research in the humanities and social sciences focused on Sinophone communities and cultures in Taiwan and around the world. Since its inception in 2020, the series has published six influential volumes, each garnering a significant readership and download count. These volumes include:

- *Indigenous Knowledge in Taiwan and Beyond*
- *Envisioning Environmental Literacy: Action and Outreach*
- *Taiwan Literature in the 21st Century*
- *The Legacy of Indigenous Music*
- *Mediatized Taiwanese Mandarin*
- *Ecotourism: Environment, Health, and Education*



By uniting Sinophone and Taiwan Studies, this series goes beyond conventional approaches to offer readers broad, comparative, and transnational insights into the diversity of these communities. Key themes include the dynamic interplay between local and global influences, the intersections of various forms of identity (national, cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, linguistic, religious, and sexual), and a focus on multiculturalism and creolization. The series also explores the politics and economics of culture, diasporic and anti-diasporic experiences, various forms of colonial and postcolonial histories, including settler and neo-colonial impacts, and the significance of indigeneity.

Through this expansive scope, the series provides fresh perspectives and aims to deepen understanding of the complexities within Sinophone and Taiwanese communities worldwide. The ITSC team looks forward to continuing this impactful work, with future volumes that will further enrich and expand the field.

► [Read more about the series here.](#)

ITSC's Journal: East Asian Journal of Popular Culture

An International Platform Bridging East and West Through the Study of East Asian Popular Culture



East Asian Journal
of Popular Culture

Volume 8 Number 2



The East Asian Journal of Popular Culture (EAJPC), published by ITSC in collaboration with Intellect (UK), is the first peer-reviewed academic journal devoted exclusively to the study of East Asia's popular culture. With ISSN 2051-7084 (Online ISSN 2051-7092), EAJPC serves as a key platform for scholars, educators, and students worldwide who share an active interest in the vibrant and influential landscape of East Asian popular culture.

EAJPC meets the growing demand for an international forum that connects Western and Asian perspectives across a range of disciplines, including film, media, literature, music, fashion, digital media, television, art, and culture. The journal's mission is to promote a dynamic exchange of ideas that highlights both

localized studies of specific trends, figures, and industries and broader discussions of East Asian popular culture's global influence.

This blend of localized and global outlooks provides a rich discourse on East Asia's cultural impact on contemporary issues, addressing the significant role of Asian visual and cultural products in the international market. EAJPC thus invites diverse articles that explore how East Asian popular culture shapes and reflects global dialogues.

► For more information, please click [here](#).

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

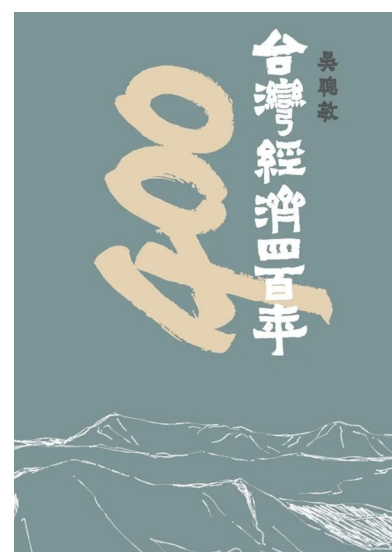
Publication News

Four Hundred Years of Taiwan's Economy

by Tsung-Min Wu

From 1624 to the late Qing dynasty, Taiwan had a traditional, underdeveloped agricultural economy. When Japan took control in 1895, the Governor-General's Office launched major infrastructure projects, including public health initiatives, land surveys, and a modern transportation system, sparking Taiwan's economic transformation. By the mid-colonial period, Taiwan had shifted to a modern economy, with rising income levels.

After World War II, the economy stagnated under state controls, but U.S. aid from 1950 to 1965 helped relax these controls, allowing a return to a market economy. By the early 1960s, Taiwan began its path of rapid economic growth, a phenomenon often described as an economic miracle, offering valuable insights into economic development.

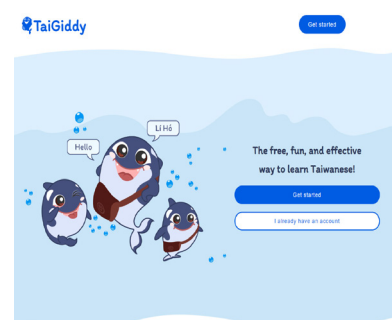


TaiGiddy: The World's First Gamified Taiwanese Learning Website

By Hui-Ju Hsu & Cheng-Hsien Liu

Developed by Professors Hui-Ju Hsu and Cheng-Hsien Liu, TaiGiddy is a gamified platform designed for foreign learners to study the Taiwanese language. By incorporating challenges and a scoring system, it offers an engaging, interactive learning experience. The project has also resulted in two academic publications: Cheng-Hsien Liu's research on “假-ê versus 假-ê” and Hui-Ju Hsu's study on the Taiwanese experience of Waishengren.

