National Chengchi University College of International Affairs Center for Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Annual Report Academic Year 112

Center Name	Center for Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research
Director	Chiung-Chiu Huang
Implementation Period	August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2024
Participants	**I. Key Personnel** **1. On-Campus** • **Director:** Chiung-Chiu Huang, Professor, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies • **Advisor:** Kun-Shuan Chiu, Emeritus Professor, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies **2. Off-Campus — Adjunct Research Fellows** • Kai-Tai Tang • Yi-Pin Chen • Chun-Liang Pao • Teng-Chi Chang • Ya-Ling Lin • Kung-Sung Nguyen **II. Other Personnel** **1. On-Campus — Research Assistants** • Yin-Shan Huang, Ph.D. Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies • Ting-Hsun Lin, Master's Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies • Heng-Te Liao, Master's Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies **2. Off-Campus**
Report Submission Date	July 22, 2024

Achievements and Future Work Plan

I. Achievements of the Current Academic Year

1. Seminar: "The Challenge of a Global New Normal: Taiwan in Midst of Challenging Mega Trends"

1.1 Date: September 18, 2023, 12:20 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

1.2 Venue: Room 271112, College of International Affairs Building

1.3 Participants

1.3.1 Moderator:
Chiung-Hui Huang, Professor, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, National Chengchi University; Deputy Director, Center for International Relations; Director, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center; Executive Editor, *Issues & Studies*

1.3.2 Speaker:
Josie-Marie Perkuhn, Director of the Taiwan Studies Program, Department of Chinese Studies, University of Trier, Germany

1.3.3 Staff:
Yin-Shan Huang, Ph.D. Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies / Research Assistant, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center
Ting-Hsun Lin, Master's Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies / Research Assistant, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center

1.4 Event Overview

Given Taiwan's trajectory, the pacific island has become an incessant part of the global political agenda in midst of great powers striving for influence. International tensions about Taiwan will last. The island is crucial for both its geo-strategic importance for security in the Indo-Pacific region and for the global production of key innovation technologies. Beyond international politics, Taiwan's government noticed Beijing's increasing pressure on the Asian Democracy over the past years and expressed recurrently its concerns about acts of interfering with the political process in general and cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns in particular. According to the Digital Society Project, Taiwan belongs to the most affected subjects by foreign governments disseminate false information on all key political issues. Being pushed to find creative solutions, Taiwan has developed unique strategies to adapt to new normal situation against the background of an innovation-driven globalized

world. How did this come about and what are the prospects for the future?

1.5 Agenda (Please see attachment)

1.6 Event Outcomes, Impact, and Highlights

On the afternoon of September 18, 2023, the Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center, the European Union Program, and the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies at the College of International Affairs, National Chengchi University, jointly organized a special lecture entitled **"The Challenge of a Global New Normal: Taiwan in Midst of Challenging Mega Trends."** The lecture was delivered by Josie-Marie Perkuhn, Director of the **"Taiwan as a Pioneer (TAP)"** program at the University of Trier, Germany, and moderated by Professor Chiung-Hui Huang, Director of the Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center.

Professor Huang first introduced Dr. Perkuhn, noting that she obtained her doctoral degree from Heidelberg University and specializes in role theory research. Dr. Perkuhn has long engaged in research on cross-Strait relations and China and possesses extensive fieldwork experience. The lecture provided participants with an opportunity to gain a German perspective on the situation in Taiwan and its future development, thereby complementing perspectives on Taiwan studies from Taiwan itself.

Dr. Perkuhn explained that the TAP program was established with the support of the German government, primarily to strengthen connections among Taiwan studies institutions in Germany and enhance Taiwan's role within the field of Sinology. She argued that the most significant characteristic of the global environment amid the new normal of U.S.–China great-power competition is the lack of security. Taiwan is particularly exposed to risks in areas including geopolitics, innovative technologies, climate change, and energy. In response to these multiple challenges, Taiwanese society should increase public attention to and discussion of security, economic, energy, and other public affairs through various new forms of democratic mechanisms, including both physical and online social networks.

During the Q&A session, participants showed considerable interest in Germany's perspectives on cross-Strait developments. Professor Huang asked about the implications of Germany's first China Strategy, released

in July 2023. Other participants asked how Germany might respond in the event of a Chinese attack on Taiwan.

