



NATIONAL TAIWAN NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Featured Research Newsletter

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ITSC International Taiwan Studies Center, NTNU

國際臺灣學研究中心

The International Taiwan
Studies Center at NTNU

Making Taiwan Studies Global



NATIONAL TAIWAN NORMAL UNIVERSITY

ISSUE 10

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Feature News

ITSC Introduction

The International Taiwan Studies Center at NTNU: Making Taiwan Studies Global

Since its establishment in 2009, the International Taiwan Studies Center (ITSC) at National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) has served as a foundation for the promotion of Taiwan-focused research in the humanities and social sciences. Originally founded by Professor Ann Heylen from the Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages and Literature, ITSC underwent significant growth under the leadership of Professors Nikky Lin and Khoo Hui-lu, who served as Center Directors from 2020 to 2023. In 2023, Professor Heylen returned to her position as Executive Director, joined by Associate Professor Yin C. Chuang as Deputy Director, strengthening ITSC's renewed mission to elevate the global presence of Taiwan Studies. Professor Nikky Lin currently handles day-to-day operations of ITSC as its Director.

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 Shih Shu-mei, which created a dynamic platform for academic exchange, joint conferences, and influential publications. Regularly renewed, 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 2025, the Center supported a robust 32-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 Interdisciplinary Research Programs
- 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 and Taiwan
- Using Academic Research and AI Technology to Preserve and Revitalize Local Culture

ITSC's Goals and Strategies

Integration of Theoretical Development and Disparate Sub-fields

ITSC focuses on four thematic areas: History and Culture in Taiwan, Environment and Ethnicity in Taiwan, and Taiwanese Languages and Technological Applications, all bound together by Taiwan Theory. These fields are rooted in land, people, and culture, and are thus deeply intertwined with Taiwan's core identity, allowing horizontal integration of academic fields, and providing a 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 and other fields. This dynamic interplay between theory and thematic fields enhances both the study of Taiwan and its applicability to other circumstances and cases.

Global Contribution through Taiwan's Theories

ITSC aims to develop theory based on perspectives of Taiwan, and integrate it into global academic discourse through interdisciplinary approaches and international dialogue, moving beyond Western-centric perspectives and allowing Taiwan to make significant international scholarly contributions across a range of fields.

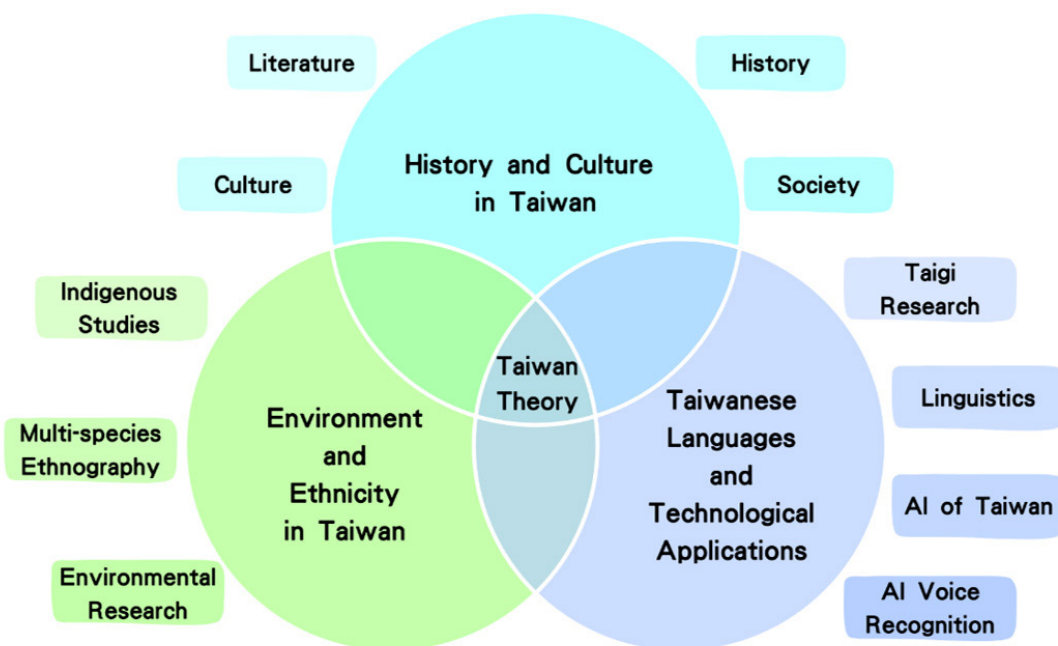


Fig. 1. Chart of ITSC's overlapping research themes.

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

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 develops teaching and learning tools that translate Taiwan-related knowledge, produces English-language podcasts on Taiwan-related topics for international audiences, co-organizes cultural events with overseas universities, and actively voices Taiwan's perspectives in international media, thereby advancing cultural diplomacy and ensuring that Taiwan's rich history and vibrant stories reach global audiences.

Advancing the Social Contributions of Taiwan Studies

The Center strengthens the social connection and public impact of Taiwan Studies by transforming academic research into revitalization practices and public-oriented content. It actively engages in the revitalization of Indigenous music and national languages, integrates scholarly outcomes with AI technology to promote local languages, and maintains TaiGiddy, the world's only Taiwanese-language learning website with English and Japanese interfaces.

Digital Outreach and Multimedia Development

ITSC has expanded its digital footprint to engage audiences both locally and internationally. Besides its ongoing newsletter and podcast, 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.

