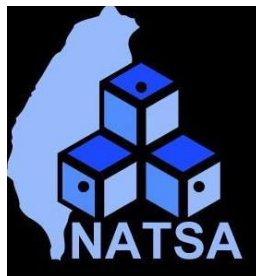


The Fourteenth Annual Conference for
North American Taiwan Studies Association

Final Report on the Execution of Conference



Organized by

- The North American Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA) <http://www.na-tsa.org>

Sponsored by

- Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange 蔣經國基金會
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- Asian Law Center, University of Washington, Seattle
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* For more pictures of this conference, please visit <http://picasaweb.google.com/natsa2008>

Forewords

The 14th annual conference of the North American Taiwan Studies Association took place at the University of Washington, Seattle from June 27 to 29 of 2008. The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange provided significant financial support for this conference. The Asian Law Center and the East Asia Center at the University of Washington also sponsored this conference in various ways. A good number of faculty members and researchers specialized in Asian Studies in the greater Seattle area had also been involved in this conference as paper reviewers, panel chairs, discussants or informal advisors.

With the backdrop of Taiwan's presidential election in March and Beijing Olympic Game in August, the conference invited scholars and students to reexamine the latest development of democratic politics and social empowerment in Taiwan, featuring the conference theme of "*Translating the Political, Re-envisioning the Social: What's the Next Turn for Taiwan?*" The organizing committee received about a hundred abstracts submitted online and invited over twenty distinguished scholars from different disciplines to review these abstracts. Only forty-eight papers were admitted to the annual conference and most of the authors were from the United States, Canada, Taiwan, Japan and Europe. There were fourteen panels, six posters, one roundtable discussion, and a keynote speech given by Professor Pheng Cheah from UC Berkeley. We also provided partial travel grants for all the authors and discussants who attended the conference. Altogether six university presses participated in our book exhibition this year.

We are very grateful for persons and institutions that have helped the NATSA throughout this year. We owe our intellectual debts to our advisors, especially to Professor William Lavelly, Veronika Taylor and Cheng Tun-jun. The final report is divided into two parts: the first part is completed by the program committee and the second by the administrative committee. We have recorded the planning process as well as the execution of this conference. By way of reflecting on our experience, we hope that the annual meetings of the NATSA will achieve higher goals, and bring more scholarly exchanges among people who are interested in Taiwan Studies in the future.

1. *Program Committee*

(1) *Main Theme Panel Report*

by Yu-I Hsieh

I. Abstracts Review

The Main theme of NATSA 2008, eponymously titled as “Translating the Political, Re-envisioning the Social: What’s the Next Turn for Taiwan,” drew altogether twenty-four paper submissions. At the first stage, we invited Prof. Jeff Hou (University of Washington, Seattle), Prof. Wu Jieh-min (National Tsing Hua University), and Prof. Ho Mingsho (National Sun Yat-sen University) to review the abstracts of these twenty-four papers. The abstracts are evaluated by four criteria: theoretical clarity, feasibility, contribution to Taiwan studies, and writing fluency. This year, our website master Danny Hsu initiated a new user-friendly electronic database, which made the reviewing processes efficient and clearly-defined. Prof. Hou expressed his appreciation for this new implementation of technology and hopefully we can sustain this service in the future.

II. The Constitution of Presenters

After the review, twenty-two papers were selected as panel presentation and in the end, thirteen presenters turned out for the conference. These thirteen presenters belonged to various academic institutions located in different countries: two of them were from Taiwan, one from Japan, and the rest from the U.S. The majority of the presenters were in their final stage of doctorate studies conducting research and writing dissertations related to Taiwan Studies. Notably, we had two faculty-level presenters contributing their works to the conference: one was Prof. Jeffery Martin (Chang Jung Christian University) and the other was Prof. Ya-chen Chen (City College of New York, CUNY). In the future, we hope to recruit more junior faculty to present their works in the NATSA conference. This time for instance, Prof. Martin brought intellectual energies and genuine friendship to the conference and his mere presence gave us much inspiration. The contribution from junior faculty would certainly encourage all other participating graduate students.

NATSA was established at the historical moment when Taiwan underwent radical sociopolitical transformations in the early 90s. The main theme of this year’s conference specifically was meant to be a critical reflection upon these changes. Therefore, it was not surprising to find that the presenters from the main theme were predominantly trained as social scientists, studying under the disciplines of law, political science, history, anthropology or sociology. The scholars from the discipline

of humanities, namely art- and literature-related subjects, are quite scarce in number and this uneven distribution deserves special attention.

III. Discussant Invitation

In our effort of locating potential panel discussants for the main theme, we tried to look first for faculty members affiliated with University of Washington at Seattle, since UW Seattle is known as one of the top research institutes in the field of Asian Studies. Regrettably, many potential discussants from UW Seattle were travelling abroad during our conference and therefore could not attend our conference. However, fortunately, Prof. Robert Anderson (Law), Prof. William Lavelly (Sociology), Prof. Jeff Hou (Architecture) and Prof. Jenny Hsun-chun Tsai (Nursing) from UW Seattle agreed to serve as discussants and offered all kinds of help. Apart from these four professors from UW Seattle, other discussants for the main theme also included Dr. Rwei-ren Wu (Academia Sinica, History), Prof. Changling Huang (National Taiwan University, Political Science), Prof. David Blundell (National Chengchi University, English), Dr. Hsiao-wei Kuan (University of Pennsylvania, Law), Chia-ming Chen (University of Chicago, Political Science), Hsun-hui Tseng (UW Seattle, Anthropology), Yi-Tze Lee (University of Pittsburgh, Anthropology), and Wei-chi Chen (New York University, History). We are very thankful these scholars for giving NATSA their unconditional support—intellectually and emotionally—and we hope that we will have the chance to work with them again in the near future.