Associate Professor Hsin-Shih Wang of the Department of Economics also asked about the development of Taiwan studies in Germany. He noted that Taiwan's understanding of international academic perspectives on Taiwan has largely been derived from the United States. However, Taiwan studies in Europe have gradually evolved from a branch of Sinology toward discussions grounded in international relations and security studies. He suggested that Taiwan should expand academic exchanges with Europe and deepen mutual understanding.

1.7 Attachment

1.7.1 Poster



1.7.2 Photos





1.7.3 Press Release Link

https://www.nccu.edu.tw/p/405-1000-15063,c87.php?Lang=zh-tw

2. Seminar: “Research and Writing on the Academic Constellation”

2.1 Date: November 1, 2023, 12:20 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

2.2 Venue: Room 271112, College of International Affairs Building

2.3 Participants

2.3.1 Moderator:
Chiung-Hui Huang, Professor, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, National Chengchi University; Deputy Director, Center for International Relations; Director, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center; Executive Editor, *Issues & Studies*

2.3.2 Speaker:
Wen-Chin Wu, Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica

2.3.3 Staff:
Yin-Shan Huang, Ph.D. Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies / Research Assistant, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center
Ting-Hsun Lin, Master’s Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies / Research Assistant, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center
Heng-Te Liao, Master’s Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies / Research Assistant, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center

2.4 Event Overview

The Center organized this event on November 1, 2023, with the aim of helping master’s and doctoral students understand the beginning of academic research, including topic selection, as well as the research process, writing, and submission for publication. The seminar also explored how these practices can contribute to the establishment and maintenance of academic networks and collaboration. The event emphasized that every individual follows a different academic journey and highlighted the importance of self-discipline and maintaining a balance between academic work and physical and mental well-being, encouraging participants to explore their own research paths.

2.5 Agenda (Please see attachment)

2.6 Event Outcomes, Impact, and Highlights

Professor Wen-Chin Wu described academic research as a journey in which everyone receives an incomplete map or constellation chart. Because individual interests differ, no one receives a complete map, and maps inevitably simplify reality. Even though students are required to take many courses, they also have electives to choose from, and no one tells them how to combine them. Since everyone begins with different conditions and resources, there is no perfect method or answer. How one chooses to proceed, how long the journey takes, and how far one travels are largely individual decisions.

There are visible milestones as well as an unknown destination. Certain intermediate goals must be achieved, such as completing coursework, passing qualifying examinations, and identifying a dissertation or thesis topic. These are necessary stages leading toward the next phase of the journey, even though the ultimate destination may remain unclear. Even after obtaining a degree, new challenges may only begin after entering the workforce.

Another characteristic of academic research is that “learning is achieved in solitude.” The cost of an academic career is that much of the journey can be lonely. Even when others accompany us, they may only walk with us for part of the journey. Nevertheless, the scenery and paths along the way have different meanings for each individual. Although there is no truly perfect academic path, researchers should learn to appreciate the diverse approaches taken by different scholars.

More importantly, academic research, like a celestial map, is characterized by diversity. Different civilizations throughout history have imagined the night sky in different ways and have attributed different meanings to the stars. This raises questions about whether Western knowledge is inherently superior. We may be more familiar with Western knowledge, but this does not mean that it is the only way to understand the world. Researchers can also develop their own approaches to understanding the “night sky.”

The major challenges in an academic research journey can be summarized as **finding a research topic, revising manuscripts after submission, building and maintaining research networks, and academic collaboration**.

First, identifying a good research topic is critical. A good topic may involve:

1. An unexplained or counterintuitive phenomenon, namely a "puzzle," or a phenomenon that previous scholars have not examined;
2. A disputed issue requiring further clarification, where existing academic debates leave room for one's research to make a contribution;
3. A topic that may contribute to future employment opportunities; and
4. A topic that can inspire research enthusiasm, which is particularly important because passion is necessary to sustain a research project through completion.

Once a topic has been identified, it should be connected to the existing literature. Academic research may be a lonely journey, but it is never a one-person performance. A research project should establish a positive relationship with existing literature by adding knowledge to it, or a negative relationship by challenging existing scholarship and proposing new arguments. In either case, the goal is to fill an existing gap or address a puzzle. For example, combining democratization theory with international trade can contribute to the literature on international political economy.

Researchers should then assess whether a topic is feasible and determine its appropriate scope. Topic selection depends on individual endowments, including personal skills, available time and energy, and research interests. The costs, outputs, and utility of research should all be considered. Utility is often overlooked: researchers may assume that spending more time on a paper necessarily produces greater value, but the relationship may be nonlinear. Beyond a certain point, the opportunity cost may become so high that continuing the project reduces its overall utility.