► Website: [TaiGiddy](https://tai.giddy.com)



Publication News

Fading Shadows of the Japanese Era: Taiwan Across Two Historical Epochs

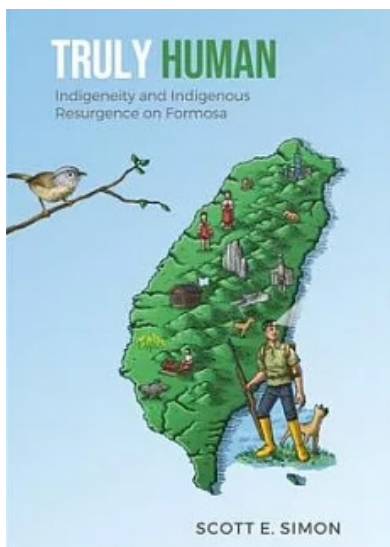
by Chu-Mei Lin, Jun Shozawa, Kiyoteru Ishii



This book examines Taiwan during the Japanese colonial period and the Kuomintang (KMT) era before Taiwan's democratization in the late 1970s. While Japan's history is often divided into pre-war and post-war periods, Taiwan's "post-war" period did not truly begin in 1945, as it remained in a "wartime" state for some time after. Understanding contemporary Taiwan requires engaging with the democratization that followed these two historical eras, which laid the foundation for today's society. This book offers insights into Taiwan's complex past and encourages further exploration of its history.

Truly Human: Indigeneity and Indigenous Resurgence on Formosa

by Scott E. Simon



This book explores the lifeworlds of the Sediq and Truku Indigenous peoples of Formosa (modern-day Taiwan), whose ancestors emerged from Pusu Qhuni, a sacred highland boulder. Guided by the law of Gaya, they sought harmony with humans, spirits, animals, and plants, emphasizing community sharing over personal gain. Colonialism and capitalism disrupted their way of life in the 20th century. Based on two decades of fieldwork, Simon examines their teachings, struggles for recognition, and relationships with non-human animals, offering insights into human rights, sovereignty, and the relevance of Indigenous wisdom today.

Publication News

Transcending Time and Space: Han Hsiang-ning

by Shih-Ming Pai

This book introduces the renowned artist Han Hsiang-ning, born in 1939 in Chongqing, Sichuan. After moving to Taiwan, Han enrolled at Taiwan Provincial Teachers College (now NTNU) in 1958, where he developed a foundation in realism and Impressionism but soon embraced a surrealist and avant-garde style. In 1961, he gained international attention by participating in the São Paulo Biennial and the Paris Biennale for Young Artists. Han's experimentation led him to pioneer abstract art with geometric forms, and by the late 1960s, after moving to New York, he developed his signature "atypical photorealism." Han's innovative journey spans various artistic styles, from surrealism to minimalism, and incorporates modern cross-disciplinary techniques like film, digital imagery, and light installations. His work continues to evolve, transcending time, space, and artistic boundaries.



Card-Based Writing: A Simple and Effective Approach to Gamified Writing Instruction

by Zhi-Hong Chen

This book explores the growing trend of using educational board and card games in classrooms, offering a gamified approach to writing instruction. These interactive tools not only capture attention with their visual and tactile appeal but also promote peer collaboration and competition, making learning more engaging. While board games hold great potential as educational tools, their true effectiveness lies in their ability to align with the core concepts of a subject. When properly integrated with writing skills and knowledge, they can provide a rich and meaningful learning experience for both teachers and students.



Super Taiwanese Primer

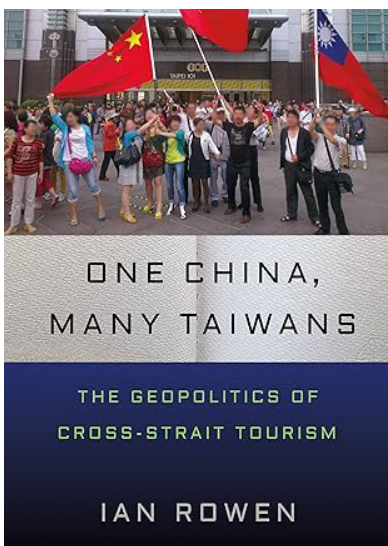
by Seng-Hian Lau



This book offers topic-based conversations with translations and vocabulary. Each syllable is marked with musical notes to indicate tone patterns. In addition to vowels, consonants, and tone sandhi for words, it covers sentence-level tone sandhi rules. Unique features include treating common function words and sentence patterns as independent units, explaining grammar, and providing online resources like dictionaries and input methods. Daily slang and idioms are also included.

