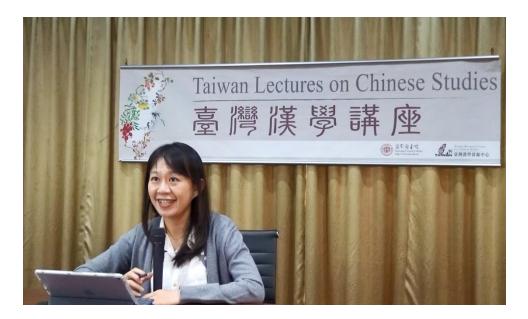# CCS's Online "Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies" with Ghent University

The CCS and the NCL worked with the Ghent University to hold an online "Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies" on April 30, 2021. Prof. Pei-ying Lin, a specialist in religious studies from Taiwan, was invited to share her most recent research on early Buddhist interactions between China and Japan. The topic of her talk was "On the Materiality and Cultural Identity of the Tang Dynasty: East Asian Buddhist Networks behind a Royal Portrait."

Prof. Pei-ying Lin is Assistant Professor at Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan. She received a doctorate from SOAS, University of London. Her research interests include Chan Buddhism, ordination rituals, Bodhisattva precepts, and Buddhist discourse on cultural identity.

Prof. Lin's online presentation compares a number of seventh-to-eighth-century Tang royal murals and a Dunhuang cave (Mogao Cave 130). The main inquiry is on what impression of Tang culture would the murals have conferred and how it represented the Tang dynasty from the aspects of material culture and ethnic identity. Prof. Lin draws the audience's attention to a Japanese portrait, the *Tōhon miei* ("Tang-edition royal portrait"), which is traditionally claimed to be the earliest portrait of Japanese Prince Shōtoku. She discusses these paintings from two viewpoints: the cultural identity of its artists (and the narrators), comparing the painting style with the Tang murals, and the historical background of the eighth century. The conclusion sheds light on cultural interaction in eighth-century East Asia in cases of these royal paintings and the complexity of mutual understanding between Tang China and her neighbors.

Since 2011, the "Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies" series has provided a platform for international scholarly exchanges and to demonstrate Taiwan's academic achievements. The series was originally held physically abroad and was transformed in 2020 as an online event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Pei-ying Lin, Fu Jen Catholic University

Prof. Ann Heirman, Department of Languages and Cultures, Ghent University