Cover Story

Director Nikky Lin: On the Necessity of Establishing the International Taiwan Studies Center

Taiwan's importance cannot be ignored, whether in the context of Indigenous Austronesian cultures which spread across the Indo-Pacific, the geography, economy, and flow of knowledge and resources in the Age of Exploration, the vertical connections developed in East Asia during the Japanese colonial period, or current cross-strait relations and the global economic and technological landscape. Taiwan's strengths in the semiconductor industry and recent geopolitical changes have made it even more prominent, attracting increased attention from the international academic community.

The origins of Taiwan Studies can be traced back to the investigations and research conducted by the Japanese colonial government, as well as more systematic research by scholars of anthropology, sociology, and history in the 1950s. However, the most direct driving force behind the emergence of Taiwan Studies in international academia is the Ministry of Education's Taiwan Studies Project, vigorously promoted at top international universities since 2003. The Taiwan Studies Project has established numerous branches in Europe, Asia, and North America, achieving considerable success over the past two decades. However, these Taiwan Studies centers operate mostly in isolation. Within Taiwan, there was a notable lack of international Taiwan Studies institutions within Taiwan that could connect with them.

To maximize the academic impact Taiwan Studies researchers, both domestic and international, a research center was therefore needed, one which could, by serving as a global hub, connect with top international universities and researchers, establish a sustainable and stable international network between them, and elevate the international academic standing of Taiwan Studies.

With a long history of conducting extensive research on Taiwan in the humanities, arts, education, and social sciences across its various colleges, NTNU was the natural choice for a host institution. The wealth of academic resources scattered across these colleges represented untapped research potential,

which needed only to be brought together to create remarkable results.

NTNU's long-standing and innovative Mandarin Training Center attracts international students interested in Taiwan Studies to Taiwan, while as a bilingual benchmark university, NTNU's diverse EMI courses also provide them with more learning options. These courses also cultivate the essential skills of NTNU's own students for future in-depth international research on Taiwan. This combination of research potential, world-class Mandarin language teaching, and high-quality EMI courses forms a rock-solid foundation upon which to promote Taiwan Studies around the world.

Leveraging these strengths, ITSC has brought together members of six departments and institutes under five colleges, outstanding scholars from Academia Sinica, National Taiwan University, National Cheng Kung University, and National Chung Cheng University, as well as 10 international scholars, forming a strong and collaborative team dedicated to expanding the domestic and international influence of Taiwan Studies.

The center has made groundbreaking progress, especially since receiving funding from the Ministry of Education's Higher Education Sprout Project in 2023. It has systematically cultivated talent in Taiwan studies, established substantial and stable multi-faceted exchanges with research centers at top universities abroad, jointly launched academic research projects, held seminars, co-taught courses, co-published papers, and engaged in academic exchange.

ITSC is now the largest platform for Taiwan Studies connections in the world. In 2025, in its role as a hub for Taiwan Studies, the Center established academic collaborations with Taiwan Studies institutions at 12 leading overseas universities, forming a sustained and robust international network for Taiwan Studies. Together with Academia Sinica, it co-organized the triennial World Congress of Taiwan Studies, the largest event of its kind, bringing together Taiwan Studies scholars from more than 30 countries to share their research. In addition, the Center co-hosted a total of six international conferences with top overseas universities such as Oxford and Vienna, successfully expanding the influence of Taiwan Studies within the global academic community. The strength of these results speaks to the efficacy of this approach.



Fig. 2. ITSC members and associates pose with NTNU President Wu Cheng-chih at the unveiling ceremony of the ITSC Project Office on May 24, 2025.

Additional News and Highlights

Research News

Distinguished Professor Fang Wei-ta: Going International with Local Environmental Knowledge



A distinguished professor at NTNU's Graduate Institute of Sustainability Management and Environmental Education, Fang Wei-ta (方偉達) is one of the leading experts in our Environment and Ethnic Groups of Taiwan research group. His goal in 2025 was to transform research into Taiwan's ethnic groups and environment into practical solutions for sustainable development, and make Taiwan a keystone voice in the international environmental humanities landscape.

Building Taiwan's International Voice in Environmental Research

One of Professor Fang's most significant academic breakthroughs this year was the co-publication of "Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Indigenous Hunting Body Cultural Research as an Emerging Collaborative Self-Governing Approach for Green Ethical Cultural Advocacy as 'Protected Belief Status'" in the prestigious international journal SAGE Open.

By viewing Indigenous hunting practices as a "protected belief," this research addresses the marginalization of local knowledge in environmental governance and demonstrates how cultural practices shape environmental ethics and collective action. Furthermore, by providing theoretical support for understanding how traditional wisdom informs the interactions of Taiwan's Indigenous groups with the environment and modern challenges in conservation, it secures a place for Indigenous studies in international debates on green ethics.

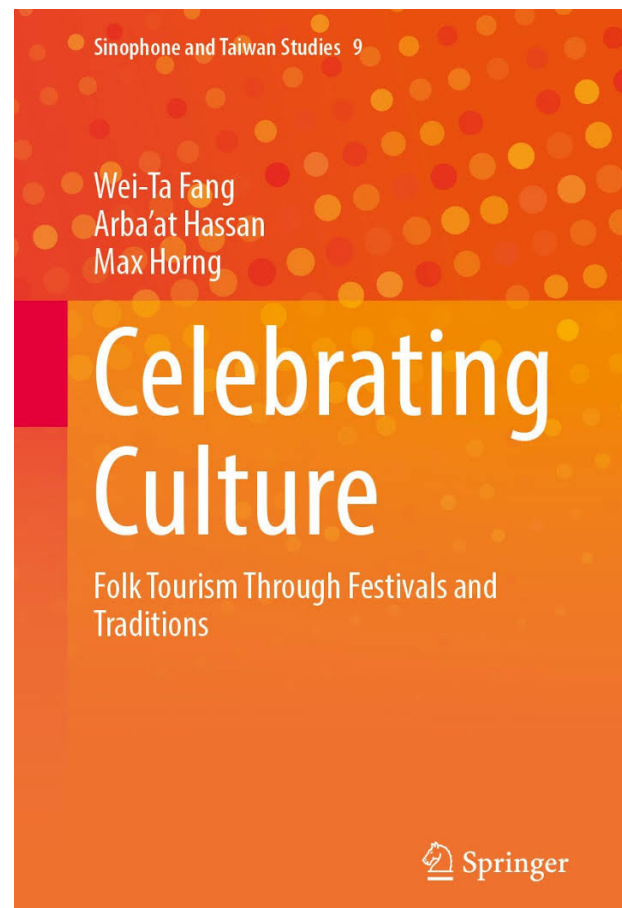
16th Symposium on Taiwan Wetland Ecosystem