Researchers must also decide between "making a small topic large" and "making a large topic small." Although many researchers aspire to undertake large-scale projects, even very large questions generally need to be narrowed down into manageable components. Research can adopt a funnel-shaped structure by progressively narrowing the scope, for example, through statistical analysis of the relationship between two variables.

Second, during the writing and submission stage, researchers should make every effort to write efficiently, because "publish or perish" remains an important reality of academic life. Under a highly competitive

publication environment, speed can be an advantage; however, producing high-quality work slowly requires the appropriate ability and resources.

Five points should be kept in mind during writing and submission:

1. **Write regularly:** Develop a consistent writing routine, such as writing at a fixed time each day.
2. **Modularize the research process:** Research topics should not shift constantly. Establish short-term plans, such as setting a target number of working hours for completing a paragraph or section. Avoid leaving research projects unfinished after presenting them at conferences; submission is an essential part of completing a project, even if the manuscript is ultimately rejected.
3. **Establish a fixed workflow:** Develop a clear writing workflow to keep the research process on track.
4. **Build a support "supply chain":** Some institutions provide resources for cultivating students, while others do not. Researchers should therefore identify available sources of support, including applying for funding from the National Science and Technology Council.
5. **Recognize that a paper is never perfectly finished:** There is no perfect paper, only a better paper. Once a manuscript reaches a sufficient level of quality, it should be submitted. Two key criteria for determining whether a manuscript is ready are whether it asks a good question and whether it successfully answers that question theoretically, methodologically, and empirically.

After entering the profession, researchers should also strive to follow the **"Rule of Three"**, ideally maintaining three papers under review each year.

Third, regarding revisions after submission, researchers should not allow negative reviewer comments to extinguish their enthusiasm. Academic publishing involves a law-of-large-numbers effect: the more extensive the preparatory work and participation surrounding a paper, the greater the likelihood that it will eventually be published.

When receiving reviews, priority should be given to **R&R (Revise and Resubmit)** manuscripts. One published paper is better than ten unpublished papers. When responding to reviewers, researchers should always maintain a positive and polite attitude, regardless of whether the comments are positive or negative.

Q&A — How can researchers determine whether a research topic makes a meaningful contribution?

The speaker suggested presenting research frequently and seeking feedback. If a professor who is generally not inclined to praise others finds the research topic interesting, this can be a strong signal that the project is worth pursuing. In some cases, the interestingness of a topic may be even more important than its direct contribution to the literature.

2.7 Attachment

2.7.1 Poster



2.7.2 Photos





2.7.4 Press Release Link

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/5p1AqYAncUkF6tkH/

3. Seminar: "Are Regional Organizations in the Global South Alliances of Dictators? — A Comparison with China"

3.1 Date: November 22, 2023, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
3.2 Venue: Room 270813, College of International Affairs Building

3.3 Participants

3.3.1 Moderator:
Chiung-Hui Huang, Professor, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, National Chengchi University; Director, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center

3.3.2 Speaker:
Chih-Yu Shih, Professor, Department of Political Science, National Taiwan University

3.4 Event Outcomes, Impact, and Highlights

On November 12, the Center invited Professor Chih-Yu Shih of the Department of Political Science at National Taiwan University to deliver a lecture entitled **"Are Regional Organizations in the Global South Alliances of Dictators? — A Comparison with China."** The session was moderated by Center Director Chiung-Hui Huang, and Assistant Professor Wen-Ting Yang of the Japanese Studies Program also participated throughout the event. More than 20 faculty members and students attended.

The concept of the security community has become an important topic in international relations. From the perspective of security communities, countries should seek to emulate such arrangements. Yet why have East Asia, Central Asia, and Africa not developed comparable security communities? Although the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation holds summits attended by leaders of its member states, cooperation and trust remain difficult to observe. One question is whether China and Russia are seeking to unite against the United States. Since many Central Asian participating states are nondemocratic, such organizations have sometimes been characterized as "alliances of dictators."

