

## Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies

Center for Chinese Studies, National Central Library, R.O.C. (Taiwan)

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# Representing Ethnicity in Ming-Qing Literary Imagination

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### Abstract

In the year of 1704, a scholar and playwright named Gu Cai traveled to Rongmei, a Tusi chieftain's territory in the mountains of Hubei province and befriended the chieftain Tian Shunnian. Carrying with him a letter from Kong Shangren to the chieftain, Gu started his visit as a representative of "high culture" but was soon amazed by the enterprising effort of the chieftain to boast of cultural versatility. During his five-month stay Gu, kept a diary and later wrote a travelogue entitled *Rongmei jiyou* (*My travel to the Rongmei chieftain's territory*). Centering around Gu's travelogue, I propose to explore how chieftains on the southwest periphery conducted long-term plans to formulate cultural and literary heritages that had an affinity with Han-Chinese mainstream culture but also intensified domestic qualities. The main topics of my discussion will include: the deliberate self-submission of the chieftains to Chinese cultural authority by identifying with Han-Chinese ancestry, the implications of Ming loyalism, the significance of poetry writing, poetry anthologizing and (probably mock) poetry gatherings, the nuances of staging a masterpiece play, and the possibility of an outsider's imperial eye turning to empathy.

### About the Speaker:

Prof. Siao-chen Hu obtained her Ph.D. from Harvard University. She is a Research Fellow and the Director of Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica, Taiwan ROC.

Prof. Hu has numerous academic publications in Literature, Poetry, and Women's Literature in late imperial China. She also published *"Burning the Midnight Oil: The Rise of Female Narrative in Early Modern China"* and *"The Southwest in Ming-Qing Literary Imagination"* in 2003 and 2017.

## 明清文學想像中的族群呈現

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### 摘要

清初的士人及戲曲作家顧彩（1650-1718），在康熙 43 年（1704）帶著另一位著名的劇作家孔尚任（1648-1718）的書信，來到了位在湖北山區土司領域的容美，準備轉交給當地土司頭目田舜年。顧彩剛來到容美時的態度，正代表所謂優越文化的姿態，但他隨即對於此處的文化多樣性感到驚艷。在顧彩待在容美的五個月中，他不斷紀錄下每一天的見聞，成為日後《容美紀遊》一書的基礎。

在本次的演講中，我將以《容美紀遊》為基礎，試圖說明中國西南邊陲的土司如何於漢文化進行長期的文化及文學交流，以及如何塑造與主流的漢文化相似，同時保有地方特色的文化。在內容方面，我將著重於說明以下幾點：中國少數民族透過對漢民族譜系的自我認同，所表現出的漢文化優越，親明人士的影響、詩文的寫作、編譯、蒐集，甚或是模仿的重要性，展演重要作品時的細微差別，以及外來者由帝國視野進而轉化的可能性。

### 講者簡介：

胡曉真教授為哈佛大學博士，目前為中央研究院中國文哲研究所研究員兼所長。胡教授長期研究明清文學、詩詞，及婦女文學，並曾出版《才女徹夜未眠——近代中國女性敘事文學的興起》、《明清文學中的西南敘事》等專著。