This 2025 conference, themed around “Sustainable Wetlands and a Net-Zero Future,” brought together nearly two hundred experts from industry, government, academia, and research. Groundbreaking advancements in mangrove carbon sequestration methodology and marine algae carbon sequestration technology were presented, incorporating the “blue carbon” value of Taiwan’s wetlands into a strategy for 2050 net zero. This cross-domain integration transformed what was originally rigid ecological data into socially persuasive climate action plans.

An International Monograph on Folk Tourism and Cultural Heritage

Celebrating Culture: Folk Tourism Through Festivals and Traditions was published by Springer in 2025. This book systematically explores the interactive relationship between festivals, cultural heritage, and tourism development, demonstrating that folk festivals are not only tourism resources but also important media for ethnic cohesion and identity building, and for reconnecting with the land and environment.

Fig. 3. Celebrating Culture: Folk Tourism Through Festivals and Traditions, published in 2025 by Springer as part of the Sinophone and Taiwan Studies series



Research News

Professor Lu Yu-hsiu: Hearing Indigenous Music of the 1960s



Professor Lu Yu-hsiu is a part of the faculty at NTNU's Graduate Institute of Ethnomusicology. As a member of our Taiwan History and Culture research group, in recent years, she has devoted herself to the field of Indigenous music, music imagery, and music documentation.

Because the lyrics, musical structure, and social context of Indigenous songs retain ancient elements and traditions, the songs are an indispensable part of constructing an Indigenous traditional knowledge system.

However, Indigenous song research has traditionally focused on creating written documentation, while the sound of the music itself—its very essence—has been gradually forgotten, as tribes no longer sing these songs. Therefore, the urgent task facing scholars is the reconstruction and reproduction of traditional musical sounds, and how to ensure their transmission from generation to generation.

The Reproduction and Transmission of Traditional Taiwanese Indigenous Music III

The focus of this three-year project is to research and revitalize the music of different ethnic groups. As part of this revitalization, Professor Lu published two albums in 2025: *Hearing 1967: The Bunun in Eastern Taiwan* and *Hearing 1966: The Atayal of Wufeng Township*. They primarily feature music collected during the First Folk Song Collection Movement of the late 1960s. The original tapes were long considered lost, but thanks to Professor Lu's collaboration with the East Asia Institute in Bonn, Germany, copies were returned to Taiwan, allowing the creation of these compilations.

The Eastern Bunun album contains a total of 65 tracks, while the Wufeng Township Atayal album includes 21. Both albums include explanations of the original survey, the characteristics of the music of each group, biographies of the singers, and translations and interpretations of the lyrics. The original audio has also been edited and revised for publication. The albums are presented in both Chinese and English, contributing to international understanding, and providing a greater glimpse into the history of Taiwanese music collection and research.



Fig. 4. Professor Lu's two Indigenous music albums, published by NTNU in 2025.

Research News

Professor Khoo Hui-lu: Strengthening the Subjectivity of Taiwanese Taigi



Professor Khoo Hui-lu of the Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages and Literature is a member of our Taiwanese Languages and Technological Applications research group. Her research often focuses on language issues at the societal level, including Taiwan's bilingual policy, national language policies, and attitudes towards the diverse accents of Mandarin and Taiwanese.

Although Taiwanese (Taigi) is one of Taiwan's "national languages," and boasts a population of speakers second only to Mandarin, that population is declining significantly, necessitating greater research and revitalization efforts. This research group is therefore committed to deepening the theoretical analysis of Taiwanese as an independent natural language system and highlighting its academic value in contemporary language theory and cross-linguistic comparative studies.

International Publishing

One of Professor Khoo's significant achievements in 2025 was the publication of *The Phonetics of Taiwanese*, co-authored work by herself and Associate Professor Janice Fon of the Institute of Linguistics at National Taiwan University, which was published in January by the prestigious Cambridge University Press.

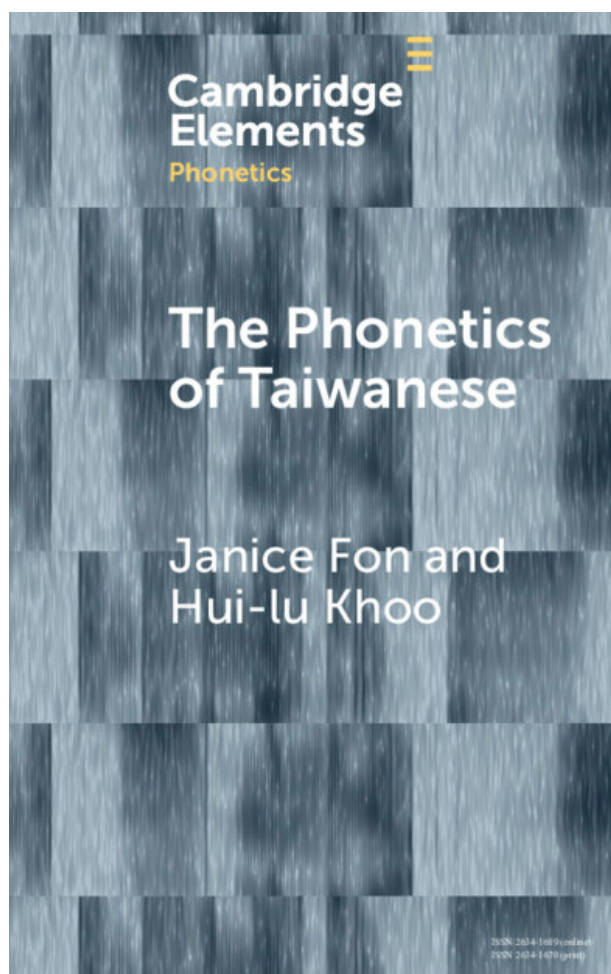
The book is a dedicated study of Taiwanese. This is significant because while there are many books on Chinese linguistics written in English, academic monographs focusing on Taiwanese, especially those published by top international universities, are extremely rare. Furthermore, past