IV. Panel Presentations and Discussions

With such a versatile lineup of discussants and presenters as introduced above, the five panels under the main theme were able to encompass different facets of Taiwan Studies and address key concerns in the current Taiwanese society, including issues of gender and law-making, the complexities in Taiwan's colonial history and literature, the relationship between community building and jurisprudential intervention, the identity of the Taiwanese aborigines, and the impacts of biotechnology on agriculture. During the conference, these five panels facilitated invigorating discussions and many presenters expressed their gratitude for the constructive criticism they received from the discussants. In some occasions, the discussants focused on the concrete problems in methodology. For instance, in one panel, Prof. William Lavelly used his expertise in quantitative researches to investigate the complications in one presenter's statistical survey. He invited the author to explore different readings of the numbers, which might point to a possibility unanticipated by the original thesis. In other occasions, the discussants used the papers to invite all the panelists to look into a larger theoretical

concern. For instance, in Chen Wei Chi's commentary for the presentation on the journals of Taiwan Youth, he emphasized that it was necessary to consider the emergence of Taiwanese nationalism in a global historical context without imposing anachronistic, ahistorical interpretations of the texts. All in all, in these five panels, intellectual interchange took place in both micro and macro levels and the ambience of panel discussions was rigorous and yet accommodating and cordial.



*** Professor Robert Anderson chaired the Main Theme Panel I.**



*** Professor Wu Rwei-ren chaired Main Theme Panel V.**

I. Abstract Review

The theme A “Taiwan’s Security and Democratic Governance” of NATSA2008 received fifth paper submissions in total. To review the abstracts of these papers, we invited two Taiwanese scholars Prof. Ginger Hwang (National Sun Yat-Sen University), Prof. Ming-hua Huang (National Taiwan University), and one Japanese scholar Prof. Sonoda Shigeto (Waseda University). Theme A would like to address special gratitude to Professor Ginger Hwang who has been serving for our reviewer for three years. Also, it is the very first time for NATSA to access to Japanese scholar successfully. We are looking forward to build more substantial networks with Japanese circles of Taiwan studies in the future. The abstracts are evaluated based on four criteria: theoretical clarity, feasibility, contribution to Taiwan studies, and writing fluency. Thanks to our webmaster-Denny’s efforts, reviewers could mark their evaluations crossing borders. It was interesting to observe some papers were given very contradictory scores, which reflected the diverse perceptions and backgrounds of our three reviewers.

II. The Constitution of Presenters

According to the overall ranking, ten out of fifteen papers were selected as panel presentations and two were appointed to be poster presentation. However, only six panel presenters and one poster presenters eventually turned out to attend the conference. These six panel presenters are specialized in various disciplines and affiliated with different academic institutes in three main countries: one from Taiwan, two from Europe, and three from the U.S. As for presenters’ background, most of them are PhD candidates except for one associate professor, Prof. Edward Hwang from Chung-hua University in Taiwan. Interestingly, one of those PhD candidates of Stanford University Mr. Dongtao Qi is originally from the Mainland China. He actively contributed to be not only a panel presenter, but also a discussant for the theme A. His presence has broadened the diverse constitution of scholar body in Taiwan studies. The discussions were very inspiring between Mr. Dong-tao Qi and other participants of Taiwanese background. We are looking forward to more interactions and involvement with those Chinese scholars who are interested in Taiwan studies in the future.

III. Discussant Invitation

Theme A made efforts to invite scholars who have expertise in law, political science, democracy, Asian studies, China studies, and U.S. East Asian or China policy. Theme A contacted Dr. Larry Diamond (Hoover Institute) and Dr. Hsiao-ting Lin (Hoover Institute), Dr. Andrew D. Marble, Prof. Chi-yu Shih (National Taiwan University), and Prof. David Bachman (UW Jackson School) at the first stage. However, all of them were preoccupied by other business and duties. It is also a pity that Chun-chih Yang (National Kaohsiung University) accepted our invitation but could not make to come by the end of May. However, fortunately, we still successfully recruited a couple of outstanding scholars, Prof. Chang-ling Huang (National Taiwan University, Political Science), Prof. Pheng Cheah (UC Berkley, Rhetoric), and Prof. Dongsheng Zang (UW, Law). Besides, we had the rest of papers discussed by our fellow PhD candidates— Chia-ming Chen (University of Chicago, Political Science), Dontao Qi (Stanford University, Sociology), and Pei-chun Han (Waseda University Japan, International Relations). We would like to express our gratitude to the discussants who shared their intellectuality, expertise, research experiences and passions to support our panels and Taiwan studies in the conference.

IV. Panel Presentations and Discussions

Since we have only six papers for presentations, two panels under the theme A were organized to look into issues and theory regarding democracy, power transitions and nationhood in Taiwan. The first panel is named as “*Moving beyond Partisan Democracy? Power Transitions and Political Paradox in Taiwan’s democratization*”. Professor Chang-ling Huang, as an experienced feminist activist and scholar, provided insightful critiques and suggestions to Mr. Che-huan Shen’s paper which argues the limitation of women’s participation in Taiwan is due to the structure of electoral system. Prof. Huang suggested Mr. Shen to track the history back from 1980s and to compare the Taiwanese case with other country. Mr. Chia-ming Chen had very interesting dialogues with our presenter Mr. Dongtao Qi from Mainland China. Though Mr. Qi’s dissertation proposal which demonstrates a comparative study on pro-independence party’s electoral performance in Taipei and Kaohsiung was rejected by his committee professors at Stanford Univ. who regarded the research is too narrowly-scoped and thus meaningless; Mr. Qi found Mr. Chia-ming Chen has provided much more informative and constructive advise which shows Mr. Chen’s understandings toward the significance of this study. Lastly, Discussing Prof. Edward Hwang’s paper focusing on political conflict in Taiwan, Ms. Pei-chun Han appreciated Prof. Hwang’s contribution to the up-to-dated literature and empirical

study on contemporary Taiwan. Prof. Hwang analyzed Anti-Bian campaign in 2006 from a perspective of anti-government /social movement and elite struggle. However, Ms.Pei-chun found there is little linkage between the theories which Prof. Hwang employed and the fact. More elaborated and precise explanations are necessary to prove Mr. Hwang's arguments convincing.

