

**NCL and University of Rome co-hosted
“Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies”**

In an effort to promote a dialog between the world and Taiwan research on the cross-cultural processes of literature, religion, and humanities in Modern China, National Central Library (NCL), the department of Italian Institute of Oriental Studies (ISO) at Sapienza University of Rome in Italy, Monumenta Serica Sinological Research Center of Fu Jen University and Monumenta Serica Institute in Sankt Augustin (Germany) between 25. November and 2 Dec in 2022 co-hosted a series of events at Sapienza University of Rome, including a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies. Prof. Henning Klöter was invited to deliver the lecture entitled “Western missionaries and Chinese linguistics : Documents, periods, and ideologies.”

Henning Klöter (PhD, Leiden University, 2003) is Professor of Modern Chinese Languages and Literatures at the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His major publications are *Written Taiwanese* (2005) and *The Language of the Sangleys: A Chinese Vernacular in Missionary Sources of the Seventeenth Century* (2011). His research interests include multilingualism and society, language planning, Taiwan studies, the history of Chinese linguistics in Europe, and Sinophone studies.

In the lecture, the first part of the presentation provided an historical overview of Chinese language studies by Western missionaries. It took stock of the most important sources compiled by Catholic missionaries before and Protestant missionaries after the 18th century. These groups of sources were compared by looking at their material properties (manuscripts vs. printed books), the different methods of linguistic analysis and their underlying language ideologies. On this basis, Prof. Klöter argued that the early period of Chinese missionary linguistics was marked by elitist thinking reflected in an almost exclusive attention towards the languages of China's cultural and political elite. Exceptions only occurred outside China proper, i.e. when missionary linguistics were based among Overseas Chinese communities in Southeast Asia. A substantial opening towards China's linguistic diversity only occurred after the arrival of Protestant missionaries in the 19th century.



Prof. Henning Klöter