

Professor Michael Shiyung Liu Lectures on
“The Study of the Taiwan History of Medicine and Digital
Resources: A Case Study of the 1939 Film ‘Malaria.’”

The second session of the Center for Chinese Studies’ 2014 overseas Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies was co-hosted with the Department of Chinese Studies at Universität Leipzig in Germany. It was held on May 16th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the university’s library, with Philip Clart, Director of the Institute of East Asian Studies, chairing the lecture. Cen-Chu Shen, head of the education section of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Germany, also gave some remarks.

Professor Michael Shiyung Liu from Academia Sinica’s Institute of Taiwan History was invited to give the main lecture, speaking on “The Study of the Taiwan History of Medicine and Digital Resources: A Case Study of the 1939 Film ‘Malaria.’” Professor Liu earned a doctorate in history at the University of Pittsburg and is an expert in the economic and medical history of post-war Taiwan.

His lecture began with an overview of the history of the “Taiwan e-Learning and Digital Archives,” including the primary participating institutions such as Academia Sinica, National Central Library, and Academia Historica. Next he spoke on the focus of his lecture—the history of medicine. In 1939 during the Japanese occupation of Taiwan, medical professors from Taihoku Imperial University Kaoru Morishita and Toshio Oda filmed “Malaria,” a documentary on preventing malaria in Taiwan. Using this as an example, Professor Liu described in detail how Japan controlled malaria in Taiwan. “Malaria” was used as a way to promote national policies, as well as to proclaim the advanced state of Japanese tropical medicine—implying that they were approaching the same level as Western nations. At the time, Taiwan was viewed as merely the factory of imperial Japan. This documentary on malaria prevention that Professor Liu stumbled upon has been digitized in Taiwan and is freely available online for those who are engaged in related research.

Throughout the lecture, several portions of the documentary were shown, engaging the attention of those in attendance. Many German sinologists were in attendance, as well as professors and students from Universität Leipzig. There was a rich question and answer session following Professor Liu’s presentation.

After the lecture, Director of the Center for Chinese Studies Li-chun Keng

played a short promotional video that was produced especially for overseas Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies. It introduced the Center for Chinese Studies and its Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, the Taiwan Fellowship, and e-resources in Chinese studies created by various organizations in Taiwan. The video was to encourage more outstanding foreign scholars to apply for research grants in Taiwan. Many professors and students came up afterwards to ask about the research grants and to obtain printed brochures.



The second session of Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies in 2014 was held at Universität Leipzig in Germany



Professor Michael Shiyung Liu from Academia Sinica's Institute of Taiwan History speaks on "The Study of the Taiwan History of Medicine and Digital Resources"



Philip Clart (l), head of the Institute of East Asian Studies at Universität Leipzig, chaired the lecture



Head of the education section of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Cen-Chu Shen (l) speaking at the event