As for the other panel "*Transfiguration of Taiwan's Democratization: State-ness, People-hood and Imagi(e)-Nation*", we also had three panelists and three discussants. Our three presenters from different country's institutes: Mr. Chien-huei Wu from European University in Italy claims that the court's in foreign relations, particularly the problems of cross-strait trade puzzles after WTO access and Taiwan's democratization. Professor Dongsheng Zang from law school of the UW appreciated Mr. Wu's rich contexts in Taiwan's court dynamics. He also suggested Mr. Wu to investigate the essence of WTO process and its functions in cross-strait neutrally before examining Taiwanese judicial problem. In addition, Mr. Chia-Ming Chen from the University of Chicago presented his theoretical and philosophical study on nationhood, state and people. He argues the used word of nation is inappropriate, which barely embraces the current trend of multi-ethnic phenomena in the global era; whereas "people" instead, can more accurately capture the essence and concept of ethnic diversity nowadays. Prof. Pheng Cheah acknowledged Mr.Chia-ming Chen's perceptive idea and originality. He gave related comments on the discourses of colonial liberation as supportive example to respond Chen's arguments. Finally, Mr. Ching-chang Chen presented his paper examining Taiwan's foreign policy from the viewpoint of soft power and "Normal Nation" discourse. Mr. Qi praised Mr. Chen's detailed illustration in historical context of Taiwan's foreign policy, however, he found Mr.Ching-chang Chen's weak explanations and self-contradictory while discussing the relationship between soft power and normal nation.



*** Mr. Ching-chang Chen presented his paper in Panel A 1.**



* Professor Zang Dong-sheng commented on paper presented in Panel A1.

I. Abstracts Review

During the 2008 NATSA conference, there were altogether twenty-five papers submitted under Theme B Cultural Industry and Economy of Everyday Life. Professor A-Ching Hsiau, Professor Hsuta Lin and Professor Robert Chen were invited to serve as theme B's abstract reviewers.

Out of the twenty-five papers submitted, fifteen papers were accepted as panel presentations and two as poster presentations. The abstracts of these papers were selected based on four criteria, including theoretical clarity, feasibility, contribution to Taiwan studies and writing fluency. Both poster presenters were at the conference, but only eight panel presenters attended the conference in the end. Out of the ten presenters from theme B, five of them were from Taiwan, one from the US, one from the UK and one from Australia.

II. Discussant Invitation

In the process of searching for potential panel discussants, approximately twenty or so professors and PhD candidates were contacted. Those potential discussants agreed to serve on the panel in the end were Professor Jeff Martin from the Chang Jung Christian University, Professor Steve Harrell from the University of Washington (Seattle), Yi-tze Lee from the University of Pittsburgh, Chia-ying Shih from the University of Washington (Seattle), and Peilin Liang from the University of Hawai'i.

III. Panel Presentations and Discussions

All three panels under theme B went well during the conference. Except the first two presenters in the earliest scheduled panel, all the presenters used power point presentation in addition to giving oral delivery. Both Professor Jeff Martin and Professor Steve Harrell had given insightful and thorough feedbacks to the presenters that were truly memorable. In Professor Martin's feedbacks, after discussing each of the three papers in detail, he tied all three of them back to the whole conference and the question of Taiwan's subjectivity in the making. In Professor Harrell's feedbacks on the making of film in an Atayal settlement, he posed numerous thought-provoking

questions that indicated possible areas for future research.



Professor Steve Harrell is giving comments on papers in Panel B 3



Professor Jeff Martin is commenting papers of Panel B4.

(4) Theme C Panel Report

by Li-fang Liang & Trangdai Glassey-Tranguyen

I. Abstracts Review (by Li-fang)

We have 23 proposals submitted to Theme C (4 of them are transferred from Main Theme). Based on the consideration of specialties, we sent out a couple of invitations to the qualified candidates for paper reviewers. Finally, we got three reviewers from different disciplines in social science. Here are the details.

1. Prof. Art Hansen
2. Prof. Heng-Hao Chang (Department of Applied Sociology, NanHua University)
3. Yi-Tze Lee (Ph.D. Candidate of Anthropology, University of Pittsburg)

II. The Constitution of Presenters (by Li-fang)

Referring to the results of review, 20 abstracts are accepted in total, including 4 for poster presentation. The rate of acceptance is around 70%. Here are the criteria for paper selection:

1. Clarity of theoretical frameworks, which is referred to an elaborative use, analysis, or pronunciation of epistemology, ideology, ontology and (or) methodology.
2. Contribution to Taiwan Studies, which is referred to (a) constructive critique, arguments, standpoints or proposed models. (b) Explicit, fresh, and intrigued research topics/ research problems.
3. Writing fluency, which is referred to (a) considerate word choices; (b) clear interpretations of terminology; and (c) great writing consistency.

III. Discussant Invitation (by Li-fang)

More than 30 invitations for discussants were sent out to the potential candidates in various social science and humanity disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, geography, urban planning, political science and so forth. Due to the limited budget, we looked for the candidates in the West coast of North America first, and then in the rest areas out the United States and outside the States respectively. Since the period the conference was held is during the summer vacation already, many invited scholars

and senior graduate students were not available due to their away for research and family gathering. Additionally, some invitees had difficulties for traveling to the conference because of the limited reimbursements. Finally, we got the following discussants:

- 1) Prof. Stevan Harrell (Department of Anthropology, University of Washington)
- 2) Prof. Jeff Hou (Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington)
- 3) Prof. David Blundell (Department of English, National Chengchi University)
- 4) Prof. Po-Fen Tai (Department of Sociology, Fu-Jen Catholic University)
- 5) Chin-wen Hsu (Institute of Anthropology, National Tsing Hua)
- 6) Kuei-Hsien Liao (Ph. D. student of Building Environment PH. D Program, University of Washington)
- 7) Hsun-hui Tseng (Ph. D. Candidate of Anthropology, University of Washington)
- 8) Trangdai Glassey-Tranguy (Department of Anthropology, Stanford University)

IV. Panel Presentations and Discussions (by Trangdai)

For Panel C2: I chaired this panel and also discussed the second paper. All panelists were there. Lin Chang did not email her paper to Dr. Ching-wen Hsu, prompting the professor's frustration and dissatisfaction. Before her presentation, moreover, Lin Chang stated that she was first assigned to a space panel, but now found herself in a very different panel. When she finished, I thanked her for graciously fitting her paper into the panel, which I asserted was well composed. I also mentioned the fact that, via a diplomatic reminder, that the Organizing Committee worked really hard throughout the year to organize suitable panels. Nonetheless, (I deduced) there were presenters who withdrew the papers at the last minutes and we were forced to find a fitting panel for the 'orphan' papers instead of dropping them. I also asserted the fact that to have discussants is a luxury that NATSA has worked hard to achieve. In brief, I was acknowledging Lin Chang's frustration with her paper being moved, and at the same time reminding her and the audience how much work it took to pull a panel together. The audience was very attentive. We had a big crowd, and more questions than we had time for.