Professor Shih's lecture addressed a topic that has received relatively limited attention in Taiwan's academic community: the Global South. By comparing the European Union's security community with regional organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, ASEAN, and the African Union, the lecture highlighted how colonial

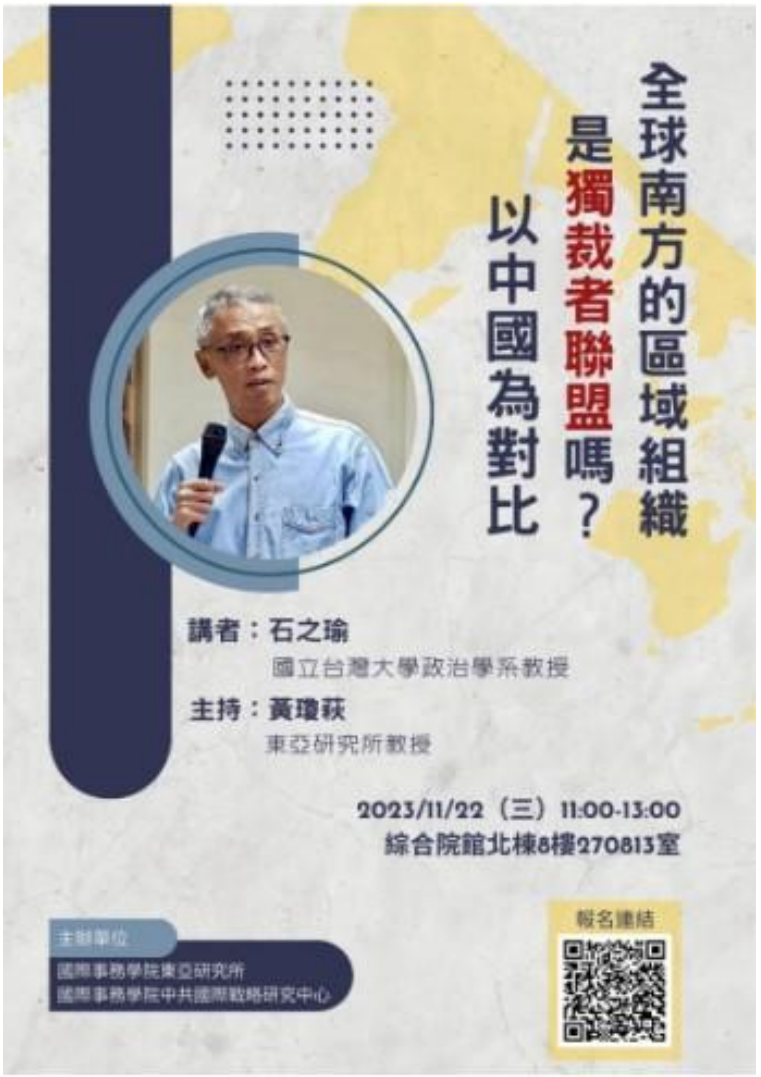
relationships between former colonies and colonial powers continue to influence contemporary international affairs. It also examined how concepts derived from traditional international relations theories shape our understanding of sovereign states and securitization.

Faculty members and students raised numerous questions and reflections, including whether the European Union's Western-style peace emerged by accident; whether the intentions of members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation differ from those of Western security communities because of cultural differences; whether organizations led and initiated by geopolitical powers have distinctive characteristics of value competition compared with Western organizations; how the European Union constrains its members through a security community from liberal and functionalist perspectives; whether there are fundamentally "Eastern" and "Western" theories; how narrative analysis can examine the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and ASEAN without bias; and whether Global South countries have attempted to develop their own narratives while pursuing national interests.

Professor Shih responded to the students' questions and encouraged them to understand the Global South from diverse narrative perspectives rather than relying exclusively on Western literature.

3.5 Attachment

3.5.1 Poster


全球南方的區域組織
是獨裁者聯盟嗎？
以中國為對比
講者：石之瑜
國立台灣大學政治學系教授
主持：黃瓊萩
東亞研究所教授
2023/11/22（三）11:00-13:00
綜合院館北棟8樓270813室
報名連結
國際事務學院東亞研究所
國際事務學院中共國際戰略研究中心

3.5.2 Photos

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4. Seminar: “China’s Material Solidification of the Past and the Infrastructuralization of Memory”

4.1 Date: February 24, 2024, 12:20 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
4.2 Venue: Room 270812, College of International Affairs Building

4.3 Participants

4.3.1 Moderator:
Chiung-Hui Huang, Professor, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, National Chengchi University; Deputy Director, Center for International Relations; Director, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center; Executive Editor, *Issues & Studies*

4.3.2 Speaker:
Maximilian Mayer, Professor of International Relations and Global Technology, University of Bonn, Germany

4.3.3 Staff:
Yin-Shan Huang, Ph.D. Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies / Research Assistant, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center
Ting-Hsun Lin, Master’s Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies / Research Assistant, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center
Heng-Te Liao, Master’s Student, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies / Research Assistant, Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center

4.4 Event Overview

The interpretation and commemoration of China’s extensive history, with an eye toward contemporary political ambitions and the future, have long been subjects of scholarly interest. In this lecture, the speaker drew upon a recent special issue to explore the curation, performance, and consumption of collective memory. The lecture examined the dynamic relationship between the redefinition of Chinese identity, cultural modernization, and the evolving significance of heritage and memory within Chinese politics.