research has often positioned Taiwanese as a branch of Minnan (Hokkien), or even simply as Minnan. Professor Khoo's research, however, demonstrates that Taiwanese has developed its own unique characteristics from the perspectives of both phonetics and sociolinguistics.

Bilingual Policy Research

This year, Professor Khoo presented two papers at conferences in 2025 on Taiwan's language policy—one on Taiwan's Indigenous language policy and the other on Taiwan's bilingual policy—discussing each of the policies from a sociolinguistics perspective. Two other papers currently under review focus on language attitudes towards marked accents of Taiwanese and Mandarin, including Tainan accent, Yilan accent, Haikou Taiwanese, and non-"standard" Mandarin, such as Hakka, Taiwanese Mandarin, and Southeast Asian accents. These papers explore the actual attitudes of the public towards these accents despite the emphasis on diverse values since the lifting of martial law.

Fig. 5. The Phonetics of Taiwanese, co-authored by Professor Khoo Hui-lu and Associate Professor Janice Fon, published by Cambridge University Press in January 2025.



Research News

Professor Craig Smith: Exploring Inter-Asian Intellectual History



Craig Smith is a professor in translation studies at the Asia Institute of the University of Melbourne. He is himself a very active translator, and the translation of his landmark work *Chinese Asianism, 1894-1945* was published in Mandarin last year as 《中國的亞洲主義：東亞的共識還是戰爭催化劑？》.

While prior works usually focused on Japanese usages of Asianism, Smith's book examines how Chinese intellectuals and those in power interpreted and used calls for East Asian unity to further their own goals between the First Sino-Japanese War and the end of WWII. With the rise of China as a truly global power in the early 21st century, this discussion of historical Chinese Asianism provides an opportunity to identify present-day continuities and outgrowths of this flexible and encompassing concept.

Upcoming Research: Inter-Asian Translators, Identity and Ambiguity

With the support of a Taiwan Fellowship, Professor Smith conducted field research in the latter half of 2025 on the historical power and influence of language and translators in Taiwan. Building on his previous research, he argues that the study of translation is indispensable to the field of intellectual history and that the role of translators as activists therefore warrants much closer examination.

Since translation between European and East Asian languages is already well-studied, Professor Smith's goal is to fill in the gaps: those translators who worked between East Asian languages. Taiwan, as a historical node of linguistic connections and exchange between Japanese, Taiwanese, Mandarin, Hakka, and Indigenous languages, is a natural place to begin this research. The intellectual history of these individuals will thus reveal the inter-Asian agency of translators and interpreters and the hegemonies they grappled with while constructing East Asia through translation.