For Panel C4: The panel was well-attended. The presentations went on longer than the standard time allotted, hence there was little time for questions. Peilin's video clip and presentation were very powerful.



*** Dr. Andrew Libby and Ms. Kuei-hsian Liao discussed papers in Panel C5.**



*** Trangdai Glassey-Tranguyen was chairing Panel C2.**

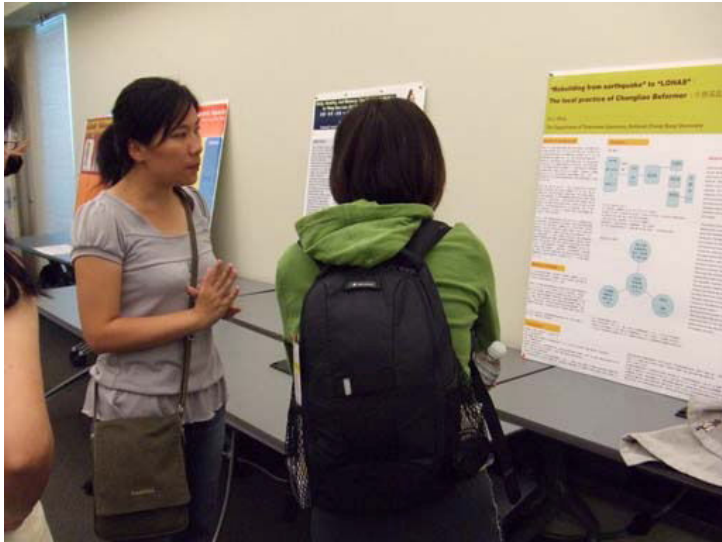
This year we designed the poster presentation session in order to attract more participants. Many conferences have offered people who are not selected to do panel presentation with the opportunity to join the event and interact with other participants who are interested in the poster presenters' research topics.

We asked authors to check if they want to consider doing poster presentation instead if failing to be selected as panel presentation when submitting their abstracts online. We selected three to four highest-ranked abstracts from the zone of being rejected as panel presentation in each thematic category to be our poster presentation. So abstracts for panel and poster presentations in fact share the same criteria.

We finally selected 8 abstracts in total to be poster presentation but it turned out that only 5 presenters came. They were 1) Han-I Huang from National Taiwan University, 2) Fu-I Chou from National Cheng Kung University, 3) San-Hui Hung from National Central University, 4) Hsin-Chin Hsieh from National Tsing Hua University and 5) Tsung-Sheng Liao from University of Wisconsin.

We set up two time periods for the poster session during the conference. We used the break time to hold the poster session together with the book exhibition in the room to attract people. We kept presenters' posters in the place throughout the conference period but only asked them to stand by during the two periods of time in order to answer audience's questions. The interaction between audience and presenters went very well. Because of the nature of poster presentation that one person can have many questions for an author at a time, audience can easily get involved in the discussion with the author by asking simply questions in the beginning. We saw many people earnestly getting into conversation with the authors after reading the posters. Some presenters prepared handouts for interested audience, which was of use to facilitate the discussion.

I think the poster session design was a good try and the result did achieve our expectation. I recommend that we have it again next year. One thing we need to improve is that planners must double check if the submissioner chooses the option of "willing to be considered as poster presentation" before sending out our acceptance letters. Some miscommunication occurred this year just because some planners did not pay full attention to this, although it was resolved well in the end.



*** Poster presentation.**

(6) Best Paper Award

by Yi-tze Lee

This year, NATSA launches a new program, which is the Best Paper Award. The Best Paper Award is set to attract more participants and select the best work among exciting papers for final presentation. There are two reasons for us to launch this special program. First, after the work of call for paper is finished, we usually have our general abstract accepting rate around 60%, which means we have already turned down a certain amount of abstracts that are not accepted as “qualified” papers. But why are we trying to attract people since we did turn down some abstracts? When the date of conference is approaching, there are always promised participants withdrawing their papers. By inaugurating Best Paper Award program and competition, we wish to encourage the participants closely commit with this conference. Second, the inauguration of Best Paper Award is also to encourage the presenter polish their papers for possible publication after presenting them in NATSA conference.

The rule of Best Paper Award is as following. NATSA committee announces the news of Best Paper on line about two months before the deadline of our paper submission (mid March). Everyone who has their abstract accepted is eligible for Best Paper Award competition. The overall deadline of paper submission is May 1st, and the Best Paper Award deadline is set as April 15th. By setting earlier deadline, we encourage people to commit their participation to the conference. The requirement of Best Paper competition is that presenter should submit their full papers by the deadline, and have to be present in the conference. The winner of Best Paper Award can get a certificate from NATSA, as well as a grant of 300 USD for encouragement. If there are two winners, each will get 200 USD as award grant.