Taking into account forms of diversity, including personal versus collective memory and the influence of community-driven and state-led heritage initiatives, the lecture examined how the interaction between state and society shapes local memory practices. It also explored the

significant and widespread effects of cultural and material changes in China, including transformation and destruction, on the reconstruction of memory.

Central to the discussion was the contemporary politicization of heritage and the deliberate solidification of selected representations of the past. The concept of **"memory infrastructure"** was introduced as a framework for understanding the interconnection among history, memory, and politics.

4.5 Agenda (Please see attachment)

4.6 Event Outcomes, Impact, and Highlights

On the afternoon of February 24, 2024, the Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center, the European Union Program, and the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies at the College of International Affairs, National Chengchi University, jointly organized a special lecture entitled **"China's Material Solidification of the Past and the Infrastructuralization of Memory."** The lecture was delivered by Maximilian Mayer, Professor at the Center for Strategic Integration and Advanced Security Studies at the University of Bonn, Germany, and moderated by Professor Chiung-Hui Huang, Director of the Chinese Communist Party International Strategy Research Center.

Professor Mayer's major research interests include infrastructure politics. His current research focuses on infrastructure and modernity in China, particularly the links among cultural infrastructure, art, domestic politics, and international relations.

The lecture examined how the Chinese Communist Party has strengthened cultural heritage and collective memory as a means of creating new foundations for political legitimacy and awakening a sense of collective identity through the promotion of the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." Research on collective memory has been represented by scholars such as Ian Johnson. Due to increasing difficulties in accessing official archives in recent years, underground historians in China have tended to preserve historical records independently, making research on collective memory increasingly important.

The lecture explored how collective memory can be sustained over the long term, how collective memory can be homogenized to support the legitimacy of the party-state, and how collective memory can be reconstructed amid rapid social change.

Drawing on the theme of **"Politics of Memory, Heritage, and Diversity in Modern China,"** Professor Mayer developed the concept of infrastructure for collective memory from a collective rather than individual perspective, seeking to explain the contemporary material consolidation of collective memory. Such infrastructure is not limited to museums; rather, governments at all levels, from the central government to local administrations, are involved in establishing infrastructures of collective memory.

These forms of memory are diverse and include official Chinese narratives concerning China and Taiwan, as well as China's relationship with the world, rather than being limited to narratives within China itself.

China has experienced repeated crises and reconstruction of identity throughout its modernization process. The collapse of the tributary system in the late Qing period forced China to reconsider how it could constitute itself as a nation-state. Major events around 1949, including the loss of important cultural heritage and the destruction of traditional cities, further contributed to crises of identity.

Against this background, the materialization of collective memory of the past has become an important task for the Chinese government. Chinese collective memory consists of narratives deliberately selected, reconstructed, and stabilized by the authorities. For example, the integration of red tourism sites with commercial activities helps reinforce commemorative historical memories.

Two elements are essential to the infrastructure of collective memory. First, it must possess relational, transboundary, and commemorative characteristics, allowing people to establish connections with history while also linking memory to material systems and mechanisms of censorship. Second, it must ensure the continuity and effectiveness of collective memory. This can involve allowing people to experience history again, providing opportunities to connect collective history with individual memory, and using new platforms such as social media as carriers of collective memory.

After the 1980s, China experienced a paradigm shift in its approach to culture. Traditions destroyed during the Cultural Revolution began to receive grassroots calls for protection in the 1990s, while China also began preserving cultural heritage according to UNESCO standards.

During the Xi Jinping era, television programs began producing documentaries about local cuisine. Collective memory thus came to

encompass not only traditional architecture and historical heritage but also food.

During the Xi Jinping era, collective memory has also been strengthened as a means of enhancing soft power. One of the clearest manifestations has been the year-by-year increase in China's budget for cultural heritage. The material solidification of collective memory ultimately serves not only to repair the past but also to shape the future. Although these practices may function as a form of soft power, they may also make China less flexible in its external relations.

During the Q&A session, participants expressed considerable interest in the motivations behind the Chinese government's promotion of collective memory and the use of new technologies as carriers of collective memory. Professor Mayer noted that collective memory overlaps with nationalism but is not limited to nationalism; it constitutes a broader narrative that also encompasses resistance to colonialism and imperialism.