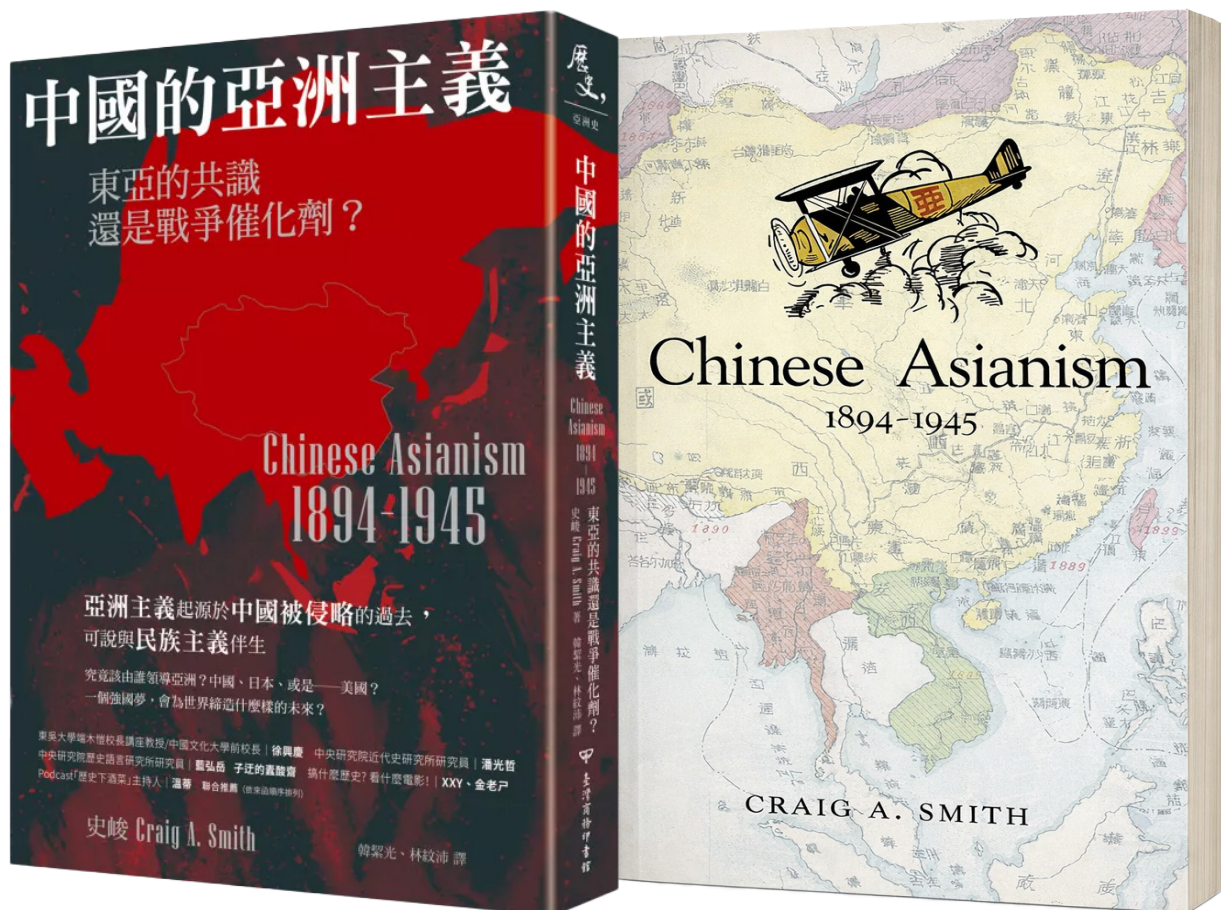


Fig. 6. Professor Smith's *Chinese Asianism, 1894-1945* and its Mandarin translation, 《中國的亞洲主義：東亞的共識還是戰爭催化劑？》.

Engagement News

The 5th World Congress of Taiwan Studies

On May 21–23, 2025, Academia Sinica and ITSC held the Fifth World Congress of Taiwan Studies. The conference, titled “Taiwan in a Changing World: Past, Present, and Future,” was by far the largest Taiwan Studies-focused event ever, consisting of 155 panels and over 400 paper presentations covering a wide range of subjects, plus book launches and significant keynote speeches. With well over 750 participants from 30 countries, the World Congress succeeded in bringing together many of the most eminent scholars researching Taiwan across all academic fields.

The opportunity for in-depth dialogue between scholars from across the globe not only strengthened the networks that already exist in the Taiwan Studies field, but also provided fertile soil for the seeds of new research. The sheer diversity of disciplines that were all part of the conversation at the conference clearly demonstrated the cross-disciplinary nature of Taiwan Studies, and it is expected that dozens of new papers and book titles will spring from this flagship conference over the coming years.

ITSC specially arranged for Professor Scott Simon from the University of Ottawa and Professor Dafydd Fell from SOAS to deliver keynote speeches on the first day. Also noteworthy was a roundtable discussion where Distinguished Prof. Lin Ming-jen of NTU, Director General Huang Chun-ju of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the National Science and Technology Council, Director General Lee Yu-juan of the Ministry of Education’s Department of International and Cross-strait Education, Prof. Lim Dae-geun of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, and Prof. Liu Chanyueh of INALCO engaged in a discussion of the current status of the field, the difficulties and

success stories of Taiwan Studies centers around the world, strategies for future development, government promotion goals, and more. This rarely-seen direct exchange and discussion between national government officials and academic experts drew an enthusiastic response from attendees.

As the field of Taiwan Studies continues on its path toward full maturity, this conference demonstrated its value as a source of inspiration and integration—two key elements that will sustain the field’s development for many years to come.



Fig. 7. Attendees of the 5th World Congress of Taiwan Studies listen to the opening address on May 21, 2025.

Engagement News

Overseas Events

In 2025, the Center co-organized workshops and conferences with partner universities overseas, including UCLA and UCSB in the United States, INALCO in France, and the University of Vienna and the University of Oxford. Funding and personnel resources were shared by both sides, while venues were provided by the overseas host universities. This expanded the international collaborative effect of Taiwanese studies, directly reaching researchers, students, and the general public abroad. Below are short introductions to two of these events.

MIT (Made in Taiwan), Redux: New Approaches to Material and Technological Cultures in Taiwan

Every year, NTNU and UCLA hold a joint conference on Taiwan Studies. "MIT (Made-in-Taiwan), Redux: New Approaches to Material and Technological Cultures in Taiwan," held May 2-3, 2025 at UCLA, was the eighth such conference. UCLA Professors Shih Shu-mei, holder of the Irving and Jean Stone Chair in the Humanities, and Raymond Kun-Xian Shen of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, were the primary organizers of the 2025 conference, in which universities from all over the world participated.

Across two days, six separate panels consisting of fourteen speakers presented research and observations critically reflecting on technical objects and production culture in Taiwan from material, socio-historical, and philosophical perspectives.

Panel topics included "Dreaming of Robots and Computers," which explored dreams of a computerized future in Taiwan and the US; "Building Infrastructure and Communities," focused on how production culture constructed communities, and how AI has affected them.

"Visualizing Cold War Taiwan" discussed Taiwan's representation in photography, film, and documentaries. "Sounding Contemporary Taiwan" examined the influence of Taiwan's supply chains and music industry on the global music industry, while "Of Affect and Environment" turned to literature and art for insight into labor, gender, and the definition of "Taiwanese." There was also an artist presentation by Yu Hsin Su titled "Water: A Geoarchive" which explored how industrial parks reshape the waterways and environment around them. The conference closed with Professor Shih Shu-mei leading a discussion of the influence of techno-instrumentalism, where objects are produced by Taiwan but do not show any kind of Taiwanese identity, except for stereotypes.

