

Self and Place: Negotiation Identitles trough the Narratives of  
Chinese Poetry from Taiwan (Yang Mu as Example)

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This research intends to approach the Taiwanese poet Yang Mu (楊牧, 1940-) from an interdisciplinary perspective, investigating the natural, social, and humanitarian context in the poet's works. His works are the products of Taiwanese and Chinese culture, as well as Western traditions. Finding different levels of cultural resonance, this piece of research will engage with the substantial ars poetica that Yang Mu has built throughout his work. This research will be organised like an expedition— sailing from the theme of natural landscape, history and legend, and then to the world of ideas. Sailing from the theme of natural landscape, the research will illustrate Yang Mu's hometown as a significant place of literary inspiration. Having done this, this research will reach other Taiwanese natural places depicted in his poems that will corresponds to other poems in British literature, and then explore how the western tradition is inherited, transformed, or appropriated by Yang Mu.

The journey to the theme of history and legend will be conducted by highlighting the extensive influence of some significant events such as Formosa incident, Tiananmen Event, and Second Chechen War. Having comprehended Yang Mu's political engagement into the society by writing poems, this research will then be in a good position to think about the possibility of transcendence beyond the text, referring to the contingency of the world of ideas. This part of the research intends to explore the implicitly metaphysical ideas, and explain how the reality and the historical background can be transformed and purified into a piece of work that touches the reader with its absolute truth and beauty. In light of the poet's dictum, "I grew up in a complex language environment", this study will bring such truth and beauty in a symbolic level, and at the same time reach our ultimate destination of traveling, learning and writing.

## 主講人介紹：

文稼山（Charles Akwen），奈及利亞籍，文先生對於西方抒情詩、臺灣文學及臺灣現代詩等領域皆有涉獵，是非洲學界首位對臺灣現代詩進行深入研究的學者。比較楊牧與奈及利亞詩人的作品，從其中的靈感、歷史、地景等討論文學創作活動及認同性的關連，是他目前的主要研究領域。文先生本年獲得漢學研究中心獎助，來臺研究主題為「Self and Place: Negotiating Identities through the Narratives of Chinese Poetry from Taiwan」。