One China, Many Taiwans: The Geopolitics of Cross-Strait Tourism

by Ian Rowan



One China, Many Taiwans shows how tourism performs and transforms territory. In 2008, as the People's Republic of China pointed over a thousand missiles across the Taiwan Strait, it sent millions of tourists in the same direction with the encouragement of Taiwan's politicians and businesspeople. Contrary to the PRC's efforts to use tourism to incorporate Taiwan into an imaginary "One China," tourism aggravated tensions between the two polities, polarized Taiwanese society, and pushed Taiwanese popular sentiment farther toward support for national self-determination.

Consequently, Taiwan was performed as a part of China for Chinese group tourists versus experienced as a place of everyday life. Taiwan's national identity grew increasingly plural, such that

not just one or two, but many Taiwans coexisted, even as it faced an existential military threat. Ian Rowan's treatment of tourism as a political technology provides a new theoretical lens for social scientists to examine the impacts of tourism in the region and worldwide.

"BEST ME" Teacher's Social and Emotional Learning Handbook

This handbook introduces teachers and general readers to social and emotional learning (SEL), offering practical tools for self-awareness and self-management to improve well-being. It combines neuroscience, mindfulness, emotional regulation, and strength-building strategies to guide readers toward personal growth.

The book's six key units include:

1. Pandora's Box of the Brain: Understanding how emotions and trauma shape behavior.
2. From Recognition to Regulation: Learning to perceive and manage emotions effectively.
3. Unleashing My Strengths (U4): Identifying and nurturing personal strengths.
4. Life Beyond Survival: Building resilience through stress management.
5. Life's Blueprint: Cultivating gratitude, awe, and a growth mindset.
6. Piloting the SEL Spaceship: Practical strategies for integrating SEL in teaching environments.



課程內容



Unit 1
大腦的潘朶拉盒子
Below the Surface
大腦、壓力、情緒、身體之間的關係

Brain



Unit 2
R&R 之間 · 辨識到調節
Recognize to Regulate
情緒靈敏度、做自己情緒的主人

Emotion



Unit 3
我的優勢 (U4) 力
Dare to be Different
亮點的神奇力量

Strength



Unit 4
生活不只是生存
Living or Surviving
再忙，也要留點時間照顧自己

Time for self



Unit 5
人生的藍圖
Growth and Fixed
歸屬到理想，人生的意義在哪裡？

Meaning



Unit 6
駕駛 SEL 宇宙飛船
Theory to Practice
從理論到實務，種下 SEL 種子

Education



Reviving Indigenous Soundscapes: “Hearing 1967” and the Reconstruction of Taiwan's Traditional Music

The musical traditions of Taiwan's Indigenous peoples have increasingly garnered attention in recent years, as the importance of preserving their cultural heritage grows. However, many of these songs have faded from memory, no longer commonly sung within the tribes. To address this, Professor Yu-Xiu Lü's sub-project “Reconstructing and Sustaining Indigenous Traditional Music” is working to revive and preserve these musical traditions that are at risk of disappearing.

Through this project, traditional Indigenous songs recorded before 1967 have been collected, preserved, and reintroduced to the tribes. As part of this effort, two albums have been released: “Hearing 1967: Malan Amis” and

“Hearing 1967: Koushe Paiwan”. These albums, along with a concert and press conference titled “Hearing 1967: Recreating the Sounds of the 1960s Indigenous Voices”, are aimed at encouraging younger generations of Indigenous peoples to continue the transmission of these vital cultural sounds.

On July 3, 2024, National Taiwan Normal University hosted a performance presentation showcasing the achievements of the 1960s Indigenous Voices Reproduction Publishing Project. This event not only celebrated the revival of these ancient songs but also highlighted the importance of keeping Indigenous cultural practices alive for future generations.



Figure 2: On July 3, 2024, National Taiwan Normal University hosted a performance presentation showcasing the achievements of the 1960s Indigenous Voices Reproduction Publishing Project.

Engagement News

Bagua Daoyin Energizes the Body and Mind, Bringing Joy to Life!

