

Taiwan Lecture Held in Oxford University – Professor Lung-chih Chang on the Digitalization of Taiwan History

The first Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies held by the National Central Library (R.O.C., Taiwan) in 2015 took place in China Centre of University of Oxford on June 17 with great success. The lecture was held in collaboration with University of Oxford and began with an opening remark by Professor Barend ter Haar from University of Oxford.

The topic of the Taiwan Lecture this time is titled “Digitalizing Taiwan: From Academic to Public History” and delivered by Professor Lung-chih Chang, the Associate Research Fellow from the Institute of Taiwan History in Academia Sinica (R.O.C., Taiwan). Professor Lung-chih Chang graduated with PhD in the Department of History and East Asian Languages in Harvard University, and he specializes in the field of social and cultural history of Taiwan, ethnic relations, comparative colonialism, as well as Taiwanese historiography.

In the lecture, Professor Chang addressed the major achievements and challenges of contemporary Taiwanese historiography and discussed the multiple intellectual lineages of Taiwan history, namely Chinese local history, Japanese colonial history, Western area study, and native Taiwan study. As Professor Chang suggests, it is the convergence and interaction of these different research traditions since the late 1980s that constituted the new foundation of Taiwan historical study. In the second half of the lecture, Professor Chang introduced five major research and archival institutions in Taiwan – namely Academia Sinica (Zhongyang Yanjiuyuan 中央研究院), Academia Historica (Guoshi Guan 國史館), National Taiwan University, National Taiwan Library, and National Museum of Taiwan History – for the purpose of elucidating the impact of digitalization projects on the study of history (and historiography).

The lecture concluded with some personal observation and reflection on the future challenges of Taiwan history from the perspective of a practicing historian, and it received much applause and positive response. Among the participants are many prestigious scholars of Sinology, including Professor Thomas Gold from University of California Berkeley, Dr. Peter Ditmanson from University of Oxford, as well as Dr. Jon Chappell from University of Bristol. The audience responded with many interesting questions at the end of the lecture, and the discussion continued even after the event.

After the lecture, Ms. Jane Liao from the Center for Chinese Studies, National Central Library, played the video-clip “Introducing Resources for Chinese Studies in

Taiwan” to the audience. The video clip not only introduces the Center for Chinese Studies but also several research grants offered by Taiwan government, such as “MOFA Taiwan Fellowship” and “Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies.”

The cosponsor this time – University of Oxford – is one of the multiple collaborators of the overseas TRCCS; more importantly, University of Oxford has been our most vital partner in Europe. Since 2012, the National Central Library in Taiwan has continuously established numerous TRCCS in collaboration with top universities and prestigious academic institutions around the world, and the total number is more than a dozen by now. The establishment of TRCCS aims to promote the academic research achievements as well as publications in Taiwan and to strengthen academic relationships with international sinology communities in the hope of boosting international research exchanges in Taiwan and Chinese Studies.



Opening Remark by Professor Barend ter Haar



Joshua Seufert, the Librarian of the Bodleian Chinese Studies Library, Oxford University, introducing the event.



Professor Lung-chih Chang, the Associate Research Fellow from the Institute of Taiwan History in Academia Sinica (R.O.C., Taiwan), delivering the lecture "Digitalizing Taiwan: From Academic to Public History."



The lecture “Digitalizing Taiwan: From Academic to Public History.”



The Group Photo.