This annual conference further strengthened cooperation between NTNU and UCLA, and enhanced the international visibility of Taiwan's technology industry. We look forward to the next conference in May this year, titled "Tongues of Taiwan: Culture and Identity between Languages and Empires."



Fig. 8. Group photo of key presenters and moderators at “MIT (Made-in-Taiwan), Redux: New Approaches to Material and Technological Cultures in Taiwan.”

A New Representation of Taiwanese Literature: Translating, Transforming, Interpreting

Held in Paris from March 31 to April 1, 2025, the symposium “A New Representation of Taiwanese Literature: Translating, Transforming, Interpreting” brought together noted international scholars such as Professor Liu Chanyueh, Professor Nikky Lin, Professor Su Shuo-bin, Professor Luca Pisano, Professor Antonio Paoliello Palermo, Associate Professor Li Bi-chhin, and Associate Professor Mireia Vargas-Urpi. There, they discussed the “transformation” of Taiwan literature, and how it has brought about manifestations in visual media, music, performing arts, video games, and even cosmetics.

The symposium was co-organized by the Taiwan Studies program at France’s Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations, INALCO) and the International Taiwan Studies Center at National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU). The goal of this international and cross-disciplinary gathering was to encourage development of new theories centered on three forms of transformation—literary translation (轉譯), artistic adaptation (轉藝), and interpretation (轉譯)—especially those involving cross-cultural components.

In that vein, presentations were made on topics such as how the success of Catalan translations of Taiwan literature showed the appeal and relevance of its themes; how a literary artifact, mahjong tiles belonging to an assassinated author, have been transformed into a video game; and how approaches to adapting literature into musical albums have changed in Taiwan over the last three decades. New transformations were presented in the form of theatrical adaptations and poetry set to music, and new ideas were floated, such as perfume inspired by musical pieces featured in novels.

Transformations such as these are more than just artistic expression; they are extensions of Taiwan literature itself, and help build and highlight the agency of Taiwan's writers, artists, and creators of all stripes, allowing them to act as literary ambassadors both within Taiwan and around the world.



Fig. 9. Group photo of speakers and participants at "A New Representation of Taiwanese Literature: Translating, Transforming, Interpreting," held in Paris, March 31-April 1.

Engagement News

Other Outreach

International Taiwan Studies Center Podcast

ITSC produces the NTNU International Taiwan Studies Center Podcast, which interviews leading academics from all around the world to discover how their research is contributing to the field of Taiwan Studies. Each episode brings out the character of the interviewee, while revealing some of the stories and inspiration behind the books and articles that they publish. Besides providing a platform for the dissemination of ideas, the podcast also has the mission of capturing the breadth and depth of Taiwan Studies as the field continues to grow and mature across disciplines and across the globe.

► Listen to uploaded episodes [here](#).

International Taiwan Studies Center Newsletter

ITSC publishes a bimonthly newsletter, which has just released its 10th issue. Every issue features an introduction to a different Taiwan Studies center; previous articles have spotlighted University of London's SOAS, UCLA's Taiwan Studies Program, and UC Santa Barbara's Center for Taiwan Studies, among others. We also provide information on upcoming events organized by Taiwan Studies centers around the world, interviews with rising researchers, updates on the latest publications in the field, and useful teaching resources.

► See past issues of the Newsletter [here](#), and subscribe to the Newsletter [here](#).

TaiGiddy

TaiGiddy is an innovative, gamified online platform designed to make learning the Taiwanese language accessible and engaging for a global audience.

With a massive bank of listening, speaking, and reading and writing exercises covering a wide range of topics, from food and daily phrases to religion and politics, it stands out as the world's first gamified and interactive website dedicated to Taiwanese language learning. The name "TaiGiddy" itself is a playful portmanteau of "Tâi-gí," the Taiwanese language, and "giddy," reflecting the joyful and exciting learning experience the platform aims to provide.

Featuring both an English and a Japanese interface, TaiGiddy addresses the recognized gap in the market for Taiwanese language learning materials, offering an accessible, online platform where learners can study the language anytime and anywhere, in order to build vital cultural connections.

► Start learning [here](#).