The lecture concluded by suggesting that participants further explore research on red tourism and investigate how China promotes collective memory internationally, including how different narratives are constructed for different audiences.

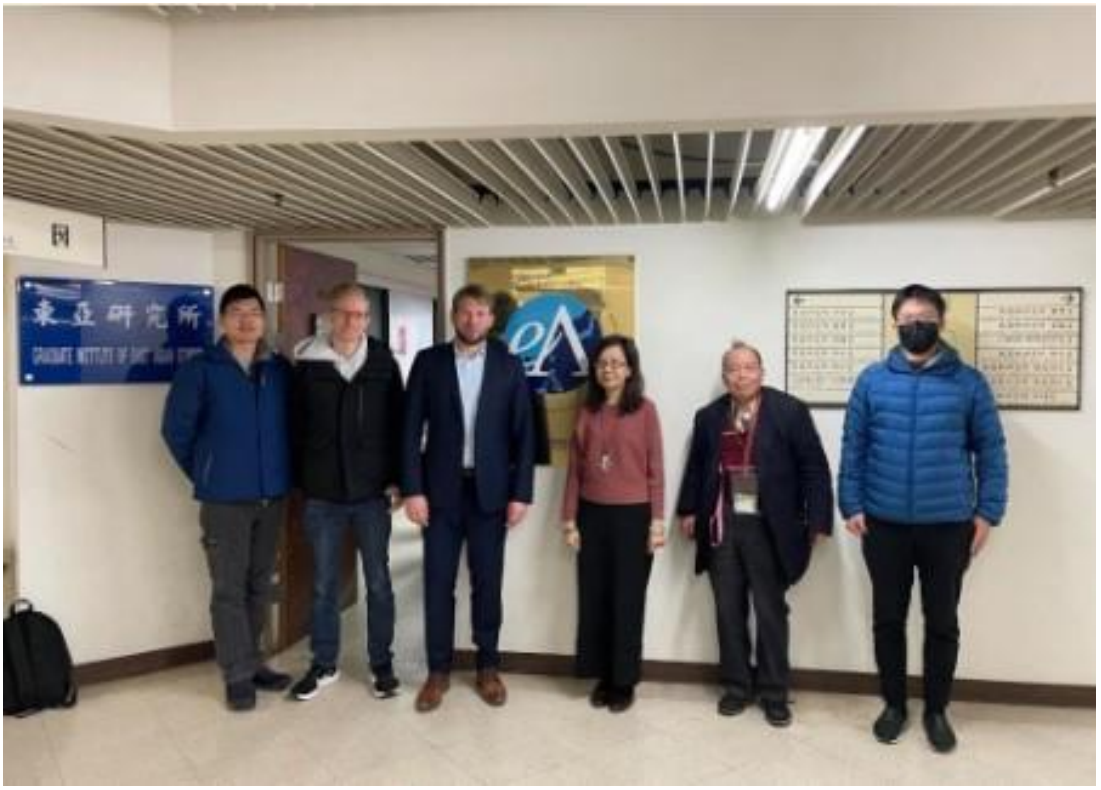
4.7 Attachment

4.7.1 Poster


China's Material
Solidification of the Past
and the
Infrastructuralization of
Memory 「英文演講」
Speaker: Maximilian Mayer
Junior Professor of International Relations and
Global Politics of Technology
University of Bonn
Moderator: Chiung-Chiu Huang
Professor, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies
College of International Affairs
報名連結
Room 270812, 8F North Wing,
General Building of Colleges
2024.02.26 (一) 12:20-14:00

4.7.2 Photos

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II. Work Plan for the Next Academic Year

The Center plans to organize the following activities in the **112 academic year**. The titles and dates are tentative.

1. Special Lectures

September–December 2024

The Center plans to organize special lectures on China studies or key issues in contemporary Asia-Pacific international politics, in cooperation with the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies.

2. "Rethinking the Methods and Possibilities of Contemporary China Studies"

March 2025

The Center plans to invite international scholars to serve as discussants or commentators, with English as the primary language of the event.

3. Current Affairs and Policy Seminars / Research Workshops

The Center plans to cooperate with the Center for International Relations to organize seminars on current affairs and policy issues or research workshops.

4. Current Affairs Commentary

The Center plans to arrange for its advisors, director, and adjunct research fellows to publish commentary on current affairs under the name of the Center.