

## Taiwan Studies Group Report (2018.06.05)

We really thank the David Lam Centre for the generous support to the Taiwan Studies Group (TSG). With the funding and logistic support from the David Lam Centre, the TSG successfully hosted eight distinguished scholars and promoted Taiwan Studies to the audience at SFU and the public.

The past year was one of great significance for the study of Taiwanese history at SFU. In September 2017, Dr. Weiting Guo, a historian of late imperial China and modern Taiwan, inaugurated the Taiwan Studies Group in the Department of History. Passionate about promoting Taiwanese studies, Dr. Guo brought together scholars at SFU and from around the world interested in Taiwan and paved a path for students to better understand the historic and contemporary importance of Taiwan within Asia as well as the world. At an initial stage, the TSG has gathered 28 members with diverse disciplinary backgrounds. The TSG is now a welcome addition to the Global Asia Program which aims to explore the history of Asian countries through comparative historical perspectives and diverse methodologies.

Given its aim of enhancing understanding of Taiwan, the TSG established a Speakers Series to foster interdisciplinary discussion about the global and transregional contexts of Taiwan's social, economic, and political development. During 2017-2018 alone, TSG's Speakers Series featured talks by eight distinguished scholars of Taiwanese history, anthropology and political science. Among them were Dr. Stevan Harrell (University of Washington), who reported on his fifty years of experience with Taiwan. Dr. John Chung-En Liu (Occidental College) discussed public understanding of global climate change in China and Taiwan, as well as the associated nationalist sentiment that plays a pivotal role in framing the discussion around environmental issues. Dr. Yun Xia (Valparaiso University) talked about the rise of an underground organization, the Bamboo Union, which evolved into entrepreneurial criminal organizations, against the backdrop of Taiwan's modernization and gradual democratization. Dr. Chengpang Lee (Harvard Kennedy School) discussed the emergence of hospital projects initiated by religious organizations in postwar Taiwan. Dr. Tony Tai-Ting Liu (National Chung Hsing University) spoke about Taiwan's recent infatuation with Japanese culture and the changing dynamics of the relationship

sources to Dr. Weiting Guo for Guo's current project on the making of Cold War Sinology and the development of Taiwan Studies—with a case study on the life and the experiences of Dr. Stevan Harrell. A TSG member, Dr. Jeremy Brown, also recommended many graduate students, especially Kevin Li and Anna Fong, to attend TSG's events and discuss their MA projects with several TSG's speakers, including Dr. Yun Xia and Dr. Tadashi Ishikawa. During the talk of Nick Stember, Dr. Weiting Guo also discussed with Nick about the opportunity to publish Dr. Guo's undergraduate students' term papers. Nick generously agreed to publish these students' papers in a magazine he edits, the *Journal of American Studies*. In the recent event by Dr. Yun Xia, Dr. Weiting Guo and Dr. Yun Xia discussed their collaborative projects and decided to co-edit a volume called *Law and Disorder in Taiwan*. They planned to submit their book proposal to the University of Washington Press by August 2018.

Forthcoming talks include lectures by Dr. John Copper (Rhodes College), the author of *The U.S.-Taiwan-China Triangle*, who has promised to give a talk on the U.S.-Taiwan-China triangle from the Cold War to the present; Dr. Sida Liu (University of Toronto Mississauga), along with his co-investigator Ching-Fang Hsu, who will present their pioneering study of lawyer's alliances and networks across Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China; and Dr. Hsiao-ting Lin (Stanford, Hoover Institution), curator of the Modern China collection at the Hoover Institution and the author of *The Cold War in Taiwan*, who will speak about Chiang Kai-shek and Cold War Taiwan and introduced some of Hoover's post-1949 Taiwan-related archival collections.

The Speakers Series garnered the support