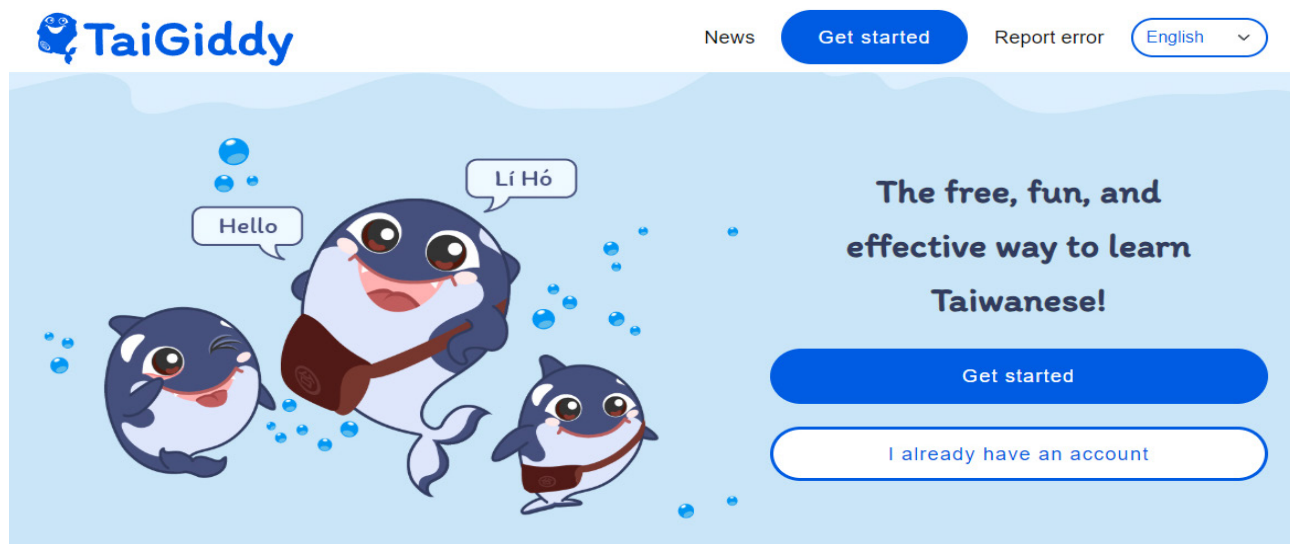
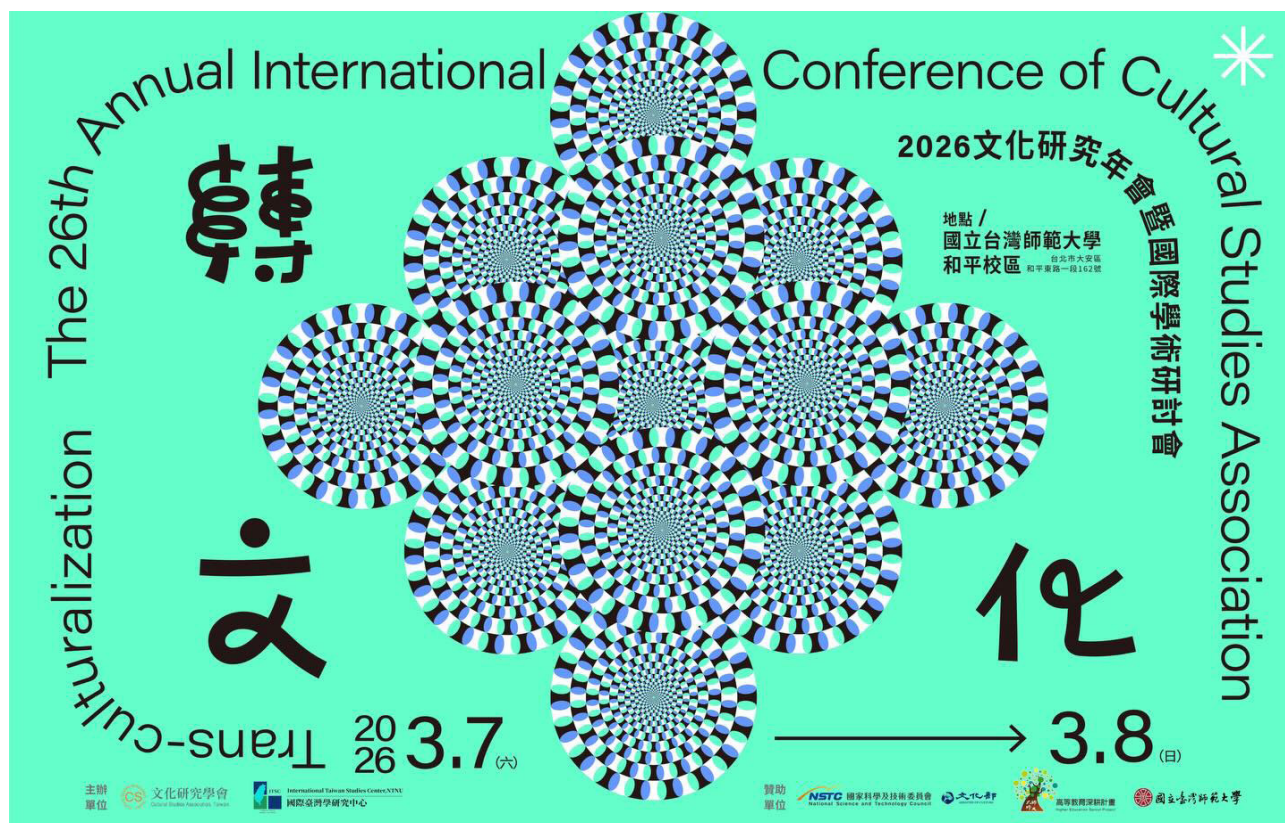


Fig. 10. TaiGiddy, an online Taiwanese-language learning platform developed by ITSC, designed to support accessible and engaging language learning through a multilingual and interactive interface.

Upcoming Events

Transculturation: The 26th Annual International Conference of the Cultural Studies Association



Early March will see the Cultural Studies Association (文化研究學會) organize “Transculturation: The 26th Annual International Conference of the Cultural Studies Association,” with ITSC as co-organizer, to be held at NTNU’s Heping Campus on March 7-8, 2026.

The conference will bring researchers from diverse fields to explore how culture continuously moves through and across language and sound, image and text, history and technology, ethnicity and media, and islands and worlds. The twin pillars of the Conference are the concepts of “trans,” referring to not just crossing but also the energy of dynamic changes, transitions, and regeneration, and “culturalization,” which emphasizes that the concepts and practices which make up culture are means and processes, not ends or goals in and of themselves, which are continually reshaped, recoded, hybridized, and intervened in.

Topics will include “International Island Voyage: Rewriting the Historical Memory and Transnational Experience of Taiwanese Literati,” “Transforming Space: The Dynamic Practice of Resource Frontiers, Landscape Governance, and Cultural Translation,” and “May the Indigenous Languages Be with You,” and many, many more. See the full list of papers [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Keywords in Taiwan Theory III Workshop



For over a decade now, many sociologists and scholars of the humanities have been actively working to create links between theory and Taiwan, wondering about the possibilities of Taiwan theory, and using the "keyword method" to construct it. This approach, exemplified by the 55 concepts discussed across *Keywords of Taiwan Theory* (2019) and *Keywords of Taiwan Theory II* (2025), involves creating keywords which represent important concepts in Taiwan history, culture, or theory, in order to create a network of experiences, perspectives, and positions.