After we set the deadline, the policy is announced on our website and sent to every author whose abstract is accepted. The review process is done by four reviewers we have invited from different discipline and academic backgrounds. They are Prof. William Lavelly, Associate Professor from Department of Sociology at University of Washington, Prof. Tun-Jen Cheng, Professor of Class 1935 from Department of Government, College of William and Mary, Prof. Patricia Sieber, Associate Professor from Department of East Asian Language and Literature, Ohio State University, and Prof. Hsuta Lin, Assistant Professor from Institute of Ethnic Relation and Culture, National Donghwa University. By the time of deadline, we have eleven papers submitted. We have divided the papers for our reviewers based on their professional fields: Patricia Sieber(literature and language), Tun- Jen Cheng (International Relationship and Law), William Lavelly (Sociology and Social Movement), and Hsuta Lin (Anthropology and Culture Studies)

Each reviewer choose their Best Paper among the ones assigned to them, and report back to our program committee with comments on every paper. Among the four best paper candidates, NATSA program committee members read them as well, and hold an online meeting to evaluate the four papers based on their innovation, writing proficiency, and the relevance to conference main theme this year. During the online meeting members select two best paper awardees for this year. They are “De-Chineseness? Or Globalization? (Re)Imagining the Taiwanese language in a global context,” by Fang-yu Wang and “The Ambivalent Juxtaposition of Equality, Multiculturalism, and Sexuality: A Discursive Review of Gender Education Policy in Taiwan” by Shu-Ching Lee.

The reason we have two papers as the recipients of Best Paper award is because that, due to the wide varieties of the topics covered by papers submitted, it is difficult to find out the only paper to represent the theme of our conference this year. Also, since it is the first year we launched this program, we would like to have the award represent good varieties of contemporary Taiwan Studies. The paper entitled “De-Chineseness of Globalization” by Fang-yu Wang uses new approach of language ecology and globalization of language differences instead of conventional views on the contest of local language legitimacy, which gives the debate of language competition and conservation a new direction to develop. Furthermore, Miss Wang’s writing is clear and beautifully done, which can be a good example for a student paper. Miss Lee’s paper entitled “Ambivalent Juxtaposition” deals with the changes of curriculum in gender issues of post-war Taiwan. This paper provides a comprehensive overview on the shift of curriculum contents from sexual education to gender study, with well-balanced review on the gender study theories related with the change of curriculum in Taiwan.

NATSA announced the awardees of Best Paper competition on our website as well as conference brochures. We also announced the result to the two award recipients and reminded them that the award can only be claimed if the recipients attend the conference in person. However, at the time of conference, only Miss Fang-yu Wang attended and presented her paper in person. The announcement of best paper at the dinner reception only addressed Miss Wang as our recipient. We invited Prof. Steve Harrell of University of Washington to present this award for us. Miss Wang received not only a certification of her achievement of the award but also a check of 300 USD as the substantial grant. We also provide each reviewers of 100 USD as their honorarium on helping us reviewing.

The best paper award is generally a successful program to encourage presenters polish their papers for the best result in our conference. We also help to find academic connection for our best paper awardee regarding future possible publication.

We decide to keep this program in conference of next year. However, the issues of reviewing diverse papers with fair standard, as well as finding willing reviewers with enough knowledge on the various issues Taiwan Studies, are important for the conference in the next year to consider.



*** Best Paper Award was presented by Professor Steve Lavelly.**

(7) Keynote Speech, Roundtable Discussion and Networking

Session

by Cheng-Yi Huang

I. Keynote Speech

The steering committee initiated its search for keynote speaker in early January 2008, soon after the closing of its “call for papers”. The committee first contacted Professor Amy Chua at Yale Law School, since the main theme of 2008 is featuring social justice and political unsettlement in global south, especially in Taiwan’s case. Nevertheless, Professor Chua declined the invitation owing to time conflict with her prearranged family trip in June. Also, she asked for 20,000 USD for the keynote speech, which is far beyond our financial capacity and might be outrageous for a student-run conference.

The committee thereafter contacted Professor Pheng Cheah at UC-Berkeley, a rising star in critical theory and comparative literature. Professor was very kind to respond to our invitation promptly and agree to serve this job with moderate honorarium. He proposed a speech, based on his recent essays, focusing on global injustice in the postcolonial condition, shifting from a cultural-psychological perspective to more political-economy-leaned dialectic analysis. Also, we invited him to address on recent development in Taiwan, be it the flow of foreign labors, cross-national marriages or business investment in China. To facilitate his speech being more Taiwan-Studies-oriented, we also invited Professor Wu Rwei-ren from the Academia Sinica, to be a respondent to Professor Cheah’s speech. As an outstanding political theorist in Taiwan, Professor Wu would re-examine Professor Cheah’s theory in contextualized cases of post-colonial Taiwan.

On the second day of the conference, Professor Cheah delivered his keynote speech in the courtroom of the UW School of Law with over fifty audiences. In this one-hour speech, he first criticized the culturalistic mentality of current postcolonial theory which overlooks the global chain of political economic commodification. Then he situated his synthesis in the location of Southeast Asia where the flow of labor has broken boundaries of nation states and formulated a new international order. He turned to Taiwan’s case by referring to Robert Wades’ seminal work on developmental state. By incorporating itself into a global chain of production, Taiwan has elevated itself to an agent of global capitalism. Meanwhile, Taiwan also plays a role of foreign investor

in China where the businessmen can find cheaper labor and maintain their OEM-oriented industries. By examining the Southeast Asian and Taiwan's cases, Professor Cheah tried to articulate the question: how do these material processes of subject-formation lead to a fundamental rethinking of key concepts of postcolonial theory? He anchored his answer on the basis of Kantian self-determination which contributes to a true freedom going beyond the particularized culturalism.

In his responding remarks to Professor Cheah, Professor Wu Rwei-ren raised some existentialistic questions questioning the possibility of a transcendental Kantian thesis incorporating global justice and postcolonial conditions. From Wu's perspective, being is the first question. Considering the Irish politics and colonial Taiwan history, Wu doubted a postcolonial theory ignoring the unforgiving past which leads to the discorded present is futile. Professor Wu invited everyone and Professor Cheah to think deeper upon the history of nationalistic sentiments in East Asian and especially, Taiwan.