"The Comprehensive Guide to Multi-Modal Bagua Daoyin Exercises" is a fitness program developed by Professor Yu-Kai Chang, the principal investigator of this sub-project at our center. This program combines Eastern body philosophy and Western brain science to create a unique fitness regimen called Bagua Daoyin. The book integrates research findings from Western exercise science and brain science with the cultural art of Eastern Bagua Zhang to help readers achieve brain health and a vibrant life.

In the book, Professor Chang emphasizes the cognitive benefits of Bagua Daoyin, noting that fitness exercises, cognitive training, nutrition, sleep, and meditation can all effectively

enhance cognitive function and alter brain structure and function. Bagua Daoyin is based on these principles, offering a comprehensive workout through eight movements that train the body while also incorporating social interaction and mindfulness meditation. The goal is to achieve holistic "brain health," "physical fitness," and "emotional well-being."

How can one practice Bagua Daoyin and reap these benefits? The book itself is a treasure trove of practical guidance! It provides step-by-step written and illustrated instructions, along with QR code videos, allowing readers to learn and practice Bagua Daoyin anytime and anywhere. Enjoy and practice to enhance and maintain brain health, achieving a joyful and healthy life!



Figure 3: The book launch for the "The Comprehensive Guide to Multi-Modal Bagua Daoyin Exercises" was held on February 1, 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 5th World Congress of Taiwan Studies



We are excited to announce the upcoming conference, "Taiwan in a Changing World: Past, Present, and Future," which aims to explore the dynamic relationships between Taiwan and the world across history and into the future. Scholars and experts are invited to share their insights on a wide array of topics, including history, archeology, linguistics, sociology, political science, economics, literature, philosophy, and other disciplines within the humanities and social sciences.

This conference aspires to foster an intellectual platform for global Taiwan studies communities, encouraging a multidisciplinary dialogue that bridges diverse perspectives.

For detailed information on conference themes and subtopics, please visit the official website: https://wctsv.project.sinica.edu.tw/english/english_index.html.

We look forward to your participation in this enriching academic exchange!

International Workshop on Advanced Learning Sciences - IWALS 2024



IWALS is an international conference organized annually by an international program committee. It attracts a diverse group of multi-disciplinary researchers and practitioners involved in the fields of psychology, linguistics, cognitive neuroscience, psychometrics, science education, digital learning, and learning sciences. In the past, IWALS had been held in Finland, the USA, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Malaysia. This year, it will be held physically in Vietnam.

On behalf of the Organising Committee, we are pleased to invite you to the 10th International Workshop on Advanced Learning Sciences which will be held physically in Vietnam. The 2024 IWALS will be held from December 14 to December 15. Please keep this event in your diary. The workshop includes the Keynote Speech, Invited Symposium, Invited Talk, Paper presentations, and Poster Presentations.

Topics of interest for submission include, but are not limited to:

• Learning Sciences

- Computational, Sociological, Anthropological, and Cognitive Neuroscience Approaches to the Study of Learning
- Language Development and Language Impairment
- Reading Development and Reading Impairment
- Evaluation and Assessment in Learning
- Technology and Learning

- **STEM Education and Technology**

- STEM/STEAM Education at the K-12 and University Levels
- Conceptual Understanding (Including theories, models, and empirical results on conceptual understanding, conceptual change, approaches to learning in science, methodology for investigating students' processes of concept formation and concept use, and strategies to promote conceptual development)
- Science Teaching Processes and Instructional Design
- Digital Resources for Science Teaching and Learning
- Discourse and Argumentation in Science Education

- **Nature, Equity, and Policy in Education**

- STEM/STEAM Education at the K-12 and University Levels
- Conceptual Understanding (Including theories, models, and empirical results on conceptual understanding, conceptual change, approaches to learning in science, methodology for investigating students' processes of concept formation and concept use, and strategies to promote conceptual development)
- Science Teaching Processes and Instructional Design
- Digital Resources for Science Teaching and Learning
- Discourse and Argumentation in Science Education

Organizers

- Hanoi National University of Education
- National Taiwan Normal University

► Website: <https://top.ntnu.edu.tw/2024-iwals>



NTNU Featured Research Newsletter



ITSC

International Taiwan Studies Center, NTNU

國際臺灣學研究中心



社會情緒教育與發展研究中心
Social Emotional Education and Development Center



華語文與科技研究中心
Chinese Language and Technology Center



學習科學跨國頂尖研究中心
Institute for Research Excellence in Learning Sciences