To prepare for the publication of *Keywords of Taiwan Theory III*, a workshop presenting many of the new contributions will be held on September 19-20, 2026.

The focus this year will be on continuity, connection, and dialogue with prior keywords, creation of new keywords, and review and revitalization of "existing keywords" — older touchstone topics in Taiwan's humanities and social sciences, such as "concentric circle view of history," "localization," "Sinicization" (of social sciences), "de-Sinicization," and "a laboratory for the study of China's social and cultural changes." By reviewing the implications, debates, and influence of these keywords in their historical context, we can explore whether they still hold a key position in Taiwan today.

Awards & Honors

Work by Chen Yu-jen on Taiwan's Culinary History Honored with Award in Japan

The History of Taiwan Cuisine: Manifestations of Nationality in Culinary Consumption (《「台灣菜」的文化史：食物消費中的國家體現》／《「台湾菜」の文化史—国民料理の創造と変遷》, by Chen Yu-jen (陳玉箴), an ITSC member scholar and professor of NTNU's Department of Taiwan Culture, Literature and Languages, was honored with the 16th Shizuo Tsuji Gastronomy Award in Japan. This award, established in 2010, is intended to encourage research and education in the culinary field. Originally published in Taiwan by Linking Books in 2020 and by Sangensha in Japan in 2024, Professor Chen's work offers a detailed analysis of how changes in Taiwan's politics and conceptions of nationhood over the last century have been reflected in all types of its cuisine, from simple snacks to sumptuous banquets. She is the first foreigner researcher to win the Gastronomy Award, and her book is also the first translation to do so.

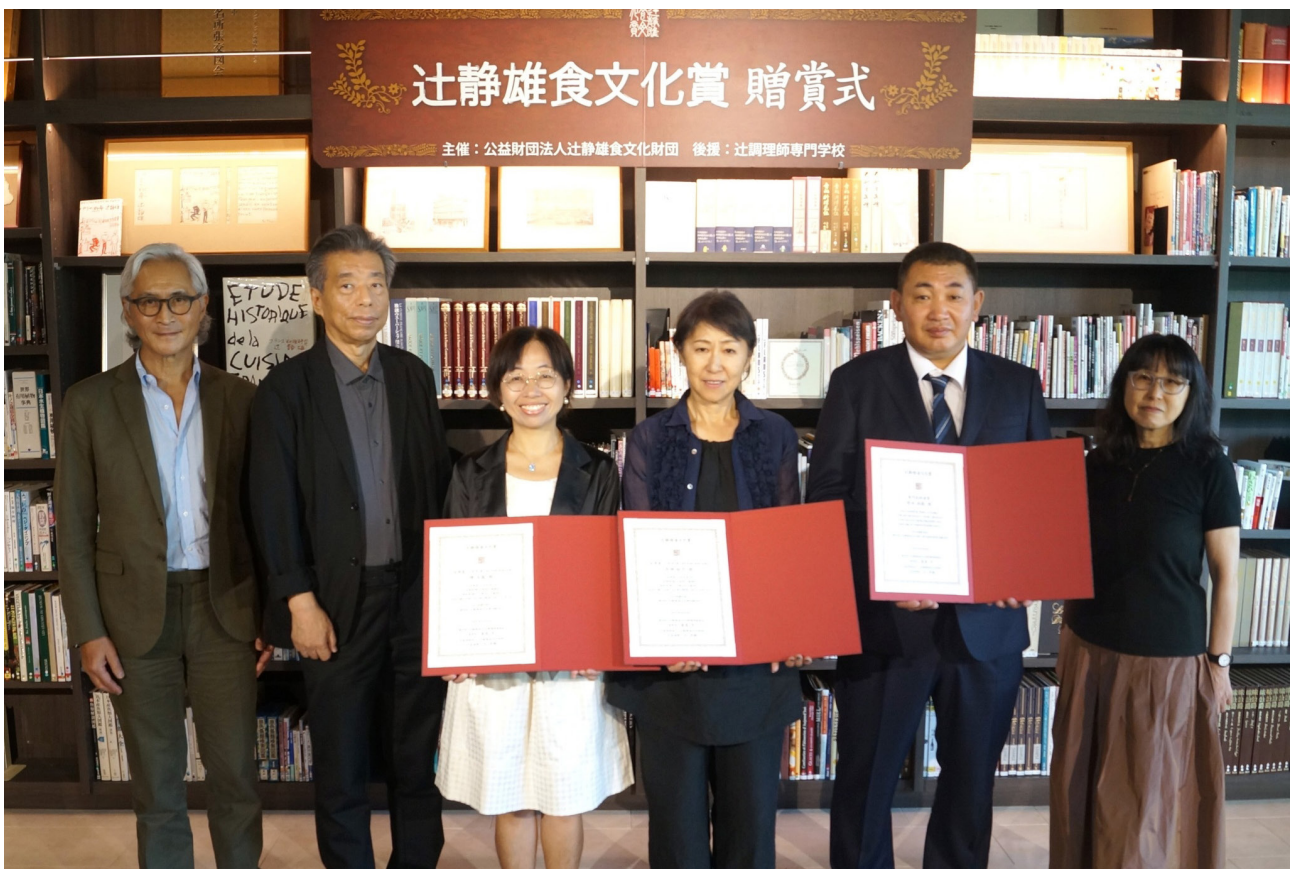


Fig. 11. Group photo with Professor Chen Yu-jen (third from left) at the Shizuo Tsuji Gastronomy Award ceremony.

NTNU Featured Research Newsletter



ITSC International Taiwan Studies Center, NTNU
國際臺灣學研究中心



SEED 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