In the Q&A section, Professor Steve Harrell asked Taiwanese scholars not to self-victimize themselves but embrace a broader community of Chinese studies or East Asian Studies. In responding to his note, Professor Jeff Hou, starting from his own experience, refocused our attention to the disadvantaged reality Taiwan studies has to confronted with and the ironic appeal of transcendental universalism posing by Professor Harrell and Cheah. Also, Yu-I Hsieh of Rutgers and Chia-ming Chen of Chicago suspected the logic of self-victimization and the claimed freedom of subjectivity through an a-historical and anti-cultural post-colonial theory. The keynote speech concluded by Professor Cheah's remarks that postcolonial theory is an opening process of debates and reflection. Taiwan's recent development in the horizon of East Asia is a great loci to examine and redefine this theoretical discussion.



*** Professor Pheng Cheah was giving the Keynote Speech.**



*** Professor Wu Rwei-ren responded to the Keynote Speech.**



*** Professor Jeff Martin raised questions after the Keynote Speech.**

II. Roundtable Discussion

To synthesize the conference papers and discussion, the steering committee initiated the roundtable discussion at the closing of this year's conference. The topic of this roundtable discussion is "Social Empowerment and Political Reconstruction – the Next Turn for Social and Political Movement in Taiwan". The roundtable had Professor Huang Chang-ling, Professor Jeff Hou, Professor Dai Ber-fen, Professor Wu Rwei-ren and Ms. Chou Fu-I as speakers and Mr. Huang Cheng-Yi as the moderator.

The Roundtable started with Professor Wu's remarks on the progressive socio-political movement in Taiwan. Professor Wu reflected on the political controversies in the eight years of the DPP administration and pointed out the seemingly breakdown of social

movement during this period as a growing process of incrementally-autonomous but divided social groups. Political skill of these social groups was equipped and multiple centers of social movement were entrenched. At the end of the day, social movement in Taiwan is more and more professionalized and gains its political significance. Among other issues, the Taiwanese nationalism movement prevails in this development but it has to dwell on political morality, accountability and self-reflection so that it could be regarded as a progressive social movement.

Professor Huang talked about the division of civil society and political society and explained the potential empowerment of social movement in this past eight years. She took feminism movement as an example and elaborated out the difficulties challenging all brands of social movement which include the cross-issues alliance, diffused interests based on multicultural perceptions, fragmented horizontal liaisons and the political penetration by the ruling party. Professor Huang echoed with Professor Wu's remark that though social groups gained their autonomy in the past eight years but the empowerment has not been seen in an issue-coordination way.

Professor Dai and Professor Hou discussed the aboriginal people's movement and environmental activism in Taiwan respectively. Professor Dai reflected on the dilemma of the elite-lead aboriginal people movement and Professor Hou reconsidered the media problem and resistance/absorption relation of social progressivism. Lastly, Ms. Chou as the editor for the renowned internet media, *e-South Newsletter*, in Taiwan, shared her experience of internet mobilization and blogosphere's social movement with audience. Pessimistically, Ms. Chou did not regard internet could be a strong media to mobilize more participants. Blog sometimes does not help with democratic deliberation as well. Nevertheless, free flow of information can still stimulate some creative ideas and thrust the informed citizen. The roundtable discussion received a good deal of reactions. Lee Chengpeng reflected from his own experience of social participation and queried the division of civil society and political society. From his perspective, the real problem of social movement is human power and stability. Others also referred to their own life experience about social movement and political antagonism. The roundtable concludes by Cheng-Yi Huang's remark that the conference was designated to reinvigorate not only academic interests in Taiwan's recent changes in politics, economy or societal sphere but also the in-depth thinking of social practice.



*** Roundtable Discussion.**



*** Q & A during the Roundtable Discussion.**

II. Networking session

The networking session was held at lunch during the third day of this conference. Professor Jeff Hou of the University of Washington-Seattle led the discussion among conference participants and local students who had experience in social activities. The session features the motives, breakdown and re-empowerment of social activism. Participants shared their own experience and brought up problems regarding social practice. In this course, the participants from Taiwan and local students at

Seattle had mutually benefited from others' contribution and built-up network for further cooperation.



*** Professor Dai Ber-fen spoke at the Networking Session.**

(8) The Hermes Program for NATSA

by Cheng-Yi Huang

The North American Taiwan Studies Association initiated its Hermes Program associated with its 14th Annual Meeting in Seattle during June 27th and 29th. The newly-established Hermes Program aimed to promote a scholarly platform to bring interested institutions and scholars of Taiwan Studies together for developing their career plans and future cooperation. The NATSA encouraged universities and research institutions in the United States and Canada that were planning to hire new faculty members (at any level) with specialization in Taiwan Studies come to our annual meeting and interview with potential candidates in person. The NATSA would like to cover all the representatives' traveling expenses and lodging fees incurred during their visits to our annual conference. This program would give a chance to educational institutions that had great prospects and diverse academic interests to get in touch with the up-and-coming scholars of Taiwan Studies across disciplines. Although no institution contacted the organizing committee owing to the short notice before conference, the NATSA would continue to provide the platform between scholars and educational institutions interested in Taiwan Studies.

2. Administrative Committee

(1) Book Exhibition

by Edwin Szeto

The book exhibition is our attempt to bring relevant publications to our conference participants. The book exhibition's aim is two-fold: we hoped to continue and establish a tradition that can centralize the resources and audiences in Taiwan Studies; in accordance with our mission to be an interactive forum for scholastic discussion and presentation, the exhibition contributes to the flow of information by inviting important presses and offering discounts on book orders.

The secretary, Edwin Szeto, sent out invitation letters (see below) to about 15 book presses, which include the NATSA and its conference history, and the current conference's themes and speakers.

NORTH AMERICAN TAIWAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION



www.na-tsa.org

February 26, 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Edwin Szeto, the Secretary of the North American Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA). On behalf of the NATSA and the organization committee of the 14th Annual Conference of NATSA, I would like to invite the University of Washington Press in exhibiting your excellent publications in East Asian Studies during our conference. The year of 2008 is a very important year in Taiwan as well as East Asia, since Taiwan will elect its new president election and China is going to host the Summer Olympic Game in August. At our annual conference from June 27th to 29th at University of Washington-Seattle, over seventy rigorously selected faculty members, researchers and graduate students whose studies are devotedly concerning Taiwan as well as the area of East Asia will have come from North America, Europe, Japan, Korea and Taiwan to present and exchange research results and teaching experience across social science and humanities. (The expertise of our panelists and discussants includes but not limited to anthropology, comparative literature, economics, history, international relations, law, political science, sexuality/gender studies, sociology, urban planning, etc.)

We collaborated with the National Library of Taiwan at 2007's 13th NATSC in putting up an exhibit of up-to-date publications relevant to Taiwan Studies. As reflected by past participants and planning committees, book exhibits have proven to be extremely helpful as a centralized source for scholars to collect materials for future research, as well as to facilitate dialogue during the conference. Therefore we are very excited to continue this tradition by inviting publishers as specialized and developed as your press to present publications in the rapidly growing field of Taiwan Studies and a broader horizon of East Asian Studies.

The book exhibit is an excellent opportunity for your outstanding press to target researchers and students interested in issues related to Taiwan, who constitute a relatively diasporic but rather vibrant and persistent academic population in comparison to other fields. Meanwhile, since Taiwan Studies is deeply intertwined with other societies in this region, our participants would have high interests in reading and purchasing your publication in China,

Japan, Korea, or issues relating to Asian American. The exhibit can be supplemented with a representative of your press—and/or with selection of your relevant publication. In case you would not be able to provide relevant publication, we also would like to have your catalog presented onsite which can help you to establish business relationships with an already carefully selected pool of scholars.

I have provided addendums detailing this year's main theme, "*Translating the Political, Re-envisioning the Social: What's the Next Turn for Taiwan?*", and minor themes (Appendix A), and the tentative program schedule (Appendix B). Our keynote speaker this year is Professor Pheng Cheah from the University of California, Berkeley. I hope the additional information about the history of NATSA, past annual conferences and the list of our current advisory board (Appendix C to F) will aid you in considering hosting a wonderful book exhibit with us. Please be kindly advised: we will not charge any fee for the exhibition and we will gladly help your representative to setup your booth in our conference venue. I sincerely appreciate your time and attention; please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions or concerns at 614-307-0764 and Szeto.7@osu.edu.

Sincerely,



Edwin Szeto
Secretary
North American Taiwan Studies Association

The following presses sent their books as donations, which NATSA in turn donated to the University of Washington's Asian Law Center: University of Washington Press, University of Hawaii Press, Columbia University Press, Stanford University Press, Cornell University Press. Collectively, the presses provided around 50 publications in various genres such as research, novel, and poetry.

The exhibition was set up each morning of the conference's duration around 8:30am and stored away at 4:30pm; three staff took shifts each day monitoring the exhibit and answering questions. Participants came in and out during breaks from panels and lunch, an estimate of 40~60 participants visited each day.





All the books were donated to NATSA by the presses, except one out-of-print book from University of Washington Press which was sent back. The conference committee members each received one book of their choice, and the rest was donated to the University of Washington Asian Law Center for their generous and persistent support before and during the conference.

This year's conference showed that book presses valued NATSA as a platform of

researchers and customers. It may be beneficial for next year's conference to develop 1) a 30~60 minutes discussion session of the presented books to engage participants in reflecting on the available literature such as their quality and publishing trend; 2) an auction program that both raises fund for NATSA and provides feedback for participating presses as to what publications received what level of attention; and lastly 3) comment forms that allow participants to help improve future exhibitions.

NATSA had accumulated funds from the past few years and the balance before the conference was \$ 23518.76 (up to March 6, 2008). This year, in addition to the benefit from the registration fee, we gratefully receive grants from Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, Asia Law Center as well as East Asia Center and China Studies Program at University of Washington. The total amount of income is \$ 28970. However, the total amount of expenses is \$32752.45. That is to say, \$3782.45 will be paid from our accumulated funds. Please refer to the chart below for details.

With the side note that we have done our best to make best use of each cent we could have, it is regretful to see we cannot but overspend for the annual conference this year for two main reasons. First, our conference venue is in Seattle, a big city which results all expenses—such as lodging, meals, gas, parking, just to name a few— were much higher than our budget comparing to the past conferences in smaller towns. Second, several necessary expenses were newly arranged, such as flyers, the banner, Best Paper Award, package for the keynote speaker, etc.

Finalized Itemized Income and Expenses Chart

Updated: July 19, 2008

Currency Unit: US Dollars

I. INCOME	Amount
a. Grant from Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange	\$ 25000
b. Grant from Asia Law Center, University of Washington	\$ 1000
c. Grant from East Asia Center and China Studies Program, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington	\$ 300
d. Conference registration fee income	\$ 2670
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 28970
II. EXPENSES	
A. Personnel	
a. Invited speakers & scholars: honorarium; travel; per diem; lodging; miscellaneous	\$ 3962.08
b. Subsidy for conference panelists, discussants and committees:	\$ 18064.52

travel grant; lodging subsidy (committees only)	
c. Professional consultants for Best Paper Award review Honorarium	\$ 400
d. Subsidy for website maintenance personnel (12 months)	\$1200
e. Best Paper Award certificate and prize	\$ 333.3
B. Conference fee	
a. Publication: program materials, brochures, flyers, banner	\$ 800.96
b. Dinner reception, lunches, refreshments	\$ 4921.42
c. Souvenir	\$ 334
C. Supplies: office consumable materials, stationary, printing, delivery, postage and copying.	\$ 369.74
D. Equipment	
a. Venue rate and rented utilities	\$ 2000*
b. Gas and parking fees	\$ 366.43
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32752.45

* This is an estimated expense for the bill from Asia Law Center at University of Washington is still pending up to date of this chart being created.

1. Please make sure any email regarding money should CC the Treasurer without exception.
2. All issues involved possible financial expenses must be discussed with the Treasurer in advance.
3. When promising the invited speakers free meals please kindly set up the reimbursement limit/ items.
4. After the Treasurer setting up honorarium policy for discussants please make sure everyone, especially program committee who need to contact the discussants, fully understand and are on the same basis.
5. NATSA should “probe” various sources for fund-raising to prevent financial crisis.
6. Watch out all “not-a-big-deal” expenses. After accumulating them you’ll find it’s a big deal.
7. Please make sure the deadline for the travel grant documents submission during the conference will not conflict with the new committee election. And make sure everyone will return to the room after they go to the restroom.

I. Conference Venue

The three-day conference was held in the University of Washington School of Law (William H. Gates Hall), which is a new and purpose-designed building with class-leading facilities. Each room used for the conference is equipped with a computer, overhead projector, and rostrum microphone. Room assignment is as below:

June 27, Friday

Room 212 & 213 (Panel I, III, book exhibition), 217 (Panel II, IV), 433 (luggage storage)

Corridor (check-in and refreshments)

June 28, Saturday

Room 116 (book exhibition, poster presentation), 118 (Panel V, VII, IX), 119 (Panel VI, VIII, X), 133 (keynote speech)

Main Lobby (check-in and refreshments)

June 29, Sunday

Room 116 (book exhibition, poster presentation), 118 (Panel XI, XIII, roundtable), 119 (Panel XII, XIV) Cafeteria area (network session)

Main Lobby (check-out and refreshments)

Thanks to the petition from Prof. Veronica Taylor (Director) and Mrs. Mie Murazumi (Graduate Program Assistant) of the Asian Law Center, all rooms were used free of charge (each room normally costs \$150-300 for the weekends, excluding Room 133). The bill for facilities and overtime pay is pending as of July 20. Prof. William Lavelly, Director of East Asia Center, has promised to sponsor \$300 or more for this outstanding bill, in addition to \$1,000 from China Studies Program coordinated by Prof. Madeleine Dong.

It is suggested that the Administrative Committee shall investigate and reach out to relevant institutions in the host university for financial and/or logistical support at least six months prior to the annual meeting. Given the popularity of some conference centers, there should be at least one local manager who can maintain regular contact with the staff in charge throughout the preparation period to ensure the availability of the conference rooms and facilities. In this aspect the 2008 conference was successful.



* **William H. Gates Hall of the University of Washington School of Law**

II. Dinner Reception

NATSA dinner reception was held in the ground floor of the University Club, on June 27, at 19:00. The location is within a walkable distance from the conference venue and the participants had ample time to get there after the end of the panel sessions. Ms. Kristi Roundtree (East Asia Center Associate Director) reserved the place on behalf of the NATSA as membership is required for holding events in the University Club. The seating capacity of the room is 64 persons. There were approximately 60 participants attending the reception, including 4 (out of 26) invited local guests:

Mr. Dai (Head of Cultural Division, TECO in Seattle)
Prof. Stevan Harrell (Anthropology, UW-Seattle)
Prof. Jeff Hou (Landscape Architecture, UW-Seattle)
Dr. Zhijia Shen (East Asia Library Director, UW-Seattle)

NATSA President Cheng-Yi Huang gave opening remarks and welcome, followed by the 2008 Best Graduate Student Paper Award ceremony. The recipient is Miss Fang-Yu Wang (Taiwanese Literature, National Cheng-kung University), conferred by Prof. Stevan Harrell.

The dinner menu is as below:
Norwest Buffet Dinner

Seasonal Greens; Pasta Salad; Grilled Salmon; Steamed Penn Cove Clams and Mussels; Wheat Berry Rice Pilaf; Sautéed Fresh Seasonal Vegetables; and Freshly Baked Rolls with Butter. Served with dessert and coffee.

The grand total for the reception is \$2,435.82

	Food	Beverage	Liquor	Equipment	Labor	Room	Other	Total
Subtotal	\$1,660.80	\$0.00	\$139.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$1,929.80
Serv Chg	\$282.34	\$0.00	\$23.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$305.97
Tax	\$184.60	\$0.00	\$15.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.05
Total	\$2,127.74	\$0.00	\$178.08	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$2,435.82

It is suggested that attendance books shall be introduced in the future receptions so as to maintain the most precise record. It would be ideal to hold the conference before or soon after the end of the term/semester, if the attendance rate of the local invited guests were to significantly increase. Best Paper Award shall continue to be presented in such an event so as to solicit more quality papers into the annual competition.



*** The organizing committee welcomed guests and participants by the '07-'08 president Huang Cheng-yi at the dinner reception.**



(4) Local management

by Chuan-ju Cheng & Hsin-yang Wu

I. The Taskforce of Local Committee

In Seattle, 7 local associates were recruited. They are Yueh-Ling Chen (Seattle Pacific University), Chih-Yuan Lin (City University of Seattle), Shin-Rou Lin (University of Washington, Seattle), Fang-Yin Lo (University of Washington, Seattle), Hsiu-Yang Tseng (University of Washington, Seattle), Ya-Yun Tseng (University of Minnesota), and Hui-Ting Wang (University of Washington, Seattle).

II. The Logistics of Meals and Refreshments

For the lunch time, we ordered the lunch boxes from the Wedge Catering and the Jack's Tapa's Café. Both the Wedge Catering and the Jack's Tapa's Café delivered the lunch boxes on time, and we were able to distribute the lunch boxes smoothly. For the refreshment and tea time, Chuan-ju and other local associates have bought all the materials 1 days before the conference (mainly from the Costco, QFC, and Saveway), and prepared the food during each conference session, and then served it during the tea time.

III. Other facility or arrangement issues

The Asian Law Center and the UW School of Law helped the NATSA to submit the petition for the using of the facility and equipment at the law school. The Asian Law Center also provided on-site staff to deal with relevant jobs. Room 212, Room 213, and Room 217 were provided on Friday, June 27. Room 133, 116, 118, 119 were provided on Saturday, June 28. Room 116, 117, 118, 119 were provided on Sunday, June 29.

IV. Pre-conference Local Meeting

In June 23rd, the pre-conference local meeting was held in Allegro Café at 2:00pm. There were 10 people attended at the pre-conference local meeting. The local meeting ran pretty well. During the meeting, each associate was introduced to each other, and the work loads were evenly allocated to each local associate.



*** Refreshments during breaks.**



*** Teatime**



*** Preparatory meeting at the Taiwan Center of Seattle.**